

Dr. Monique Eloit
Director General
World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)
12, rue de Prony
75017 Paris
France

Dear Dr. Eloit,

In accordance with article 1.1.6 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the OIE, I provide the following report of SARS-CoV-2 infection in two cats in Canada.

An 8 month-old domestic cat from a known COVID-19 positive household in Ontario was confirmed positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection at the National Center for Foreign Animal Disease (NCFAD) laboratory based on molecular testing (RRT-PCR). The onset of the first human case in the household was on January 1, 2021. The cat had shown no clinical signs of illness. It was sampled on January 11 and tested positive by RRT-PCR on oral and rectal swabs at the Ontario Veterinary College research laboratory and at the Ontario Animal Health laboratory. Confirmatory testing was performed at NCFAD on January 25, 2021.

An adult domestic cat from a known COVID-19 positive household in British Columbia was confirmed positive for SARS-CoV-2 infection at the National Center for Foreign Animal Disease (NCFAD) laboratory based on molecular testing (RRT-PCR). The onset of the first human case in the household was on January 1, 2021. The cat had chronic upper respiratory disease which made it difficult to assess if he had clinical signs associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection. It was sampled on January 11 and tested positive by RRT-PCR on a rectal, nasal and oral swabs at the Ontario Veterinary College research laboratory and at the Ontario Animal Health laboratory. Confirmatory testing was performed at NCFAD on January 25, 2021.

Both cats were sampled as part of a research study targeting companion animals from households with confirmed humans positive to COVID-19 to better understand epidemiology of SARS-CoV-2 infections at the human- animal interface.

The finding is not unexpected and as the study unfolds, we expect more positive cases to be detected in COVID-19 positive households.

Yours sincerely,

Jaspinder Komal
Vice-President, Science Branch
Chief Veterinary Officer for Canada
OIE Delegate for Canada