

December 21, 2020

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, we report a SARS-CoV-2 infection in a cat in Canada.

A domestic cat from known COVID-19 positive household in Ontario was confirmed positive for SARS-CoV-2 at the National Center for Foreign Animal Disease (NCFAD) laboratory based on molecular testing (RRT-PCR). The cat had shown slight respiratory clinical signs and sample was collected 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 onset of the first human case in the household was on November 15, 2020. The 2 cats in the household were sampled on November 25. One cat tested positive by RRT-PCR on a rectal swab at the Ontario Animal Health laboratory. Confirmatory testing was performed at the NCFAD on December 7, 2020. The second cat was negative on RRT-PCR.

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,

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