



**MINISTRY OF RURAL
DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF
VETERINARY SERVICES
DIRECTORATE OF
ANIMAL HEALTH**

Address : Veranzerou 46

Postal code : 104 38 Athens

Information : Ch. Dyle

Tel: +30 210 2125737

Fax : +30 210 2125719

e-mail: chdile@minagric.gr

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**TO: World Organization for
Animal Health**

12, Rue de Prony

75017 Paris

France

Dear Dr. Monique Eloit,

I would like to inform you about the detection of SARS-Cov-2 in two domesticated cats in the regional unit of Thessaloniki.

A student of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, owner of three cats, was found positive for COVID-19 on 16/11/2020. The cats were submitted to clinical, hematological and biochemical evaluation by the Clinic of Companion Animal Medicine of the Faculty without any abnormal findings.

Consecutive virological tests (real time RT-PCR) were also carried out on pharyngeal/fecal samples and confirmed the presence of SARS-CoV-2 in two of the cats. They were tested positive 7 and 9 days, respectively, after the onset of symptoms in the student. The third cat was tested negative in all conducted tests.

Whole genome sequence (WGS) analysis of the SARS-CoV-2 isolates from the two cats and the owner was concluded on 15/12/2020 and revealed that they cluster together (B 1.1).

WGS findings and case history indicate a possible human to animal transmission of SARS-Cov-2 in both cats.

Yours sincerely,

Chrysoula Dile
Animal Health Director and OIE Delegate

This information is transmitted to the OIE based on Article 1.1.6 of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code.