



News Flash 5

30 March 2020

Special focus on pets

No evidence pets can transmit COVID-19

We contributed a comment on pets and COVID-19 in The Brussels Times on 23 March:



The news that a dog was infected with the coronavirus worried a lot of pet owners. Credit: Pixabay

Article: ['No evidence' that your pet can give you coronavirus](#)

Media: www.brusselstimes.com

“Both the OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health) and [WSAVA](#) (World Small Animal Veterinary Association) have confirmed that there is currently no evidence that companion animals can spread COVID-19,” said Roxane Feller, Secretary-General of AnimalhealthEurope to The Brussels Times.

“Pet owners are advised to continue proper hygiene practices when in contact with their four-legged friends. There is no evidence that pet dogs or cats can be a source of infection for this virus, so their continued care is advised, especially during confinement, as they can be a great source of both fun and companionship,” she added.

Case of Belgian cat infected with COVID-19

AnimalhealthEurope continues to be in close contact with FVE and FECAVA and liaised last week in particular on the case of a cat in Belgium reported to be infected with COVID-19. FVE shared this information with their membership:

On 18 March, a cat brought into the veterinary faculty of Liege with respiratory and gastrointestinal problems tested positive on RNA of SARS-CoV2. You can see coverage in some of the local publications, [La Libre](#) and [RTL](#). You can also find English information from the government on page 4 of [this document](#). The Belgian Food Safety Authority also put together some answers on FAQ in relation to COVID and pets.

Further tests have been done in Hong Kong in relation to COVID and pets. They conducted tests on 17 dogs and 8 cats from households with confirmed COVID-19 cases or persons in close contact with confirmed patients, and only 2 dogs had tested positive for the COVID-19 virus. These findings indicate that dogs and cats are not infected easily with this virus, and there is no evidence that they play a role in the spread of the virus. See:

<http://www.promedmail.org/post/7146438>

UK's Medical Detection Dogs training dogs to detect coronavirus

The two-time European Pet Night partner, [Medical Detection Dogs, announced last week](#) that they are working with Durham University and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to train dogs to detect Covid-19.

Coverage: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-tyne-52057543>