

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 OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, I provide the following report of SARS-CoV-2 infection in a dog in Canada. This is the first detection of SARS-CoV-2 in an animal in Canada.

A domestic dog 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 (RT-PCR). The dog had shown no clinical signs of illness and samples were collected as part of a research study targeting companion animals from households with confirmed human COVID-19 cases 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 approximately September 26, 2020. The 2 small mixed-breed dogs in the household, both clinically normal, were sampled on October 6. One dog tested positive by RT-PCR on a rectal swab at an Ontario Veterinary College research laboratory and at the Ontario Animal Health Laboratory. Confirmatory testing was performed at NCFAD on October 22, 2020. The second dog was negative on RT-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 and OIE Delegate for Canada