

# Information received from the Veterinary Services of France on 30 April 2020

Chère Monique,

Au titre de l'article 1.1.6 du Code "terrestre" de l'OIE, j'ai l'honneur de vous communiquer l'information reproduite ci-dessous.

Bien cordialement.

Loïc EVAÏN

Directeur général adjoint

Chief veterinary officer (CVO)

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COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2), cat, Paris

## Summary

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) was first reported in Wuhan, China, and rapidly spread worldwide. Previous studies suggested cats could be a species susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 with only 4 naturally infected cats reported to date.

Here, we investigated the putative infection of SARS-CoV-2 in cats from owners previously suspected of being infected with COVID-19. For each cat, rectal and nasopharyngeal swabs were taken. They were submitted to qRT-PCR assay targeting 2 genes of SARS-CoV-2.

One cat tested positive by qRT-PCR on rectal swab and this was confirmed by the OIE collaborating Centre in Pasteur Institute. Nasopharyngeal swabs from this animal were tested negative. This cat showed mild respiratory and digestive signs.

This study reports for the first time the natural infection of a cat in France (near Paris) probably through their owners. There is currently no evidence that cats can be a source of COVID-19 and owners should not abandon their pets or compromise their welfare.

A more detailed publication will soon be submitted

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Communicated by

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