

**Ref No. : 2/shouan/2142**

**Date: August 07, 2020**

Dr Monique Eloit  
Director General  
World Organisation for Animal Health  
12, rue de Prony, 75017 Paris  
**FRANCE**

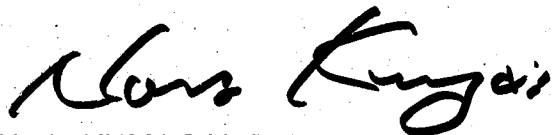
**Re: Notification on SARS-CoV-2 positive cases in dogs in Japan**

Dear Dr Eloit,

I provide you with the information regarding the SARS-CoV-2 positive cases in dogs belonging to the COVID-19 patients as attached, in accordance with the article 1.1.4 of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

I keep you updated on this matter.

Sincerely yours,



Norio KUMAGAI, DVM  
OIE Delegate of Japan  
Director  
Food Safety Division  
Food Safety and Consumer Affairs Bureau  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries  
**JAPAN**

Enclosure: submission\_2020Feb\_report\_Japan\_comment

CC: Dr Hirofumi Kugita, OIE Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific

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## **SARS-CoV-2 positive cases in two dogs in Japan**

This is to report the SARS-CoV-2 positive cases in two dogs owned by the COVID-19 patients.

Since April 2020, a private company in Japan has been running a voluntary service to take care of companion animals owned by COVID-19 patients while the owners are in hospital or isolation. When receiving new animals, newly arrived animals are kept in isolation until tested negative for SARS-CoV-2 by rRT-PCR.

Two dogs were entrusted in late July and throat swabs were sampled for several days consecutively after arrival. Two dogs have not shown any symptoms. The samples were subjected to rRT-PCR at the private laboratory owned by the company.

One dog was identified to be positive for SARS-CoV-2 by rRT-PCR for the day 1 and 2. The negative result was obtained for the sample taken on day4. Positive samples were submitted to the National Institute for Infectious Diseases(NIID) and confirmed to be positive by rRT-PCR and RT-PCR on 30<sup>th</sup> July and by sequencing on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.

The other dog was identified to be positive for SARS-CoV-2 days 1 through 4. The negative result was obtained for the sample taken on day 5. Positive samples were submitted to NIID and confirmed to be positive on 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

Those two dogs are being kept in isolation until today. All animals kept in the same facility have tested negative by rRT-PCR.

Note that the employee of the private company taking care of entrusted animals have tested negative for COVID-19 and no health problems have been reported.

It is uncertain whether SARS-CoV-2 infection has been established in these two dogs and further investigation is ongoing including antibody test at NIID to confirm the infection.