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# COVID-19: OIE communication activities

Online meeting | OIE communication FP in South-East Asia

7 April 2020

# OIE Response – Preparedness & Resilience, Science and Standards Departments

## 1. **ad hoc Group – COVID-19 and animals**

1. WHO R&D Blueprint objective 5 (Roadmap for Global Coordination of R&D for COVID-19, developed at WHO Global Research and Innovation Forum): <https://www.who.int/blueprint/priority-diseases/key-action/Roadmap-version-FINAL-for-WEB.pdf?ua=1>
2. “Q&A” online updated every week: <https://www.oie.int/en/scientific-expertise/specific-information-and-recommendations/questions-and-answers-on-2019novel-coronavirus/>
3. Updates on animal Research and on investigation on the origin of the outbreak
4. Long term strategy for OIE to develop guidance with regards to wildlife trade, production and risk assessment.

## 2. **Laboratory informal advisory group**

[Guidance on Veterinary Laboratory Support to the Public Health Response for COVID-19](#)

## 3. **ad hoc Group on Trade Risk Assessment**

4. Coordination and info sharing with **FAO and WHO** (Tripartite), **GOARN**, OIE Reference Centres, private diagnostic companies and others
5. Regular Internal Coordination Calls with all **OIE RR and SRR**, to exchange information both ways

# OIE position regarding public communication

# Context and OIE position

## *Context*

- The COVID-19 pandemic is driven by human-to-human transmission → Public Health crisis
- Emergency situations often involve uncertainties and generate rumours and fake news

## *Position regarding public communication*

1. Prioritise Public Health messages
2. Manage rumours related to animal health and welfare
3. Highlight the role of Veterinary Services as part of the response to the Public Health situation and the different aspects of a One Health approach

# Situation analysis and identification of communication needs

Home / coronavirus outbreak / Australian researchers join race to find potential coronavirus vaccine, start animal trial

# Australian researchers join race to find potential coronavirus vaccine, start animal trial

If the final results, which should be out by June, are successful, the vaccines could then be moved to clinical trials to check if they are safe and effective on humans.

Markets

## Second Dog in Hong Kong Tests Positive for Covid-19 Virus

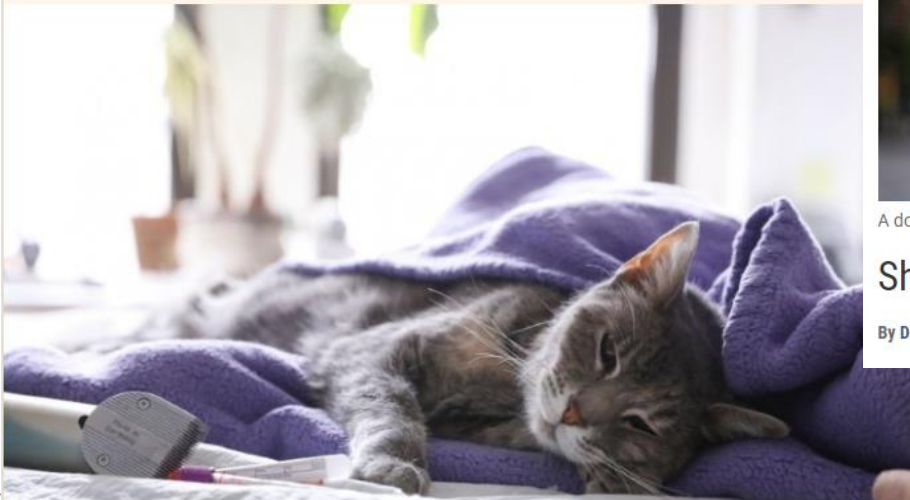
By [Eric Lam](#)

19 mars 2020 à 14:11 UTC+1

- ▶ Dog is from a residence in Pok Fu Lam on Hong Kong Island
- ▶ German Shepherd's owner confirmed to be infected with virus

### Pet cat tests positive for coronavirus in Hong Kong

Published: April 01, 2020 10:20:38 | Updated: April 01, 2020 15:44:04



## Cats can infect each other with coronavirus, Chinese study finds

Feline transmission to humans not shown but infected pet owners warned to be careful

- [Coronavirus - latest updates](#)
- [See all our coronavirus coverage](#)



A dog wearing a mask in Shanghai REUTERS/ALY SONG

## Should pets be tested for coronavirus?

By [David Grimm](#) | Mar. 31, 2020, 3:35 PM

**“It is important that COVID-19 does not lead to inappropriate measures being taken against domestic or wild animals which might compromise their welfare and health or have a negative impact on biodiversity.”**

# Public communication activities



# Communication activities

## Only information bank: Questions and answers (Q&A) from the OIE

- Social media posts
  - Messages on One Health, animal welfare, and general precautionary measures
  - Experts' videos (B. Karesh)
- OIE/WVA joint statement
- Centralisation of press queries → [media@oie.int](mailto:media@oie.int)



# How can you join our efforts?

- Check the regular updates of the [Q&A from the OIE](#)
- Align your messages to those of the OIE and [WHO](#) (from their respective websites)
- Share the messages from OIE and WHO official channels
- Let us know what is happening in your countries (through Yammer or by email)



# Aligning our key messages

- The current spread of COVID-19 is a result of human to human transmission.
- Current evidence suggests that the COVID-19 virus emerged from an animal source. [...] However, to date, there is not enough scientific evidence to identify the source or to explain the original route of transmission from an animal source to humans.
- To date, there is no evidence that companion animals have spread the disease. Therefore, there is no justification in taking measures against companion animals which may compromise their welfare.
- It is still recommended that people who are sick with COVID-19 limit contact with companion and other animals until more information is known about the virus.

## Country notifications to the OIE:

- 3 from Hong Kong (through WAHIS)
- 1 from Belgium (letter)

→ It is important to avoid generating unnecessary alarm, which may lead the public to take actions that can compromise the welfare of companion animals.

# Situation analysis in Veterinary Services

# Share your experience

- Do you receive questions from the general public or press queries about COVID-19?
- Is there an impact on Veterinary Services' continuity generated by government confinement and quarantine measures?
- Are the Veterinary Services collaborating in the response to this human pandemic? If yes, how?



# Thank you for your attention



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