

COVID-19, caused by infection with SARS-CoV-2, is a human disease which most likely emerged from an animal source and through widespread human-to-human transmission became a pandemic. As of 30 June 2022, around **568 million** confirmed human cases have been reported worldwide, with more than **6.3 million** human deaths<sup>1</sup>. The nature of this new zoonotic virus, together with its widespread distribution and the susceptibility of some animal species to infection, manifests in animal infections arising from close contact between people and animals. Conversely, there is also evidence that, for some animal species, close contact with infected animals can represent a potential source of infection in humans<sup>2</sup>. This report is a monthly update of the global situation of the report of SARS-CoV-2 in animals, with a special focus on the new reports submitted to the OIE in the last month.

### Global situation since the beginning of the pandemic

The worldwide geographical distribution of SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks in animals reported to the OIE is shown in Figure 1. The first case of SARS-CoV-2 in animals was officially reported to the OIE by Hong-Kong (SARC) on 29 February 2021 in a dog.

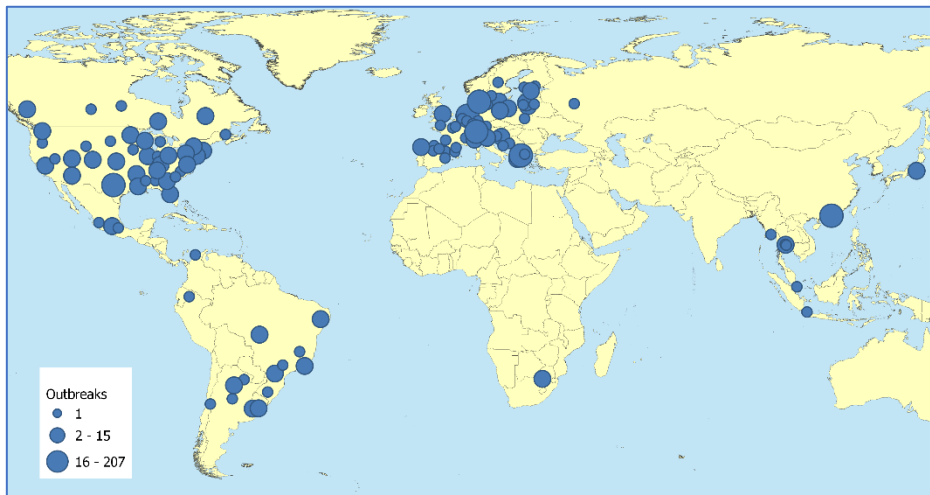


Figure 1. Worldwide distribution of SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks in twenty-three animal species reported to the OIE (as of 30 June 2022). Note that dot size on the map is proportional to the number of outbreaks reported.

Table 1 shows the global distribution of animal infections with SARS-CoV-2. Thirty-five countries in the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Europe have reported the occurrence of the disease, in twenty-three different animal species (cats, dogs, mink, otter, pet ferrets, lions, tigers, pumas, snow leopards, gorillas, white-tailed deer, fishing cat, Binturong, South American coati, spotted hyena, Eurasian lynx, Canada lynx, hippopotamus, hamster, mule deer, giant anteater, West Indian manatee, black-tailed marmoset).

Table 1. Number of outbreaks (n=678) reported worldwide, by species and region (as of 30 June 2022).

Species	Cat	Dog	Mink	Otter	Pet ferret	Lion	Tiger	Puma	Snow leopard	Gorilla	White-tailed deer	Fishing cat	Binturong	Coatimundi	Spotted hyena	Eurasian lynx	Canada lynx	Hippo	Hamster	Mule deer	Giant anteater	West Indian manatee	Black-tailed marmoset	
Africa						X		X																
Americas	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X			X	X	X	X	X
Asia	X	X				X	X												X					
Europe	X	X	X		X	X	X			X						X		X						

<sup>1</sup> <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.23.2001005#html\\_fulltext](https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.25.23.2001005#html_fulltext)

### Update during last month (01/06/2022 - 30/06/2022)

During the last month **2 outbreaks** have been reported or updated by **2 country (Spain and United States of America)** in **3 animal species** (cat, dog, gorilla). The recent distribution of outbreaks is reported in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Worldwide recent distribution of SARS-CoV-2 outbreaks reported to the OIE (01/06/2022 - 30/06/2022).

#### EPIDEMIOLOGICAL COMMENTS

##### Summary of the global situation and recommendations

While the main driver of community and international spread in the current pandemic is human to human transmission, animal cases of infection with SARS-CoV-2, though still only occasional occurrences, continue to rise. Currently, **678 outbreaks** in animals have been reported globally, affecting **23 species** in **36 countries**. Some countries have experienced a high prevalence of outbreaks in mink farms, and variant strains have now been identified in mustelids. As infection with SARS-CoV-2 is an emerging disease, the OIE strongly encourages Members to report through WAHIS the occurrence of any cases in animals that comply with the case definition provided in the OIE guidelines<sup>3</sup>.

##### Relevant changes in disease situation during the period:

- SARS-CoV-2 was reported through **1** Follow-up report by **United States of America** in cats and dogs
- SARS-CoV-2 was reported through **article 1.1.5** by **Spain** in gorillas

##### Relevant epidemiological comments from countries:

- **United States of America (cats and dogs):** *Texas (TX): A domestic dog (part of a larger study\*\*) was confirmed positive for SARS-CoV-2 at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories based on molecular testing (PCR and sequencing). \*\* Samples collected as part of planned and targeted active surveillance of a specific animal, with known or suspected exposures to a person with COVID-19 or other exposure to SARS-CoV-2, to better understand risk factors for SARS-CoV-2 transmission.*

##### Other relevant information during the period (OIE documents, relevant news, upcoming webinar or conferences)

- OIE Ad hoc Group on COVID-19 at the Animal-Human Interface - [https://old.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/14th\\_call\\_AHG\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://old.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/14th_call_AHG_COVID-19.pdf)
- [Statement from the Advisory Group on SARS-CoV-2 Evolution in Animals concerning the origins of Omicron variant - OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health](#)
- [8th-call-advisory-group-sars-cov2-evolution-in-animals.pdf \(oie.int\)](#)
- Suspected Cat-to-Human Transmission of SARS-CoV-2, Thailand, July-September 2021 - <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/35666777/>
- [Natural serological evidence of SARS-CoV-2 infection in lactating cows \(news-medical.net\)](#)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/A\\_Sampling\\_Testing\\_and\\_Reporting\\_of\\_SARS-CoV-2\\_in\\_animals\\_3\\_July\\_2020.pdf](https://www.oie.int/fileadmin/Home/MM/A_Sampling_Testing_and_Reporting_of_SARS-CoV-2_in_animals_3_July_2020.pdf)

- [Evidence of efficient SARS-CoV-2 transmission between cats \(news-medical.net\)](https://www.news-medical.net/Health-news/Evidence-of-efficient-SARS-CoV-2-transmission-between-cats.aspx)