



CH-3003 Bern
FSVO; hof

POST CH AG

Dr Monique Eloit
Director General
World Organisation for Animal Health OIE
Rue de Prony 12
75017 Paris
France

File reference: 071.1-16501/1/2/8/10
Berne, 03 December 2020

Research on SARS-CoV-2 - confirmation in a cat in the Canton of Zurich

Dear Dr Eloit, *chère Monique*

The Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office (FSVO) would like to inform the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) of the confirmation of SARS-CoV-2 in a domestic cat in the Canton of Zurich.

This case was detected in the frame of a research project on pet animals of owners who were infected with SARS-CoV-2. The project is in the responsibility of the Clinical Laboratory of the Vetsuisse Faculty (VSF) of the University of Zurich (UZH).

One of the cats showed signs of an upper respiratory infection including sneezing, inappetence and apathy. A second domestic cat from the same household has not shown any symptoms. Nasal, oral, fecal and fur swab samples were collected from both cats. The samples were tested at the UZH by RT-qPCR for SARS-CoV-2 viral RNA. The nasal swab of cat 1 tested positive (E and RdRp genes). These molecular results were confirmed by the Institute of Virology and Immunology (IVI, Mittelhäusern, Switzerland) and the Friedrich Loeffler Institute (FLI, Greifswald - Insel Riems, Germany); the FLI also confirmed the positive serological and neutralization results of cat 1.

The Swiss government does currently not recommend to test cats for SARS-CoV-2 but supports research to increase knowledge in the field. For the time being, COVID-19 continues to be treated as a human disease with the main route of transmission between human beings. Yours sincerely

Federal Food Safety
and Veterinary Office


Thomas Jemmi
Deputy Director General

Federal Food Safety and Veterinary Office FSVO
Franziska Hostettler
Schwarzenburgstrasse 155
3003 Berne
Postal address: 3003 Bern
Tel. +41 58 46 21200
franziska.hostettler@blv.admin.ch
<https://www.blv.admin.ch>

