

Information provided by the National Veterinary Services of Belgium (28/03/20)

A case of a Belgian cat positive for Covid-19

On 18/03/2020, the FASFC, was informed by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Liège that viral RNA of the SARS-CoV2 virus (the aetiological agent of Covid-19) had been detected in the stools and vomits of a cat showing clinical signs of digestive and respiratory disease.

The cat belonged to a person confirmed infected by SARS-CoV2. The presence of SARSCoV2 in the cat was confirmed by high throughput sequencing. A productive infection is suspected but has not yet been confirmed.

On 19/03/2020, on request of the National Risk Assessment Group (crisis manager in Belgium for the Covid-19 pandemic) and informed by the CVO in contact with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Liège, the FASFC requested an urgent opinion to the independent Scientific Committee established at the FASFC. This urgent opinion was approved and delivered on 23/03/2020. According to this Committee, the elements reported do not allow to conclude that there is a productive viral infection, but allow to suspect it (PCR Ct values compatible with a high number of viral genome copies and clinical signs compatible with a coronavirus infection).