



APRIL 6, 2020

Updated information regarding coronavirus and companion animals

This is a new statement issued by the Pancyprrian Veterinary Association (PVA) and the Cyprus Veterinary Council (CVC) regarding the COVID-19 and companion animals. Based on the information and scientific announcements by the European and International bodies (WVA, FVE, WSAVA), the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) the two veterinary bodies are issuing the following statement to reassure the public:

- There is no available scientific peer-reviewed data, to indicate that domesticated animals in proximity to COVID-19 positive humans, can be infected and transmit the disease to other animals or humans.
- Announcements presented in the press should be assessed with caution, as it is not uncommon for such publications to be false or misleading
- A study that examined thousands of samples from companion animals (canines, felines and horses) at the premises of state-of-the-art laboratory (IDEXX LABORATORY), has found none sample positive for the coronavirus (SARS-COV-2).
- All public health organizations that follow the pandemic of COVID-19, have reassured on April 4th, that there is no evidence that coronavirus (SARS-COV-2) can be transmitted from animals to humans

We urge all fellow citizens tested positive with coronavirus (SARS-COV-2):

- To take care of their companion animals while taking care of basic hygiene measures,
- To follow the recommendations of Ministry of Health of the Republic of Cyprus

Do not abandon your pets. The public is advised to follow the recommendations of relevant scientific committees and official bodies. Currently, coronavirus (SARS-COV-2) is regarded an infection transmitted solely **from human to human**. Companion and farm animals do not appear to play a role in disease transmission.

The Pancyprrian Veterinary Association (PVA) and the Cyprus Veterinary Council (CVC) are closely monitoring all relevant developments, aiming to protect public health, and animal health and welfare.