

# Review of: "Risks of Coronavirus Infectious Disease 19 (SARS-CoV-2) in Companion Animals"

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In this manuscript, the authors tried to summarize literature related to the risks associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection in companion animals, particularly focusing on cats and dogs and discussing the prevalence and clinical signs of SARS-CoV-2 infections in these animals.

There are numerous articles related to this subject, which has progressively gathered new information in the last four years. Thus, the expectation of an article of this kind is to contribute new information on this subject. For this reviewer, this novelty is absent.

-In addition, the reading of this manuscript has been difficult due to the repetition of different concepts throughout the text.

-Contributing to the confusing text, there are statements made that have uncertain meanings, or the statements create doubts about something that has been already proved.

Examples:

"Due to their animal-to-human transmission, these viruses have historically caused serious illnesses

in people (MERS-CoV was linked to dromedary camels, while SARS-CoV was linked to civet cats)". Why does the animal-human transmission have to cause serious illnesses?

"Zoonotic transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from animals, especially pets, to people may be the source of the outbreak" (?)

"According to clinical signs or links to SARS-CoV-2 infections in the population, 51 references have been found to identify 725 probable cases of cats worldwide. Are the authors sure about this statement?" The OIE site cited is from 2020.

"The possibility exists that SARS-CoV-2 might spread from people to animals and infect a large number of them. This might allow the virus to continue evolving and adapting in its new hosts and potentially spread to people in the form of new viral strains". More than a possibility, it has been proved (see deer and SARS-CoV-2).

"Previous findings have demonstrated that cats may contract SARS-CoV, suggesting that cats may also be susceptible to SARS-CoV-2" Statement mentioned several times. More than "may," cats are susceptible to SARS-CoV-2.

"The virus that causes COVID-19 is still unknown to us" What does this statement mean?

“A particularly vulnerable species could not function as a reservoir but rather as an intermediary host or vector in the transmission pathway” Could not? What about deer?

“It was revealed that SARS-CoV-2 replicates poorly in dogs, ducks, and chickens, but that infection can spread to ferrets and cats”. Are you sure about ducks and chickens? In any case, it cannot be that “poor” as in dogs.

“It is incredibly unlikely that a human will get an infection from a cat that is able to go outside and was previously infected by another cat”. This is not known. There must have been, for sure, a lot of undetected cases in both directions. Difficult to prove now.

-The information in the table should be checked as well with OMSA (newer reports) and <https://vis.csh.ac.at/sars-ani/>.

In addition, the table should be checked for mistakes: Chile, Argentina, etc., are also Latin America.

-Limited information on experimental infections and the data on the extent of the shedding as valuable data.

-Not much information about serology as proof of infection (no values are provided from literature, and there are many papers). See refs 14/46.

-There is no information/discussion about susceptibility according to the different SARS-CoV-2 strains. See, for example, ref 58.