

Milo's Intelligent Lockdown Operation

We often talk about how the current pandemic is affecting human health and well-being, how it will impact the economy and how it could potentially ripple through every layer of social fabric across the globe. At the OIE, we are, of course, also very interested in the role animals play in the spread of the disease.

The OIE's Q&A has highlighted that 'dogs, cats (domestic cats and a tiger), and minks have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 in the field setting, following close contact with infected humans (or humans suspected to be infected with SARS-CoV-2)', and a number of notifications have been made to the OIE. Furthermore, 'preliminary findings from laboratory studies suggest that, of the animal species investigated so far, cats are the most susceptible species for SARS-CoV-2, and cats can be affected with clinical disease'.

As an affectionate cat owner, this has caused me some concern. Could the health and welfare of my precious Milo be compromised?

I'm not sure, and would like to make an appeal to my veterinary colleagues: is Milo showing any clinical signs? To support your clinical investigation, I took a series of photos over a working day.

Please let me know as soon as possible whether I should be concerned or not.



9:00am: 'Ready to start a day at work – honest!'



1000am: 'Time for a wash.'



11:00am: 'Time for a mid-morning nap in some new surroundings ... Emily's office.'



noon: 'It's almost lunch time ... promise, I won't sleep all day.'



1:00pm: 'It's lunchtime! Hurry up, I am hungry!'



2:00pm: 'Those croquettes were tasty, but a bit heavy on the digestion. I need to have a nap to recover my energy.'



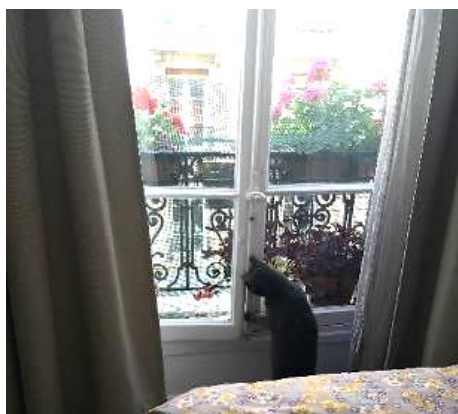
3:00pm: 'Wait! What did Billy Karesh say about cats and SARS-CoV-2????'



4:00pm: 'Oh you're back? While you were away, I thought I would check your calculations!'



5:00pm: 'You seem to be having Internet problems, let me warm up the router up for you.'



6:00pm: 'Did you just see that pigeon go by? Come on Emily! It's time to stop working – let's check out what is going on outside.'

We thank our colleague Emily Tagliaro for writing this article for the OIE In-house Times.

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