



VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Animal Health Committee Policy Statement: COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing and Surveillance in Animals

The World Organisation for Animal Health advises that currently there is no evidence to suggest that animals infected by humans are playing a role in the spread of COVID-19. The current spread of COVID-19 is driven by human to human transmission.

The capacity for testing for COVID-19 is not limitless. The priority remains on human health, as the known form of transmission.

There have been no reports of the virus in domestic animals or wildlife in Australia.

At this time, diagnostic testing and surveillance in Australian animals for COVID-19 is not recommended, unless on the advice of human and animal health authorities. If testing is required, it should be undertaken at the CSIRO Australian Centre for Disease Preparedness (the former Australian Animal Health Laboratory).

Animal owners/handlers should continue to implement good hygiene and farm biosecurity practices where animals are kept, including washing their hands before and after contact with animals.

People who are sick or under medical attention for COVID-19 should avoid or minimise close contact with animals as a precaution.