

HealthforAnimals Statement on COVID-19

(BRUSSELS, 19 March, 2020) – HealthforAnimals and its Members, representing approximately 90% of the global market for veterinary medicines, recognize the unprecedented challenge COVID-19 poses to the health of our world and the flow of goods across borders.

Ensuring a stable supply of safe, nutritious food and protecting the pets sharing our homes during this crisis is vital. Veterinary medicines and required tools for livestock production, such as animal identification products, are necessary to achieving this goal.

HealthforAnimals and its Members urge governments to confirm that these products are ‘essential goods’ that can continue to cross borders even when restrictions or closures are implemented.

This designation strengthens the global food system and our households as pet companionship will be crucial, especially for older, more vulnerable populations, during long periods of self-isolation.

HealthforAnimals Members are also working to ensure veterinary medicines continue to reach veterinarians, farmers and pet owners during this crisis, so they may provide proper care to animals, while also protecting our employees and reducing the risk of further disease spread.

The [World Health Organization](#) and [U.S. Centers for Disease Control](#) state there is no evidence that pets or livestock can transmit COVID-19, however animals can still become sick with other illnesses requiring veterinary care during ‘social distancing’.

Currently, the European Medicines Agency (EMA) has “[no reports of current shortages](#)” while the U.S. Food and Drug Administration also says, “[no shortages have been reported.](#)” HealthforAnimals Members are closely monitoring their supply chains and will work with authorities if disruptions occur.

Animal care is critical to public health and must continue even in this unprecedented situation. HealthforAnimals and our Members will work to safeguard access to essential veterinary tools and support one health during the COVID-19 crisis.

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About

HealthforAnimals is a non-profit, non-governmental representing companies and industry associations from both developed and developing countries. HealthforAnimals represents the animal health sector: manufacturers of veterinary pharmaceuticals, vaccines and other animal health products throughout the world, as well as the associations that represent companies at national and regional levels. For more information, please visit www.healthforanimals.org

Additional Resources

Below are available materials on COVID-19 from leading veterinary organisations. Inclusion on this list does not indicate endorsement of content by HealthforAnimals or its Members.

- **World Organisation for Animal Health:** [Questions and Answers on the 2019 Coronavirus Disease \(COVID-19\)](#); [COVID-19 and veterinary activities designated as essential](#)
- **World Small Animal Veterinary Association:** [The New Coronavirus and Companion Animals](#)
- **American Veterinary Medical Association:** “[No evidence pets become ill with COVID-19 virus as it surges in US](#)”; ‘COVID-19’ resource hub at AVMA.org/Coronavirus.
- **Federation of Veterinarians of Europe:** [‘Novel Coronavirus Information Sheet’](#)