

# Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens

Dr Helen Roberts,  
Chair, HAIRS  
Equines, Pets and New and Emerging Diseases, Science and Risk adviser  
Exotic Disease Control team

**Defra**

Area 2D, Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR

Monday, 6 April 2020

Dear Helen,

**Re: Potential of Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from Humans to Animals and Risks of Onward Transmission**

Thank you to yourself and colleagues from Defra and the Animal and Plant Health Agency for attending a teleconference of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

The committee noted the HAIRS risk assessments of transmission to companion animals and possible onward transmission to humans, as well as the risk assessment of UK livestock being exposed to the virus. In addition, they considered a recently published paper showing experimental transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in cats and ferrets in a laboratory setting.

The committee fully endorsed the current risk assessments carried out by HAIRS. In particular, they noted the risk assessment for companion animals being exposed to virus and the potential for onward transmission to other animals or humans:

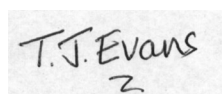
Risk of exposure from infected humans HIGH (depending on the pathway); onward spread from animal to other animals or humans MEDIUM from fomite risk, VERY LOW from replicating virus in the companion animal (depending on the species); overall risk LOW from combining probabilities.

The committee noted that there was considerable uncertainty surrounding these risk assessments, but that the situation would remain under close monitoring.

Thank you again for your help in informing the committee of your work. The committee would be grateful for updates on these risk assessments as and when they are available.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored rectangular background. The signature reads "T.J. Evans" with a small flourish underneath.

Professor Tom Evans  
ACDP Chair