



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Reduced Level of Veterinary Services: Calling on Animal Owners for Help

Saint-Hyacinthe, March 26, 2020 – The Ordre des médecins vétérinaires du Québec (OMVQ) is asking animal owners for their cooperation and understanding, as veterinary services in Québec are being pared down for the next few weeks. While veterinarians continue to offer some services, they are focusing solely on essential activities involving food safety and animal health emergencies.

Dr. Caroline Kilsdonk, President of the OMVQ, is calling for the cooperation of animal owners: “We are asking veterinarians to limit their activities to essential services and animal owners to only solicit them for this purpose. It is up to veterinarians to decide, in each situation, if a service can be postponed. If it cannot, appropriate prevention measures are implemented to ensure public safety. We would like animal owners to keep this in mind and only contact their veterinarian if their animal needs immediate care. The veterinarian will then advise them on how to proceed given the situation of their animal or group of animals.”

The same principles apply for all species.

Special precautions for pets

The spread of the virus has intensified in recent days and the OMVQ would like to remind the public of the important precautions to be taken with pets. “When taking your dog for a walk, stay a good distance away from other people walking, especially if they have a dog too. We know that dogs are very sociable and, right now, we must make sure they don’t come into contact with one another. It’s also not the right time to go to the dog park. Though nothing indicates at this time that animals can get infected, they can carry the virus in their fur,” added the President.

If you have contracted the virus, take precautions and do not remain in close contact with your pet. If possible, ask someone else to care for your pet and limit its contact with other people and animals outside your household. If you would like additional information, consult the list of frequently asked questions prepared for the general public by the OMVQ and the various

information tools, including the video *Le Coronavirus et les animaux de compagnie* (in French only) available on its Website.

About the Ordre des médecins vétérinaires du Québec

The Ordre des médecins vétérinaires du Québec is an organization established under the Québec Professional Code and the Veterinary Surgeons Act that brings together some 2,600 veterinarians in Québec. Its mandate is to protect the public by promoting quality veterinary care in order to improve the welfare of animals and safeguard public health.

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Source:

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