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Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (197): animal, India, zoo lion, fatal

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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (197): ANIMAL, INDIA, ZOO LION, FATAL

A ProMED-mail post

<http://www.promedmail.org>

ProMED-mail is a program of the

International Society for Infectious Diseases

<http://www.isid.org>

Date: Mon 7 June 2021

Source: Daily Mail[edited]

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9659687/Lioness-dies-COVID-19-Indian-zoo-eight-tested-positive.html>

A lion has died from Covid-19 at an Indian zoo where 8 others also tested positive for the virus. The state-run zoo on the outskirts of the south Indian city of Chennai announced the 9-year-old Asiatic lion's death on [Fri 4 June 2021].

'A 9-year old lioness Neela succumbed to the disease on the evening of [3 Jun 2021],' the Arignar Anna Zoological Park, also known as Vandalur Zoo, said.

The outbreak was 1st observed when the lioness 'showed some nasal discharge'. The others appear to have been asymptomatic. The affected animals have been quarantined and given antibiotics. They are under observation by the zoo's veterinary team and an expert team from Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University.

There have been various coronavirus cases reported in animals, including 2 white tiger cubs thought to have died from the virus in Pakistan.

Lions have also tested positive in Spain and 2 other Indian cities, including Hyderabad, where 8 lions tested positive last month [May 2021] at Nehru Zoological Park.

'All animal keepers and helpers for these animal houses are vaccinated against COVID-19. A separate set of animal keepers is engaged for each group of lions. PPE kits are mandatory for the animal keepers, veterinary doctors and field staff visiting the area,' the zoo said.

'Samples of tigers and other large mammals are being sent for testing,' the zoo's statement added. Officials added that a sample from the zoo's only pregnant lioness would not be sent for now as sedating her could weaken her immunity. A 2nd sample from the deceased lion has also been sent to rule out a false positive result.

On Sun 6 Jun 2021], Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin visited the zoo to assess the situation.

Expert teams explained the lions' care and measures taken to monitor them, according to local media.

[Byline: Reuters and Charlotte Mitchell]

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ProMED from HealthMap Alerts

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[Infection by SARS-CoV-2 have been confirmed so far in 3 families of carnivores (Order CARNIVORA), canids (dogs and raccoon dogs), felids (cats, tigers, lions, puma/cougar and snow leopard) and mustelids (ferrets and minks).

Lions and tigers experienced respiratory disease due to COVID-19 at the Bronx Zoo in April 2020, tigers with mild respiratory signs tested positive at Knoxville Zoo in October 2020, and lions in Barcelona Zoo in December 2020. In January 2021, 1 tiger and 2 lions tested positive at a zoo in Sweden.

Recently, the Hyderabad zoo reported that 8 lions tested positive. This new report is relevant as it is the 1st to link death with confirmed infection by SARS-CoV-2 in a big cat. In January 2021, 2 tiger cubs that had died due to a severe lung infection were suspected of having COVID-19, but they were not tested by any means to confirm that they were SARS-CoV-2 positive. It would be important to conduct a thorough post mortem examination to establish if the lioness died as a result of COVID-19 or whether there were other conditions contributing to the fatality. - Mod.PMB

HealthMap/ProMED map:

Tamil Nadu State, India: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=8430529,319>

See Also

COVID-19 update (159): animal, India, zoo, lion 20210504.8344580

COVID-19 update (33): animal, Sweden, zoo, tiger, lion 20210125.8134087

COVID-19 update (13): animal, USA, zoo, gorilla 20210112.8095510

2020

PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (538): USA, animal, zoo, snow leopard 20201214.8017000

COVID-19 update (525): Spain, animal, zoo, lion, human 20201208.8002466

COVID-19 update (469): USA (TN) zoo, tiger 20201104.7915683

COVID-19 update (356): South Africa (GT) animal, puma, zoo, OIE 20200813.7673666

COVID-19 update (143): USA (NY) animal, zoo, tiger, lion, tests 20200430.7284183

COVID-19 update (141): India, animal, wild tiger, susp, clarification, RFI 20200430.7281768

COVID-19 update (138): India, animal, wild tiger, fatal 20200428.7275765

COVID-19 update (135): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink 20200427.7272289

COVID-19 update (130): USA (NY) zoo, tiger, lion, new cases 20200425.7266556

COVID-19 update (85): USA (NY) tiger, OIE 20200406.7191480

COVID-19 update (84): USA, tigers 20200406.7191352

COVID-19 update (76): China (HU) animal, cat, owned, stray, seropositive 20200403.7179946

COVID-19 update (75): China (Hong Kong) cat, OIE 20200403.7179945

COVID-19 update (70): China (Hong Kong) cat, pets & stock 20200402.7173286

COVID-19 update (58): Belgium, cat, clinical case, RFI 20200327.7151215

COVID-19 update (57): global, re-using PPE, DR Congo, more countries, WHO 20200327.7149046

COVID-19 update (56): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, final serology positive 20200326.7146438
 COVID-19 update (45): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, 2nd case PCR positive 20200319.7112693
 COVID-19 update (37): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, prelim. serology negative 20200312.7081842
 COVID-19 update (30): China (Hong Kong) dog, susp, serology pending 20200306.7057595
 COVID-19 update (25): China (Hong Kong) dog, susp, OIE 20200302.7040373
 COVID-19 update (22): companion animals, dog susp, RFI 20200229.7036661
 COVID-19 update (17): China, animal reservoir, wildlife trade & consumption 20200225.7024245
 COVID-19 update (11): animal reservoir, intermediate hosts, pangolin susp 20200220.7009213
 COVID-19 update (08): companion animals, RFI 20200218.7002276
 COVID-19 update (06): animal reservoir, intermediate hosts 20200217.6997782
 Novel coronavirus (42): China, global, COVID-19, SARS-CoV-2, WHO 20200211.6979942
 Novel coronavirus (40): animal reservoir, pangolin poss intermediate host, RFI 20200210.6972104
 Novel coronavirus (28): China (HU) animal reservoir 20200201.6943858
 Novel coronavirus (22): reservoir suggested, bats 20200129.6930718
 Novel coronavirus (20): China, wildlife trade ban 20200127.6922060
 Novel coronavirus (18): China (HU) animal reservoir 20200125.6915411
 Novel coronavirus (15): China (HU) wild animal sources 20200123.6909913
 Novel coronavirus (03): China (HU) animal reservoir suggested, RFI 20200114.6887480
 Novel coronavirus (01): China (HU) WHO, phylogenetic tree 20200112.6885385
 Undiagnosed pneumonia - China (HU) (07): official confirmation of novel coronavirus 20200108.6878869

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