



Published Date: 2021-08-02 11:57:41

Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (265): animal, USA, zoo, snow leopard

Archive Number: 20210802.8563564

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (265): ANIMAL, USA, ZOO, SNOW LEOPARD

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A ProMED-mail post

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ProMED-mail is a program of the

International Society for Infectious Diseases

<http://www.isid.org>

Date: Fri 30 Jul 2021 4:02 PM PT

Source: Los Angeles Times, San Diego Union-Tribune report [edited]

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-07-30/there-are-2-snow-leopards-at-the-san-diego-zoo-both-endangered-cats-have-covid-19>

A 2nd snow leopard has tested positive for COVID-19 at the San Diego Zoo, just days after an earlier case, the organization said on Thursday [29 Jul 2021]. Zoo staff tested stool samples from Naphisa, a 3 year old female snow leopard, after she developed a cough "within the past few days", according to a spokesperson. After the sample tested positive for the coronavirus in the zoo's lab, the staff sent another sample to the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory System; the state-level lab confirmed the result.

That's exactly what had happened on [23 Jul 2021], when the zoo announced that Ramil, a 9 year old male snow leopard, tested positive for the virus after keepers noticed he had a cough and runny nose [see archive 20210726.8545843].

Naphisa and Ramil are eating and moving about normally, according to the zoo's veterinary staff, and their coughs are beginning to improve. The endangered cats live together in an enclosure they share with 2 Amur leopards. Once Ramil tested positive, the zoo staff assumed that the other 3 leopards would be exposed. All 4 animals are being closely monitored and quarantined, and their exhibit is closed to the public.

The zoo has yet to determine how the leopards became infected. In mid-January [2021], the Safari Park's gorilla troop became infected with COVID-19 after exposure to a keeper who was infected but asymptomatic. The gorillas have fully recovered.

Coronavirus infections in felines -- from lions and tigers to domestic cats -- have been rare and mild, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But the stakes are always higher with endangered species. There are only 4000 to 6500 snow leopards in the wild, according to the World Wildlife Federation, and just 90 Amur leopards.

Naphisa and Ramil are the zoo's only snow leopards. The organization hopes they'll become a breeding pair, though Naphisa has yet to produce cubs. The first snow leopard to live at the zoo arrived in 1949. Since then, 13 cubs have been born at the park.

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[Ramil, the 1st snow leopard to show signs and test positive at the San Diego zoo, had not been vaccinated. Naphisa was vaccinated 2-4 days before Ramil started showing signs, so exposure took place before the vaccine could build up defenses in her. - Mod.PMB

HealthMap/ProMED map of California, United States: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=8563564,17282.>]

## See Also

COVID-19 update (254): animal, USA, zoo, snow leopard 20210726.8545843

COVID-19 update (230): animal, USA, zoo, vaccination 20210705.8496776

COVID-19 update (197): animal, India, zoo lion, fatal 20210607.8430529

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

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COVID-19 update (538): USA, animal, zoo, snow leopard 20201214.8017000

COVID-19 update (536): animal, USA (UT) wild mink, 1st case 20201213.8015608

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

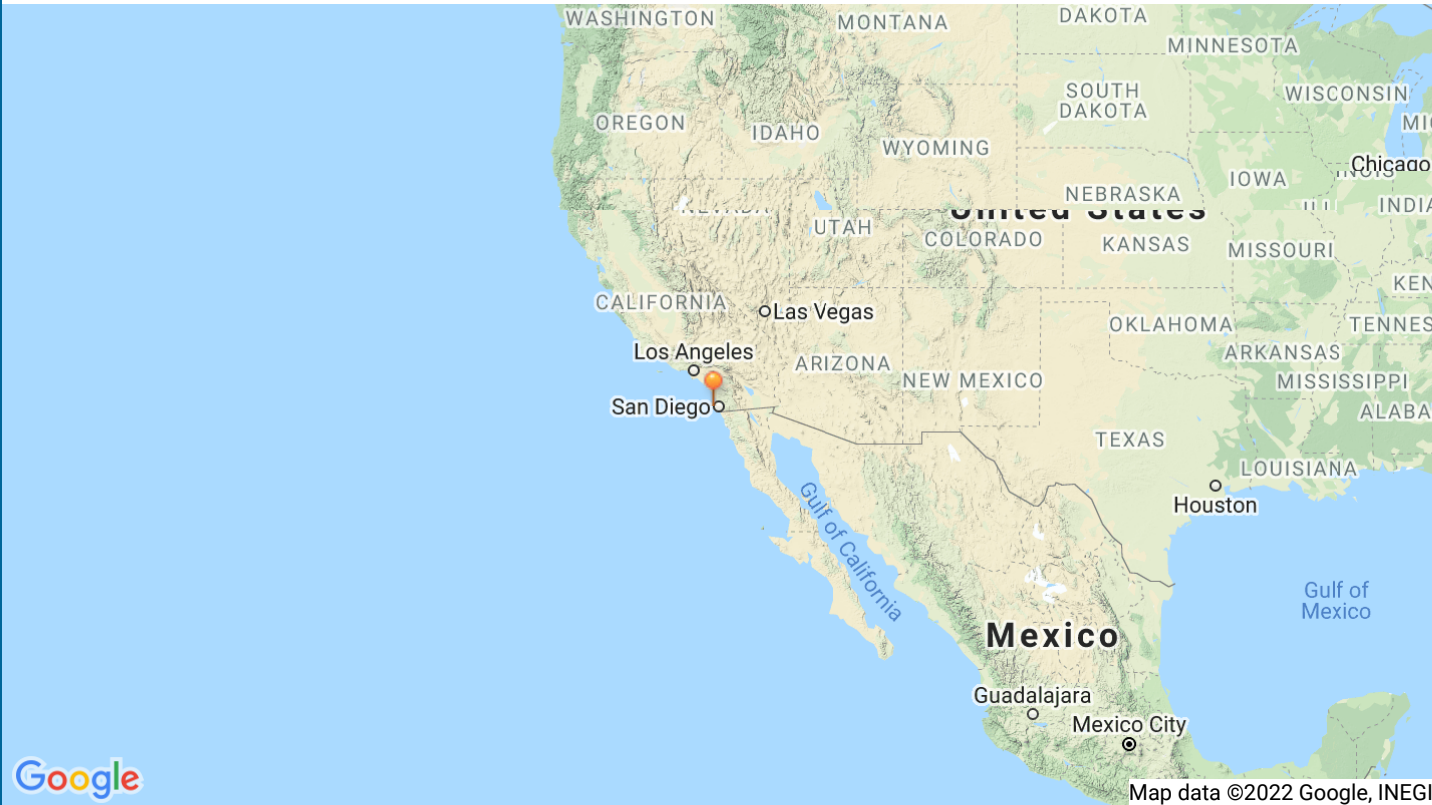
COVID-19 update (17): China, animal reservoir, wildlife trade & consumption 20200225.7024245

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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