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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (461): ANIMAL, SWEDEN, MINK, FIRST REPORT, REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

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: Sat 24 Oct 2020

Source: Aftonbladet.se [in Swedish, machine trans., edited]

<https://www.aftonbladet.se/nyheter/a/aPwrME/forsta-coronabrottet-pa-svensk-minkfarm>

Several minks have tested positive for the coronavirus on a mink farm in Solvesborg in Blekinge. People on the farm have also been found infected.

The Swedish Veterinary Institute (SVA) is now investigating how the virus spreads among the animals. This is the 1st time that the new coronavirus has been found on a Swedish mink farm.

"We tested a number of animals today [23 Oct 2020], and all were positive", says Karl Stahl, acting state epizootiologist at the SVA.

People working on the farm have also been found infected. There is no established route of transmission yet. "But one can assume that the infection has been passed from person to animal," says Karl Stahl.

The fact that the virus has spread to over 70 mink farms in the Netherlands and over 140 in Denmark [as of 29 Oct 2020, 175. - Mod.AS] shows that minks are particularly susceptible to the coronavirus.

"The minks have the potential to become infected because they have receptors in their airways that are suitable for the virus. When breeding for fur production, the minks are kept in cages close to each other, which is believed to be the reason why the infection spreads easily on the farms. Minkers do not keep their distance. It is like with nightclubs, if you have many people in a small area, you risk that there will be a lot of virus and then the infection spreads quickly."

The Swedish Board of Agriculture states that there is still no reason to kill the animals on the affected farm in Solvesborg, but that it is subject to restrictions to prevent the spread of infection.

In the Netherlands, where hundreds of thousands of minks have been killed, there are reports that minks have passed the

infection on to people who work with the animals. Cats staying at mink farms have also been found infected.

"Cats get a transient disease and they can in experimental studies spread the infection further. But in reality, felines do not pose a risk of infection, they do not live close together."

The Swedish Board of Agriculture and SVA monitor the spread of infection and work together with the mink farming industry in Sweden to prevent the virus from entering more facilities. The mink breeders have been asked to send dead minks to SVA for sampling and analysis. "We will also study the routes of infection."

In the Netherlands, several studies have been done at outbreaks, where researchers looked at the development of immunity and the spread of the virus in the air. Similar studies may also be relevant in Sweden, according to Stahl. "We can learn a lot about how the virus develops when it spreads from individual to individual."

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[The above information has come to ProMED's attention by visiting the Dutch website "Animal Rights," dated Thu 29 Oct 2020 (<https://www.animalrights.nl/ook-corona-bij-nertsen-zweden>), which cited other media sources.

Earlier, initial information about the detection, allegedly as early as in August 2020, of 2 infected minks in Italy was received from an animal rights group. A request for information is pending (20201028.7897986).

Such epidemiological information deserves, preferably, to become public firsthand, as close as possible to its lab confirmation by official channels. It should also be notified to the OIE as an emerging (non-listed) disease.

Notifications addressing COVID-19 in farmed minks have reached the OIE so far from 4 countries: Netherlands, Spain, Denmark and USA. - Mod.AS

HealthMap/ProMED-mail map:

Sweden: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=7903582,108>]

See Also

COVID-19 update (458): animal, Italy, mink, RFI 20201028.7897986

COVID-19 update (445): animal, Netherlands, Denmark, mink, spread, epidemiology 20201019.7873326

COVID-19 update (439): animal, Denmark, mink, spread, control 20201014.7861560

COVID-19 update (437): animal, Netherlands, Denmark, mink, spread, control 20201013.7858915

COVID-19 update (433): animal, Denmark (ND, MJ) farmed mink, spread, control 20201010.7851707

COVID-19 update (430): animal, USA (UT) mink 20201009.7847704

COVID-19 update (425): animal, Denmark (ND) farmed mink, spread, control 20201004.7835635

COVID-19 update (414): animal, Netherlands (LI), Denmark (ND), farm mink, spread 20200925.7813579

COVID-19 update (406): animal, Netherlands (LI), Denmark (ND), farm mink, spread 20200918.7794239

COVID-19 update (401): Netherlands (NB), Denmark, farmed mink, spread 20200914.7777661

COVID-19 update (394): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread 20200908.7759382

COVID-19 update (387): Netherlands, mink, animal & public health, research 20200902.7740793

COVID-19 update (382): Netherlands, animal, farmed mink, spread, control 20200830.7730463

COVID-19 update (376): animal, ferret, mink, comment 20200827.7721923

COVID-19 update (366): animal, USA (UT) mink 20200818.7692815

COVID-19 update (363): animal, Denmark (ND) Netherlands (NB,LI) mink, spread 20200817.7687830
COVID-19 update (340): animal, China, enviro monitoring, Netherlands (NB), mink 20200801.7635820
COVID-19 update (334): animal, Netherlands, mink, spread, UK, cat, 1st rep, OIE 20200727.7617582
COVID-19 update (324): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread 20200719.7591013
COVID-19 update (317): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread 20200716.7578453
COVID-19 update (307): Netherlands (NB), Denmark (ND) farmed mink, spread, control 20200708.7553067
COVID-19 update (301): Denmark (ND) Netherlands (NB) farmed mink, spread, control 20200703.7536980
COVID-19 update (284): Denmark (ND) animal, farmed mink, spread, dog 20200624.7506728
COVID-19 update (281): Netherlands (NB, LI) farmed mink, spread, animal, global 20200623.7502849
COVID-19 update (266): Denmark (ND) animal, farmed mink, 1st rep 20200617.7479510
COVID-19 update (251): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink, spread, culling 20200610.7453845
COVID-19 update (248): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, mink, spread, culling, cat 20200609.7446478
COVID-19 update (236): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink, spread, culling 20200604.7427849
COVID-19 update (230): Netherlands (NB, LI) animal, farmed mink, spread, control 20200602.7420433
COVID-19 update (215): Netherlands (NB) animal, mink-to-human, epidem., control 20200527.7385049
COVID-19 update (209): Netherlands (NB) farmed mink, animal-to-human, cat, epid 20200525.7375359
COVID-19 update (198): Netherlands (NB) farmed mink, animal-to-human infect susp 20200520.7359976
COVID-19 update (189): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, research, cat, dog 20200517.7344274
COVID-19 update (177): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, Spain (CT) cat susp 20200512.7328587
COVID-19 update (174): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, comment 20200511.7323845
COVID-19 update (169): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, spread, rabbit susp 20200509.7316646
COVID-19 update (154): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, research 20200503.7294846
COVID-19 update (146): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink, epidemiology 20200501.7286113
COVID-19 update (135): Netherlands (NB) animal, farmed mink 20200427.7272289

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