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Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (254): animal, USA, zoo, snow leopard

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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (254): ANIMAL, USA, ZOO, SNOW LEOPARD

A ProMED-mail post

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<http://www.isid.org>

Date: Sat 24 Jul 2021

Source: CNN, Associated Press (AP) report [edited]

<https://apnews.com/article/lifestyle-health-travel-environment-and-nature-coronavirus-pandemic-5a999c2e524e59a23b9db3a35b64412b>

An unvaccinated snow leopard at the San Diego Zoo has contracted COVID-19.

Caretakers noticed that Ramil, a 9-year-old male snow leopard, had a cough and runny nose on Thursday [22 Jul 2021]. Later, 2 separate tests of his stool confirmed the presence of the coronavirus, the zoo said in a statement Friday [23 Jul 2021].

Ramil is not showing additional symptoms, the zoo said, but because he shares an enclosure with a female snow leopard and 2 Amur leopards, the staff assumes they have been exposed. As a result, the animals were quarantined and their exhibit was closed.

It's unclear how Ramil got infected.

In January [2021], a troop of 8 gorillas at the zoo's sister facility, San Diego Zoo Safari Park, contracted COVID-19 from a keeper who had the virus but showed no symptoms.

The gorilla troop, which has since recovered, became the 1st known example of the virus infecting apes.

The case prompted the zoo to request an experimental COVID-19 vaccine for animals for emergency use. The vaccine from Zoetis, an animal health company that was once part of Pfizer, was administered to species most at risk of contracting COVID-19, including several primates and big cats.

However, Ramil had not been vaccinated before his infection.

There is no vaccine mandate for the staff, but unvaccinated employees are required to wear masks at all times, the zoo said.

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Communicated by:

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[Infection by SARS-CoV-2 has been confirmed in big cats in zoos around the world. Tigers, lions, pumas/cougars, and snow leopards have previously tested positive, most of them showing mild respiratory signs. A lioness, however, died after contracting COVID-19 in an Indian zoo in June 2021. This is the 2nd report of snow leopards becoming infected by SARS-CoV-2. 3 snow leopards tested positive in December 2021 in Louisville Zoo, Kentucky.

The development of effective vaccines against SARS-CoV-2 to be used in mammals other than humans is very important, not only to protect animals in direct contact with people from the disease but also to avoid the virus finding a niche where it can be maintained and evolve as immunity in people builds up globally due to natural infection and vaccination. Hopefully, adoption of vaccination in zoos will prevent new episodes like this, as biosecurity practices used in the San Diego Zoo (personal protective equipment including N95 masks, cleaning, and disinfection protocols, quarantine procedures) have failed to prevent transmission in this case. According to a press release by the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, they have recently received a donation by Zoetis of recombinant purified spike protein vaccine, and are currently in the process of administering it. - Mod.PMB

HealthMap/ProMED map:

San Diego Zoo Safari Park, California, United States: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=8545843,68046>]

See Also

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

2020

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

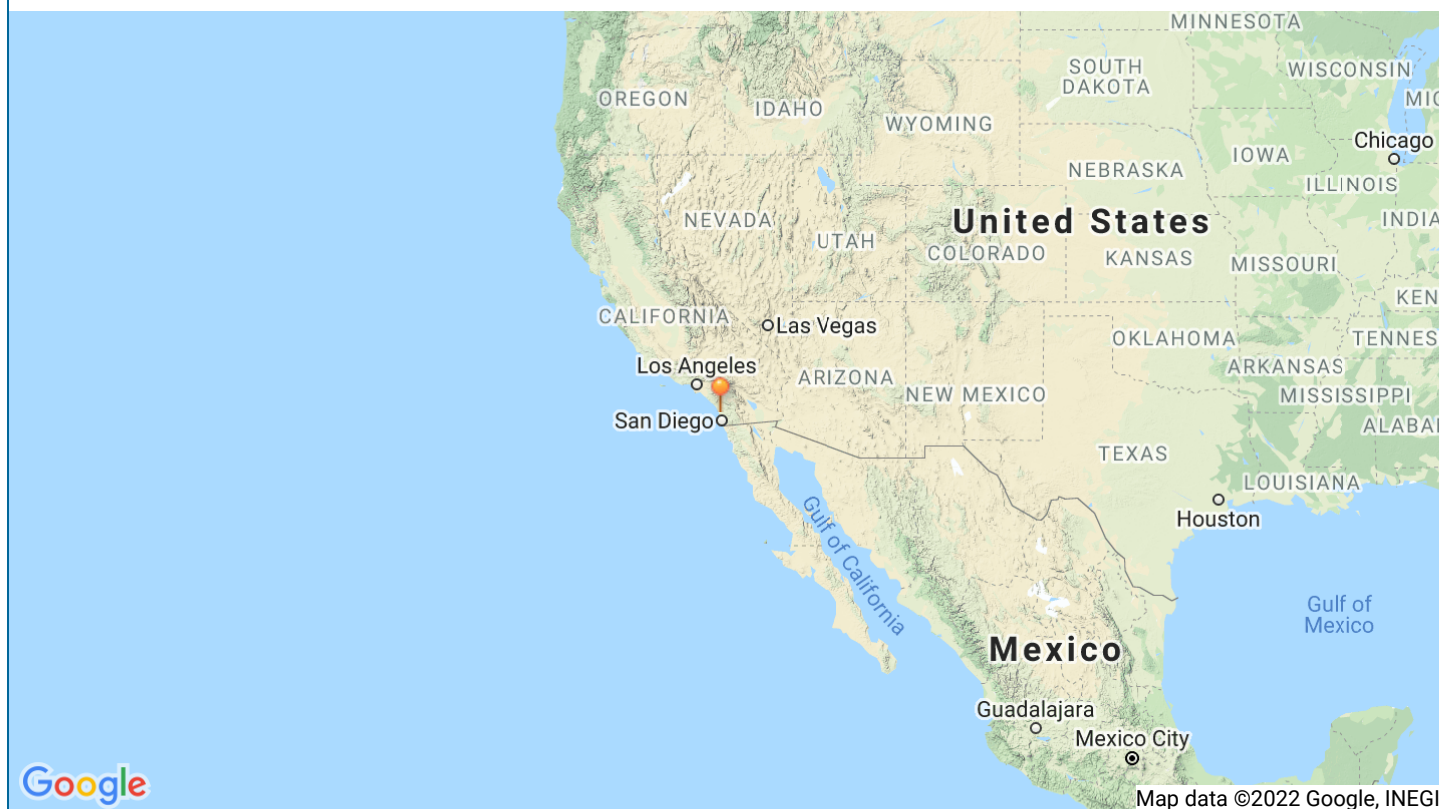
COVID-19 update (56): China (Hong Kong) animal, dog, final serology positive 20200326.7146438

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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