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Subject: PRO/AH/EDR> COVID-19 update (525): Spain, animal, zoo, lion, human

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CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 UPDATE (525): SPAIN, ANIMAL, ZOO, LION, HUMAN

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A ProMED-mail post

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<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9030165/Four-lions-Spanish-zoo-test-positive-COVID-19.html>

Veterinary authorities said on Tuesday [8 Dec 2020] that 4 lions at Barcelona Zoo have tested positive for COVID-19, in only the 2nd known case in which large felines have contracted coronavirus.

Three females named Zala, Nima, and Run Run and Kiumbe, a male, were tested after keepers noticed they showed slight [clinical signs] of coronavirus.

The authorities said 2 staff at the zoo also tested positive for coronavirus, after the outbreak was first detected last month [November 2020].

Keepers carried out PCR tests on the lions in the same way as humans are tested as the animals are accustomed to contact with the zoo staff -- but still required a large amount of skill to perform, the zoo said.

The Veterinary Service of Barcelona contacted colleagues at the Bronx Zoo in New York, where 4 tigers and 3 lions tested positive for COVID-19 in April [2020].

It is the only other zoo where large felines are known to have contracted coronavirus [there were also positive tigers at Zoo Knoxville [Tennessee], ProMED post 20201104.7915683, and a puma in South Africa ProMED post 20200813.7673666]. All recovered.

'The Zoo has contacted and collaborated with international experts such as the Veterinary Service of the Bronx Zoo, the only one that has documented cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection in felines,' the Barcelona zoo said in a statement.

'The lions were given veterinary care for their mild clinical condition -- similar to a very mild flu condition -- through anti-inflammatory treatment and close monitoring, and the animals responded well.'

More concerning symptoms of coronavirus -- such as difficulty breathing or other respiratory symptoms -- were not found in the lions.

All other symptoms cleared after 15 days, except for coughing and sneezing, the zoo said, noting that the case gives them an opportunity to raise awareness about how COVID-19 affects animals -- especially big cats.

Information will be shared with other international associations to help them with treating animals that become infected in the future.

The 4-year-old male and the females, who are all 16 years old, have had no contact with other animals at the zoo, which is open to visitors.

Barcelona Zoo ruled out any possibility of visitors to the park catching the virus from the lions, saying: 'Simply, no one who comes to see them gets close enough.'

It is believed that SARS-CoV-2 -- the virus that causes coronavirus -- likely evolved up to 70 years ago and resided in bats, unable to spread to another species [SARS-CoV-1 was one prior detected jump].

However, it is thought that the virus last year [2019] jumped into an intermediate species, potentially pangolins or wild dogs, before again jumping into humans, but there is much debate over this.

A number of cases have been found in other animals since the outbreak of the disease, both domestic and wild. According to the CDC, a small number of pet cats and dogs have reportedly been infected with SARS-CoV-2, most of which became sick after contact with people.

In addition to lions and tigers in zoos in New York, Tennessee [in the USA], and now Barcelona [Spain], a puma tested positive for the virus in South Africa.

A number of European countries -- including Denmark, the Netherlands, and Greece -- have also seen devastating outbreaks of the virus on mink farms, which has led to the culling of millions of the creatures.

It has been found that once the virus is on a mink farm, it can spread from mink to other creatures.

However, experts are unclear over whether the virus can spread from mink to humans -- although reports from Denmark and the Netherlands suggest it can.

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[Infection by SARS-CoV-2 has been confirmed so far in carnivores of 3 families -- canids (dogs and raccoon dogs), felids (cats, tigers, lions, and puma/cougar), and mustelids (ferrets and minks). Lions and tigers experienced respiratory disease at the Bronx Zoo in April 2020 (see ProMED post 20200425.7266556) and tigers with mild respiratory signs tested positive at Zoo Knoxville in October 2020. - Mod.PMB

HealthMap/ProMED map:

Spain: <https://promedmail.org/promed-post?place=8002466,43>

## See Also

COVID-19 update (469): USA (TN) animal, 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

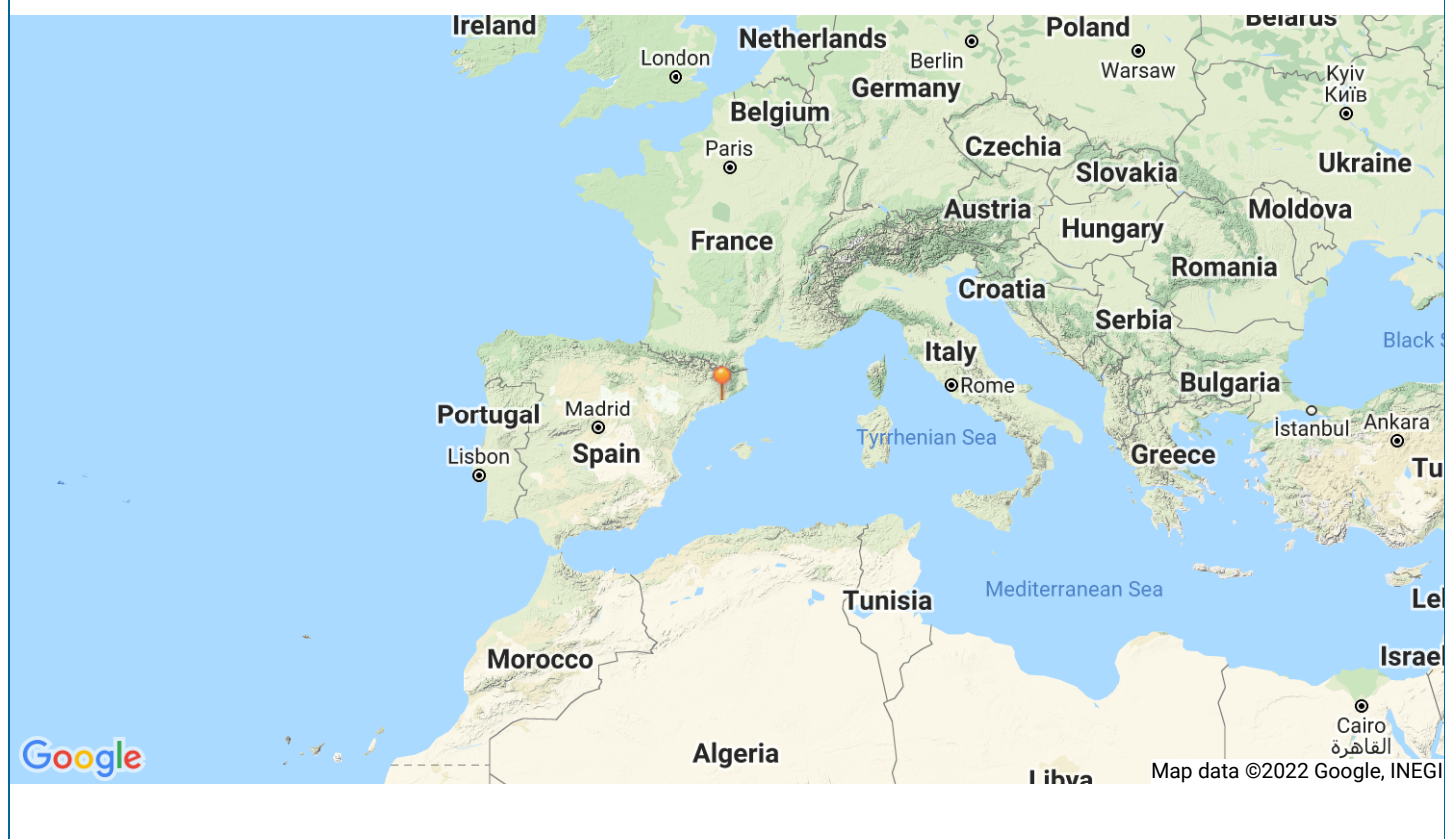
COVID-19 update (141): India, animal, wild tiger, susp, clarification, RFI 20200430.7281768

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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