



Ministry of Agriculture,
Nature and Food Quality

> P.O. Box 20401 2500 EK The Hague The Netherlands

Dr. M. Eloit
Director General
World Organisation for Animal Health
12, Rue de Prony 75017
Paris
FRANCE

Directorate-General Agro
Animal Supply Chain and Animal
Welfare Department

Visit address
Bezuidenhoutseweg 73
2594 AC Den Haag
The Netherlands

Postal address
P.O. Box 20401
2500 EK Den Haag
The Netherlands

Organisation Code
00000001858272854000

T +31 (0)70 379 8911
F +31 (0)70 378 6100
www.rijksoverheid.nl/Inv

Date 6 January 2021
Re Update situation with regard to SARS-CoV-2 infections in mink in The Netherlands

Our ref.
DGA-DAD / 20314491

Your ref.

Encl.

Dear Director General, dear Dr. Eloit,

I herewith would like to update you, based on article 1.1.4 of the TAHC of the OIE, about the situation with regard to the SARS-CoV-2 infection in mink in The Netherlands.

In total we have had 69 mink farms in the Netherlands that were infected with SARS-CoV-2. Forty four (44) are located in the province of Noord Brabant, twenty three (23) in the province of Limburg and two (2) in the province of Gelderland. On 29 farms the owner noticed clinical signs and reported the suspicion to the competent authority, whereas 39 infections were detected through the early warning (EW) system (obligation to send in dead animals weekly). One farm was detected based on serological screening. We have culled one farm in the province of Gelderland based on a suspicion in EW samples, but the farm was not declared as infected as the official samples turned out to be PCR negative. So in the end, we have faced 69 infected mink farms and culled the mink on 70 farms in total.

We are still carrying out research to get more insight in the sources of virus introduction. We also focus on a possible role of wild life in the spread of the infection. A clear picture of routes of transmission can still not be provided, despite all the effort the scientists have put into this research.

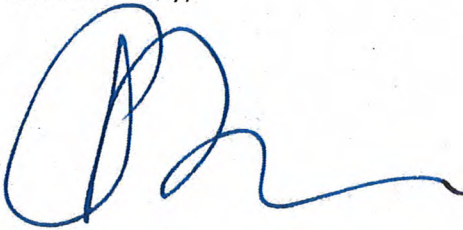
In December all mink on all remaining farms have been pelted, implying that no mink are kept on holdings in the Netherlands any more.

Directorate-General Agro
Animal Supply Chain and Animal
Welfare Department

Our ref.
DGA-DAD / 20314491

In addition, the law to move forward the ban on mink farming in the Netherlands has been accepted by the Dutch Parliament and Senate, implying that it is not allowed to keep mink in the Netherlands any more from 8 January 2021 onwards. This also implies that no new infections of mink will occur and no letters with updates about this issue will be sent to the OIE.

Yours sincerely,



Dr. C.J.M. Bruschke
Chief Veterinary Officer of the Netherlands