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**Objet :** Information on SARS-CoV-2 confirmed in a tiger held in a Zoo in Sweden

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Dear colleagues,

I hope this message finds you well. I would like to inform you as follows.

On 13 January 2021, The National Veterinary Institute (NVI/SVA) confirmed SARS-CoV-2 in a tiger held in a Zoo in Sweden. Samples from the same animal were simultaneously sent to IDEXX laboratories, Germany, where SARS-CoV-2 also was confirmed 14 January. Genetic characterisation of the virus is ongoing.

The tiger was a 17-year-old female, which was euthanised 11 January for animal welfare reasons due to severe respiratory and neurological symptoms, high age, and low possibilities for recovery. The symptoms started with loss of appetite 9 January, but rapidly worsened 11 January in the morning and the animal was euthanised and sampled the same morning. A male tiger kept in the same enclosure as the female has shown moderate respiratory symptoms, but no neurological symptoms.

A group of lions, consisting of two adults and three subadults, kept in the same house, have also shown mild respiratory symptoms but no neurological symptoms and are otherwise clinically unaffected with normal appetite.

Samples from the male tiger and the lion group, respectively, are currently being analysed, and the results are still pending.

Staff taking care of these groups of animals also had or have symptoms: one of the sick persons has also tested positive for SARS-CoV-2/Covid-19, while three more are awaiting their results.

The Zoo is closed for the season, and further internal biosafety measures have been taken by the responsible veterinarian on site, who is in regular contact with our institute, SVA.

The Swedish Board of Agriculture will keep you informed of further developments on this matter.

Best regards,

Lena Hellqvist Björnerot

Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer

Sweden