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Netherlands

Poultry and Products

Dutch H5N1 incident found to be false alarm

2006

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Report Highlights: On August 12, initial tests indicated the highly pathogenic bird flu variant H5N1 killed two young owls in the Rotterdam zoo. Further analysis of the Dutch Government, however, could not isolate any form of avian influenza in the owls

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
The Hague [NL1]
[NL]

On August 12, analysis conducted by the Dutch Wildlife Health Center indicated the presence of the bird flu variant H5N1 in two dead owls from the Rotterdam zoo Blijdorp (see GAIN Report NL6029). A second analysis undertaken by the Central Institute for Animal Disease Control in Lelystad gave the same result. These two institutes were, however, not able to isolate the bird flu variant H5N1. For further analysis, the Dutch Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA) took samples of the dead owls and other birds in the zoo. The VWA could not detect any bird flu variant in any of these samples. As a result, the Dutch Minister of Agriculture lifted the bird flu restrictions at the Rotterdam zoo on August 25.