

**Voluntary Report** – Voluntary - Public Distribution

**Date:** February 04,2021

**Report Number:** PL2021-0004

**Report Name:** COVID-19 Outbreak on Polish Mink Farm

**Country:** Poland

**Post:** Warsaw

**Report Category:** Agricultural Situation, Sanitary/Phytosanitary/Food Safety, Livestock and Products

**Prepared By:** Piotr Rucinski

**Approved By:** Jonn Slette

**Report Highlights:**

On January 30, 2021, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) announced an outbreak of COVID-19 on a fur farm with 5,800 mink in the Pomerania province's Kartuzy county. This marks Poland's first COVID-19 outbreak among farmed mink. The National Veterinary Institute confirmed that four of 20 samples tested positive for the SARS-CoV-2 virus. The Polish Veterinary Service (PVS) implemented its prescribed animal health protocols. On February 1, Poland's Minister of Health informed that all mink on affected farm will be culled.

## **General Information**

On January 30, 2021, the MARD announced a COVID-19 outbreak among mink on a fur farm in Kartuszy county in the province of Pomerania. Prior to the outbreak, the affected farm had about 5,800 mink. According to PVS, four samples (out of 20) tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 virus. The infected animals did not manifest any acute symptoms but were discovered during regular anti-COVID-19 surveillance screening. PVS implemented its new December 2020 COVID-19 animal health protocols to secure the farm and cull of animals. The Pomeranian Sanitary Inspectorate informed that all persons caring for mink on the farm will be tested for COVID-19. On February 1, Minister of Health Adam Niedzielski stated that all mink from the affected farm will be culled.

According to Dr. Krzysztof Niemczuk, Director of the National Institute of Veterinary in Puławy, the disease was detected during regular surveillance testing. Although the Pomeranian mink outbreak is Poland's first, a significant number of other mink farms across Poland are waiting to be similarly tested. According to Dr. Niemczuk, the lack of symptoms in the animals, indicates they were in the initial phase of infection. The National Veterinary Institute in Puławy is still examining samples from the farm.

According to PVS data, as of September 10, 2020, Poland's mink population totaled about six million animals located on 354 farms. The Polish Association of Mink Breeders issued a statement offering the full cooperation of its members with PVS authorities. The Association also expressed its concern, that according to the current legislation issued by Minister of Agriculture in December 2020, mink producers are not entitled to any public reimbursement for culled animals.

### **Attachments:**

No Attachments.