

National Veterinary Research Institute

HPAI H5N1 in cats in Poland

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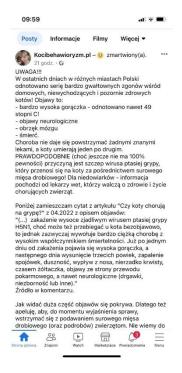
National Veterinary Research Institute (PIWet), Pulawy, Poland Istituto Zooprofilattico Sperimentale delle Venezie (IZSVe), Legnaro, Italy

October 2, 2023

Beginnings

Since mid-June, social media alerts in Poland about a sudden, fatal illness in cats with acute respiratory and neurological symptoms probably caused by the avian influenza virus







Beginnings

At the time, all of the information came from the media; there was no complete knowledge, let alone certainty, of what had actually happened...

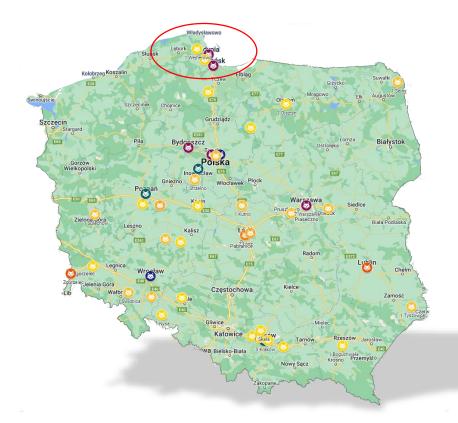
In order to obtain some information, we asked vet clinics/vet labs to send cat samples for testing

To systematise the research and to obtain detailed data on cats, we developed and distributed a questionnaire for practitioners at veterinary clinics, in which we asked about various aspects of cat health, behaviour, nutrition, clinical manifestations or gross lesions.



Beginnings

- 1st signals of diseases in cats appeared in half of June 2023
- Cats were reported in various parts of Poland, initially from Pomerania Region









nervous symptoms



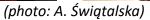


(movie: R. Szczupan)

PIWet









severe inflammation of the lungs

Cat studies

- In the period June-August, 76 animals (including a dog and a caracal) received,
- The presence of HPAIV H5N1 found in 31 animals
 (30 cats and 1 caracal),
- Whole genome sequencing performed on 30 feline samples,
- All cat strains belong to HPAIV H5N1, clade 2.3.4.4b,
- Topologies of the maximum likelihood phylogenetic trees of the eight gene segments indicate that the viruses belong to genotype CH (H5N1 A/EurasianWigeon/Netherlands/3/2022-like).





CH genotype

CH in Europe

 The genotype CH has widely circulated in Europe since October 2022 (9.5% of the sequences).

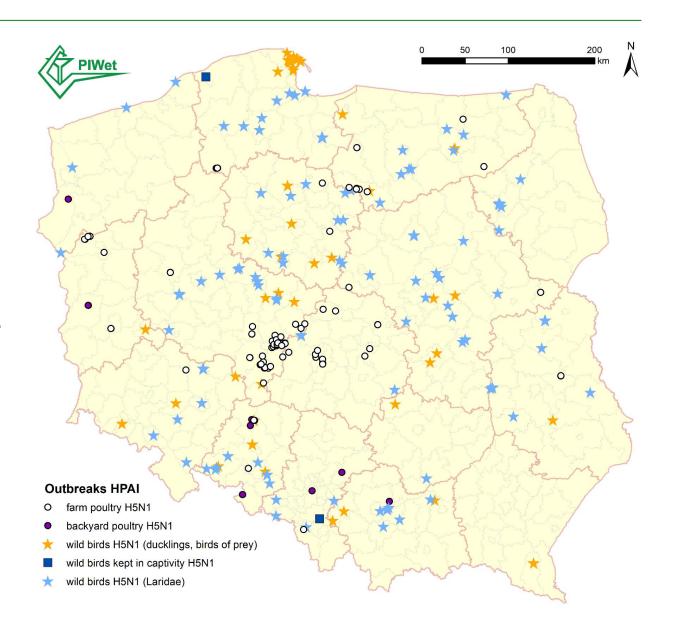
CH in Poland

- Genotype CH was identified for the first time in <u>mid-December 2022</u> and since then it has been responsible of 58% of the cases in domestic birds and 30% of the cases in wild birds (mainly in waterfowls), based on the available data.
- Between December 2022 and January 2023 it has been responsible of several outbreaks in poultry mainly in the Wielkopolskie region



HPAIV in Poland

Genotype CH was identified for the first time in mid-December 2022 but from mid-February broadly replaced by BB genotype



CH genotype

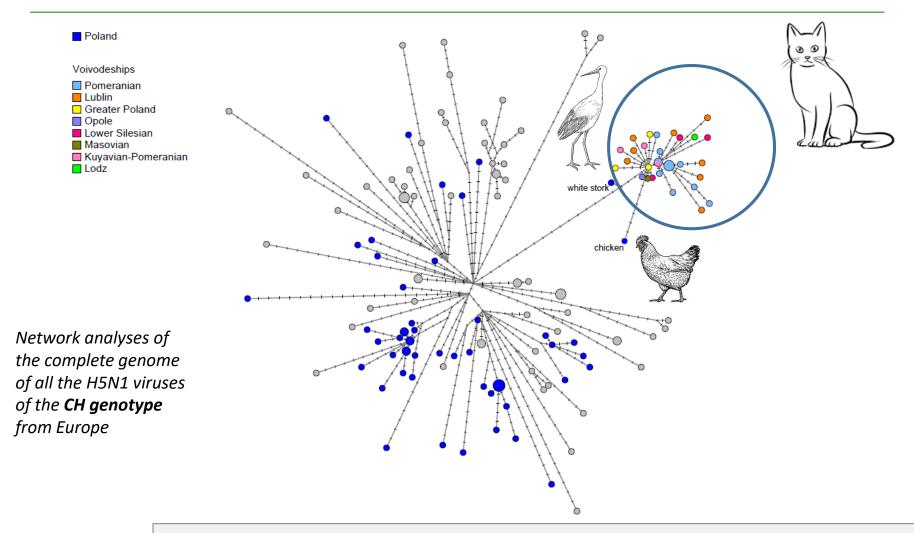
 Since February 2023 this genotype has been only sporadically identified in the country (n=6): four in February (3 wild birds and 1 poultry)

in white stork, Malopolskie – 4 June in poultry in backyard flock, Malopolskie – 29 June

Nr krajowy ogniska	Data stwierdzenia	Podtyp wirusa Al	Gatunek	Liczba sztuk	Województwo	Powiat	Gmina
103	22.05.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	4	Mazowieckie	ciechanowski	Ciechanów
104	23.05.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	2	Podlaskie	grajewski	Radziłów
105	23.05.2023	H5N1	Mewa popielata	10	Pomorskie	kartuski	Kartuzy
106	24.05.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	5	Małopolskie	Kraków	Kraków
107	24.05.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	4	Podlaskie	łomżyński	Piątnica
108	24.05.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	1	Podlaskie	łomżyński	Piątnica
109	26.05.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	1	Dolnośląskie	Wałbrzych	Wałbrzych
110	29.05.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	5	Lubelskie	kraśnicki	Kraśnik
111	29.05.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	5	Lubelskie	radzyński	Czemierniki
112	30.05.2023	H5N1	Mewa srebrzysta	1	Zachodniopomorskie	sławieński	Darłowo
113	31.05.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	1	Wielkopolskie	gnieźnieński	Witkowo
114	31.05.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	4	Wielkopolskie	Poznań	Pobiedziska
115	02.06.2023	H5N1	Mewa srebrzysta	1	Zachodniopomorskie	Kołobrzeg	Kołobrzeg
116	02.06.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka, rybitwa rzeczna	20	Dolnośląskie	trzebinicki	Żmigród
117	05.06.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	1	Małopolskie	Kraków	Kraków
118	05.06.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	2	Małopolskie	Kraków	Kraków
119	07.06.2023	H5N1	Bocian biały	1	Małopolskie	tarnowski	Radłów
120	07.06.2023	H5N1	Rybitwa	5	Lubelskie	chełmski	Chełm
121	12.06.2023	H5N1	Rybitwa rzeczna	5	Warmińsko-mazurskie	kętrzyński	Reszel
122	12.06.2023	H5N1	Rybitwa rzeczna, mewa śmieszka	17	Zachodniopomorskie	myśliborski	Boleszkowice
123	12.06.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	1	Wielkopolskie	Konin	Konin
124	21.06.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	4	Pomorskie	kościerski	Karsin
125	22.06.2023	H5N1	Łabędź niemy	1	Wielkopolskie	Konin	Konin
126	28.06.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	20	Pomorskie	bytowski	Lipnica
127	28.06.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	1	Warmińsko-mazurskie	olsztyński	Purda
128	28.06.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	5	Warmińsko-mazurskie	olsztyński	Purda
129	28.06.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	1	Podlaskie	zambrowski	Szumowo
130	30.06.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	1	Pomorskie	bytowski	Studzienice
131	30.06.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	4	Wielkopolskie	koniński	Konin
132	01.07.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	19	Pomorskie	kościerski	Kościerzyna
133	03.07.2023	H5N1	Mewa śmieszka	1	Warmińsko-mazurskie	olsztyński	Olsztynek

	17.02.2023	113142	Citor picycobi odowy	37	TOLING BUTUING	Lucitoumopomoranic	Pi Aimiawi	or yimo	DOLLYIII
54	19.02.2023	H5N1	chów przyzagrodowy	49	kury	Lubuskie	krośnieński	Krosno Odrzańskie	Czetowice
55	22.02.2023	H5N1	chów przyzagrodowy	184	różne gatunki	Śląskie	Ruda Śląska	Ruda Śląska	Ruda Śląska
56	27.02.2023	H5N1	chów przyzagrodowy	27	różne gatunki	Łódzkie	skierniewicki	Maków	Pszczonów
57	22.03.2023	H5N1	komercyjne	4 987	kaczki rzeźne	Wielkopolskie	ostrowski	Ostrów Wielkopolski	Ostrów Wielkopolski
58	22.03.2023	H5N1	komercyjne	4 657	kaczki rzeźne	Wielkopolskie	ostrowski	Przygodzice	Wysocko Małe
59	25.05.2023	H5N1	komercyjne	59 386	indyki rzeźne	Warmińsko-mazurskie	ketrzyński	Ketrzyn	Parcz
60	01.07.2023	H5N1	chów przyzagrodowy	141	różne gatunki	małopolskie	krakowski	Kocmyrzów-Luborzyca	Dojazdów
	54 55 56 57 58 59	54 19.02.2023 55 22.02.2023 56 27.02.2023 57 22.03.2023 58 22.03.2023 59 25.05.2023	54 19.02.2023 H5N1 55 22.02.2023 H5N1 56 27.02.2023 H5N1 57 22.03.2023 H5N1 58 22.03.2023 H5N1 59 25.05.2023 H5N1	54 19.02.2023 H5N1 chów przyzagrodowy 55 22.02.2023 H5N1 chów przyzagrodowy 56 27.02.2023 H5N1 chów przyzagrodowy 57 22.03.2023 H5N1 komercyjne 58 22.03.2023 H5N1 komercyjne 59 25.05.2023 H5N1 komercyjne	54 19.02.2023 H5N1 chów przyzagrodowy 49 55 22.02.2023 H5N1 chów przyzagrodowy 184 56 27.02.2023 H5N1 chów przyzagrodowy 27 57 22.03.2023 H5N1 komercyjne 4 987 58 22.03.2023 H5N1 komercyjne 4 657 59 25.05.2023 H5N1 komercyjne 59 386	54 19.02.2023 HSN1 chów przyzagrodowy 49 kury 55 22.02.2023 HSN1 chów przyzagrodowy 184 różne gatunki 56 27.02.2023 HSN1 chów przyzagrodowy 27 różne gatunki 57 22.03.2023 HSN1 komercyjne 4 987 kaczki rzeźne 58 22.03.2023 HSN1 komercyjne 4 657 kaczki rzeźne 59 25.05.2023 HSN1 komercyjne 59 386 indyki rzeźne	54 19.02.2023 H5N1 chów przyzagrodowy 49 kury Lubuskie 55 22.02.2023 H5N1 chów przyzagrodowy 184 różne gatunki Śląskie 56 27.02.2023 H5N1 chów przyzagrodowy 27 różne gatunki Łódzkie 57 22.03.2023 H5N1 komercyjne 4 987 kaczki rzeźne Wielkopolskie 58 22.03.2023 H5N1 komercyjne 4 657 kaczki rzeźne Wielkopolskie 59 25.05.2023 H5N1 komercyjne 59 386 indyki rzeźne Warmińsko-mazurskie	54 19.02.2023 HSN1 chów przyzagrodowy 49 kury Lubuskie krośnieński 55 22.02.2023 HSN1 chów przyzagrodowy 184 różne gatunki Śląskie Ruda Śląska 56 27.02.2023 HSN1 chów przyzagrodowy 27 różne gatunki Łódzkie skierniewicki 57 22.03.2023 HSN1 komercyjne 4 987 kaczki rzeźne Wielkopolskie ostrowski 58 22.03.2023 HSN1 komercyjne 4 657 kaczki rzeźne Wielkopolskie ostrowski 59 25.05.2023 HSN1 komercyjne 59 386 indyki rzeźne Warmińsko-mazurskie kętrzyński	54 19.02.2023 HSN1 chów przyzagrodowy 49 kury Lubuskie krośnieński Krosno Odrzańskie 55 22.02.2023 HSN1 chów przyzagrodowy 184 różne gatunki Śląskie Ruda Śląska Ruda Śląska 56 27.02.2023 HSN1 chów przyzagrodowy 27 różne gatunki Łódzkie skierniewicki Maków 57 22.03.2023 HSN1 komercyjne 4 987 kaczki rzeźne Wielkopolskie ostrowski Ostrów Wielkopolski 58 22.03.2023 HSN1 komercyjne 4 657 kaczki rzeźne Wielkopolskie ostrowski Przygodzice 59 25.05.2023 HSN1 komercyjne 59 386 indyki rzeźne Warmińsko-mazurskie ketrzyński Ketrzyn

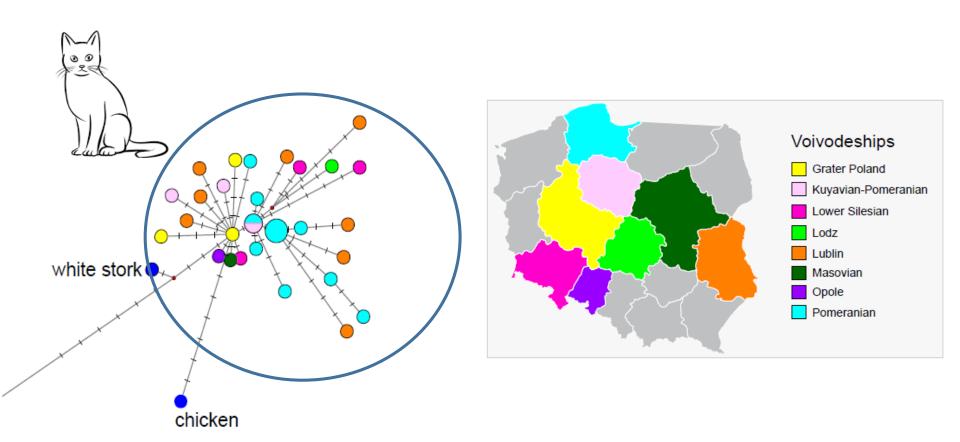
Network analysis





The sequences of the viruses from cats are highly related to each other and cluster with a virus of the same genotype detected in a white stork in Poland on 4th June 2023 and in a backyard chicken farm on 29th of June.

Network analysis



No clear clustering by geographic location was observed for the H5N1 collected from the different cats in Poland



Genetic diversity

														PB1-F2 PA								т —		н				NP	P NA				$\overline{}$		M1		M2		NS1		_	NS2										
	_				PB2		1 .				1 1			PB1		1			_	PB1-I	F2						_						T T		-	. 1					NA		+		M1		M2			_	-	
	4	82	147	398	443	472	526 6	49 6	78 4	7 64	111	112 :	174 2	11 3:	19 339	382	633	643	668	80	81	19 8	6 10	05 12	7 267	277	305	475	478	44 58	4 704	1 11	47	67 18	31 243	3 298	486	473	126	143	258	339 4	ı50 3	33 11	4 19	9 20	7 55	36	58	83	227	70
A/white_stork/Poland/MB244/2023_H5N1_2023-06-04_tarnowski	_	N	_	- 1	K	E	K	V	DH	P	М	E	М	R I	LII	N	S	Α	Р	W	К	K	ИΕ	F V	Р	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	A	V	D	1 1	I D	V	Y	N	н	К	1	S	5 /	A E	. A	\ S	L	L	T	P	_ E	5
A/chicken/Poland/H296/2023_H5N1_2023-06-29_malopolskie	_	T	-	ı	K	E	R	V	D F	l S	M	E	М	R P,	/L I	N	S	Α	Р	W	K	K I	ΛE	F V	P	S	F	Α	D	E C	A	V	D	1 1	l D	V	Y	N	Н	K	1	S	S .	A D	S	S	L	L	T	P	E	S
A/domestic_cat/Poland/Kot2/2023_H5N1_2023-06-19_Poznan	_	T	-	-1	K	E	R	М	D F	S	M	Е	М	R I	L I/V	N	S	Α	Р	W	K	_						_	_	_	_	V	D	1 1	l D	V	Y	N	Н	K	1	S	<u>S</u>	A E	A	N N	L	L	T	P	E	S
A/domestic_cat/Poland/Kot1/2023_H5N1_2023-06-19_Poznan	-	T	- 1	ı	K	E	R	V	D Y	S	M	E	M	K I	LI	N	S	Α	Р	W	K											V	D	1 1	l D	V	Υ	N	Н	K	1	S	S :	A E	A	\ S	L	- 1	T	P	E	S
A/domestic_cat/Poland/H322-M/2023_H5N1_2023-07-12_pomorskie	_	T	-	ı	K	Е	R	V	D F	S	- 1	D	M	R I	LI	N	S	Α	Р	L	T	K I	ΛE	F V	P	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	A	V	D	1 1	I D	V	Υ	N	Н	K	1	S	S .	A E	A	\ S	L	L	T	P	E	S
A/domestic_cat/Poland/H321-M/2023_H5N1_2023-07-12_pomorskie	M	Т	- 1	1	K	E	R	V	D F	S	-1	E	M	R I	L I	N	S	Α	P	L	K	K I	ΛE	F V	P	S	Υ	Α	D	G C	A	V	D	1 1	l D	V	Υ	N	Н	K	1	S	S :	A E	A	\ S	L	L	Т	P	E	S
A/domestic_cat/Poland/H320-M/2023_H5N1_2023-07-12_pomorskie	-	Т	- 1	1	K	E	R	V	D H	S	1	Е	M	R I	LI	N	S	Α	S	L	K	K I	ΛE	F V	P	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	A	V	D	1 1	l D	V	Υ	N	Н	K	1	S	S .	A E	A	\ S	L	L	Т	P	E	S
A/domestic_cat/Poland/H319-M/2023_H5N1_2023-07-12_pomorskie	1	Т	- 1	1	K	Е	R	V	D H	S	M	Е	M	R I	LI	N	S	Α	Р	W	K	K I	ΛE	F V	P	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	A	V	D	1 1	l D	V	Υ	N	Н	K	1	P	S .	A E	A	S	L	L	Т	P	E	S
A/domestic_cat/Poland/H314-W3/2023_H5N1_2023-07-06_dolnoslaskie	-	Т	-1	1	K	Е	R	V	D H	S	1	Е	M	R I	LI	N	S	Α	Р	L	K	R	ΛE	F V	S	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	A	V	D	1 1	l D	V	Υ	N	Н	K	1	S	S .	A E	A	S	L	L	Т	P	E	S
A/domestic_cat/Poland/H304-M2/2023_H5N1_2023-07-07_kujawsko-pomorskie	-1	Т	- 1	-1	K	E	R	V	D F	S	M	Е	M	R I	L I	N	S	Α	P	W	K	K I	ΛE	F V	P	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	A	٧	D	1 1	I D	٧	Y	N	Н	K	1	S	S .	A E	A	S	L	L	Т	P	E/G	S/G
A/domestic_cat/Poland/H304-M1/2023_H5N1_2023-07-07_kujawsko-pomorskie	_	Т	_	1	K	Е	R	V	D F	S	M	Е	Т	R I	L I	N	S	Α	Р	W	K	K 1	ИΕ	F V	P	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	A	٧	D	1 1	N D	1	Υ	N	Н	K	_	S	S	A E	A	\ S	L	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic_cat/Poland/H299-N/2023_H5N1_2023-07-04_mazowieckie	-1	Т	-	1	K	Е	R	V	D F	S	M	Е	M	R I	L I	N	S	Α	Р	W	K	K I	ΛE	F V	Р	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	A	٧	D	1 1	N D	٧	Υ	N	Н	K	1	S	S	A E	A	S	L	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic_cat/Poland/H293-N/2023_H5N1_2023-06-30_dolnoslaskie	-1	Т	1	1	K	Е	R	V	D F	S	1	Е	M	R I	L I	N	S	Α	Р	L	K	K I	И E	F V	Р	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	A	٧	D	I N	/T D	٧	Υ	N	R	K	1	S	S	A E	A	S	F	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic cat/Poland/H277-W1/2023 H5N1 2023-06-26 Namyslow/opolskie	-1	Т	-	1	K	Е	R	V	D H	S	М	Е	М	R I	L I	N	S	Α	Р	W	K	K I	ΛЕ	F V	Р	S	Υ	Α !	N/D	E C	А	V	N/D	1 1	l D	V	Υ	N	Н	K	1	S	S	A E	A	S	L	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic cat/Poland/H275k3-M/2023 H5N1 2023-06-28 pomorskie	_	Т	_	1	K	Е	R	v	D H	S	1	Е	М	R I	L I	N	S	Α	Р	L	K	K I	ИΕ	F V	Р	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	А	٧	D	1 1	l D	V	Υ	N	Н	К	1	S	S	A E	A	S	L	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic_cat/Poland/H271-W/2023_H5N1_lubelskie	-1	Т	-	1	K	Е	R	V	D F	S	M	Е	M	R I	L I	N	S	Α	Р	W	K	K I	ΛE	F V	Р	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	A	٧	D	1 1	l D	٧	Υ	N	Н	K	1	S	S	A E	A	S	L	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic_cat/Poland/H270-W/2023_H5N1_lubelskie	-1	Т	1	1	K	Е	R	V	D F	S	1	D	M	R I	L I	D	S	Α	Р	L	Т	K I	ΛE	F V	Р	Υ	Υ	Α	D	E C	A	٧	D	1 1	N D	٧	Υ	N	Н	R	1	S	S	A E	A	S	L	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic cat/Poland/H267-W/2023 H5N1 Strzelin/dolnoslaskie	- 1	Т	-	1	K	Е	R	V N	/D H	S	М	Е	M	R I	LI	N	S	Α	Р	W	K	K I	ΛЕ	F V	Р	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	А	V	D	1 1	l D	V	H/Y	N	Н	K	1	S	S	A E	A	S	L	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic cat/Poland/H266-W/2023 H5N1 2023-06-19 Bydgoszcz/kujawsko-po	_	Т	-	1	K	Е	R	v	D H	S	1	Е	М	R I	L I	N	S	Α	Р	L	K	K I	ИΕ	F V	Р	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	А	٧	D	1 1	l D	V	Υ	N	Н	К	1	S	S	A E	A	S	L	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic_cat/Poland/H264-G/2023_H5N1_2023-06-24_Poznan	-1	Т	1	1	K	Е	R	V	D F	S	M	Е	M	R I	L I	N	S	Α	Р	W	K	K I	ΛE	F V	P	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	A	٧	D	1 1	N D	٧	Υ	N	Н	K	1	S	S	A E	A	S	L	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic cat/Poland/H263-G/2023 H5N1 2023-06-24 Komarow-Osada	- 1	Т	-	1	K	Е	R	V	D H	S	М	Е	М	R I	LI	N	S	Α	Р	W	K	K I	ΛЕ	F V	Р	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	т	V	D	1 1	l D	V	Υ	N	Н	K	1	S	G	A E	A	S	L	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic cat/Poland/H257-G/2023 H5N1 2023-06-24 Lublin	-	Т	_	1	K	Е	R	V	D H	S	1	Е	М	R I	LI	N	S	Α	Р	L	K	K I	ИΕ	F V	Р	S	Υ	Т	D	E C	А	V	D	1 1	l D	V	Υ	N	Н	K	1	S	S	A E	A	S	L	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic cat/Poland/H256-G/2023 H5N1 2023-06-24 Lublin	-	Т	1	1	K	Е	R	v	D H	S	1	Е	М	R I	L I	N	S	Α	Р	L	K	K I	л в	F V	Р	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	А	٧	D	V I	l D	V	Υ	N	н	К	1	S	S	V E	A	S	F	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic cat/Poland/H255-M/2023 H5N1 2023-06-21 Pruszcz Gd	1	Т	1	ı	K	Е	R	v	D H	S	1	D	М	R I	L I	N	S	Α	Р	L	Т	K I	ИΕ	F V	P	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	А	٧	D	1 1	D/G	3 V	Υ	N	Н	K	1	S	S	A E	A	S	L	L	Т	P/S	Е	S
A/domestic cat/Poland/H254/2023 H5N1 2023-06-22 Lublin	_	Т	1	1	K	Е	R	v	D H	S	1	D	м	R I	LI	N	S	Α	Р	L	т	K I	4	V	Р	S	Υ	Α	D	E C	А	V	D	1 1	l D	V	Υ	N	Н	К	1	S	S	A E	A	S	L	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic cat/Poland/H253/2023 H5N1 2023-06-22 Lublin	_	Т		1	К	Е	R	v	D F	S	1	D	м	R I	L I	N	S	A/T	Р	L	Т	к м	/v	F V	Р	S	Υ	А	D	E C	A	Α	D	1 1	l D	V	Υ	N	н	К	/M	S	S	A E	A	S	L	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic cat/Poland/H252/2023 H5N1 2023-06-22 Lublin	_	Т		Т	К	Е	R	v	D F	S	М	Е	м	R I	LI	N	S	A	Р	w	К	K I	л F	F 1/1	/ P	S	Υ	А	D	E C	A	V	D	1 1	l D	V	Y	N/S	н	К	T	S	S	A E	- A	S	L	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic cat/Poland/H249/2023 H5N1 2023-06-22 Gdansk		Т		1	R	D	R	v	D F	S	1	D	м	R I	LI	N	S	Α	Р	L	т	K I	ИΕ	F V	Р	S	Υ	А	D	E C	A	V	D	1 1	l D	V	Y	N	н	К	Т	S	S	A E	- A	S	L	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic cat/Poland/H248/2023 H5N1 2023-06-15 Pruszcz Gdanski	_	Т	П	I/V	К	Е	R	v	D H	S	M/I	Е	м	R I	LI	N	S	Α	Ρ \	W/L	К	K I	л г	V/t	√/ P	S	Υ	А	D	E C	A	V	D	1 1	l D	v	Υ	N	н	К	Т	S	s	A E	A	S	L	L	Т	Р	Е	S
A/domestic cat/Poland/H247/2023 H5N1 2023-06-20 Gdansk		Т		1	К	Е	R	v	D I	S	1	D	м	RI	LI	N	S	A	Р	Ĺ	т	KI	л F	F V	P	S	Υ	А	D	E C	A	v	D	1 1	ı D	v	Y	N	н	К	1	S	S	A E	A	S	Ī	Ī	Т	Р	Е	s
A/domestic cat/Poland/H246-M/2023 H5N1 2023-06-21 Gdynia/pomorskie		Т		1	К	Е	R	v	D H	S	Τì	D	м	RI	LI	N	S/T	A	Р	L	т	KI	л F	F V	P	S	Υ	А	D	E Y/	C A	v	D	1 1	ı D	v	Y	N	н	К	1	S	S	A E	A	S	Ĺ	Ĺ	Т	Р	Е	s
A/cat/Poland/Gda1/2023 H5N1 2023-06-21		т		1	R	D	R	v	D F	5	T i	D	м	RI	l i	N	S	A	Р	L	т	K I	A F	F V	P	5	γ	А	D	F C	A	v	D	1 1	ı D	v	Y	N	н	к	1	S	S	A F	A	, s	Τī	Τī	т	Р	F	S
A/caracal/Poland/H303-P/2023 H5N1 2023-06-17 lodzkie	Ė	Ť	T	i	К	F	R	v	D F	5	ΤĖ	F	м	RI	i	N	S	A	P	ī	K	K I	A F	F V	P	5	Y	A	D	F C	A	v	D	1 1	ı D	ľv	Ý	N	н	К	i	S	5	A F	A	, s	T F	ΤŤ	A	Р	F	5

Amino acid differences among the proteins of the H5N1 viruses collected from cats, caracal and the related viruses from birds identified in Poland

- Compared to the H5N1 from the white stork and chicken, the viruses from cats show 4-7 nt and 3 aa mutations (PB2-N82T, PB2-K526R and PB1-P64S)
- The H5N1 collected from cats in Poland show from 0 to 12 nucleotide differences and from 0 to 8 amino acid differences



Genetic markers of adaptation to mammals

All studied A(H5N1) viruses circulating in cats in Poland were well-adapted to avian species, as they retain a preferential binding for avian-like receptors

BUT

Had two mutations which are an important molecular markers of virus adaptation in mammals

Gene	Mutation	Effects	Cats	White stork	Backyard chicken
מחם	K526R	Increased polymerase activity in mammalian cel line	Yes	No	Yes
PB2	E627K	Enhanced polymerase activity, increased virulence in mice	Yes	Yes	Yes

The Polish H5N1 viruses from cats gained dual 526R/627K substitutions in the PB2 protein and are the only clade 2.3.4.4b viruses characterized to date showing both mutations

Summary

- In the period June-August 2023, 76 animals (including a dog and a caracal) received and the presence of HPAIV H5N1 found in 31 animals (30 cats and 1 caracal),
- Virus transmission among cats excluded (no infections in other cats in the hospital, lack of a genetic clustering by geographic area),
- Although the most likely source appears to be poultry meat, no such meat has been identified to date,
- The number of mutations among the viruses from cats reflects two possible scenarios: one in which the cats might have been exposed to multiple sources of infection of highly related viruses, and another one in which a single source of infection was followed by intra-host evolution in each animal,



Summary

- The viruses from cats retained a preferential binding for avian-like receptors but had two molecular markers of mammalian adaptation in the PB2 protein (526R/627K),
- The high genetic identity of the viruses collected from cats with the H5N1 virus identified in a white stork and in a backyard chicken in Poland in June may indicate that this virus has circulated in birds in Poland,
- The presence of mutation PB2-627K in the virus from the white stork and PB2-526R/627K in the virus collected from a backyard chicken suggests its possible replication in some mammalian species before infecting the birds.



Conclusions

- Consideration should be given to strengthening surveillance in poultry, but also in some susceptible mammal species kept close to infected poultry farms,
- Consideration should also be given to the need to include mammals in Europe among the species posing a significant risk of HPAIV spread, in order to provide health authorities with the tools and guidance for appropriate management in such cases.



Thank for your attention!

RESEARCH

Outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza A(H5N1) clade 2.3.4.4b virus in cats, Poland, June to July 2023

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