

# World's first case of bird flu in porpoise: Sweden

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A porpoise found stranded on a Swedish beach in June died of bird flu, the first time the virus has been detected in a porpoise, Sweden's National Veterinary Institute said Wednesday.

"As far as we know this is the first confirmed case in the world of [bird flu](#) in a porpoise," veterinarian Elina Thorsson said in a statement.

"It is likely that the porpoise somehow came into contact with infected birds," she said.

The young male was found stranded, alive, on a beach in western Sweden in late June. Despite efforts from the public to get it to swim out to [deeper waters](#), it was suffering from exhaustion and died the same evening.

The bird flu virus, H5N1, was found in several of its organs.

"Contrary to seals, where illnesses caused by a flu virus have been detected multiple times, there have been only a handful of reports of [flu virus](#) in cetaceans", Thorsson said.

The virus has also previously been detected in other mammals, including red foxes, otters, lynx and skunks, the institute said.

Europe and North America are currently seeing a vast outbreak of bird flu among wild birds.

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