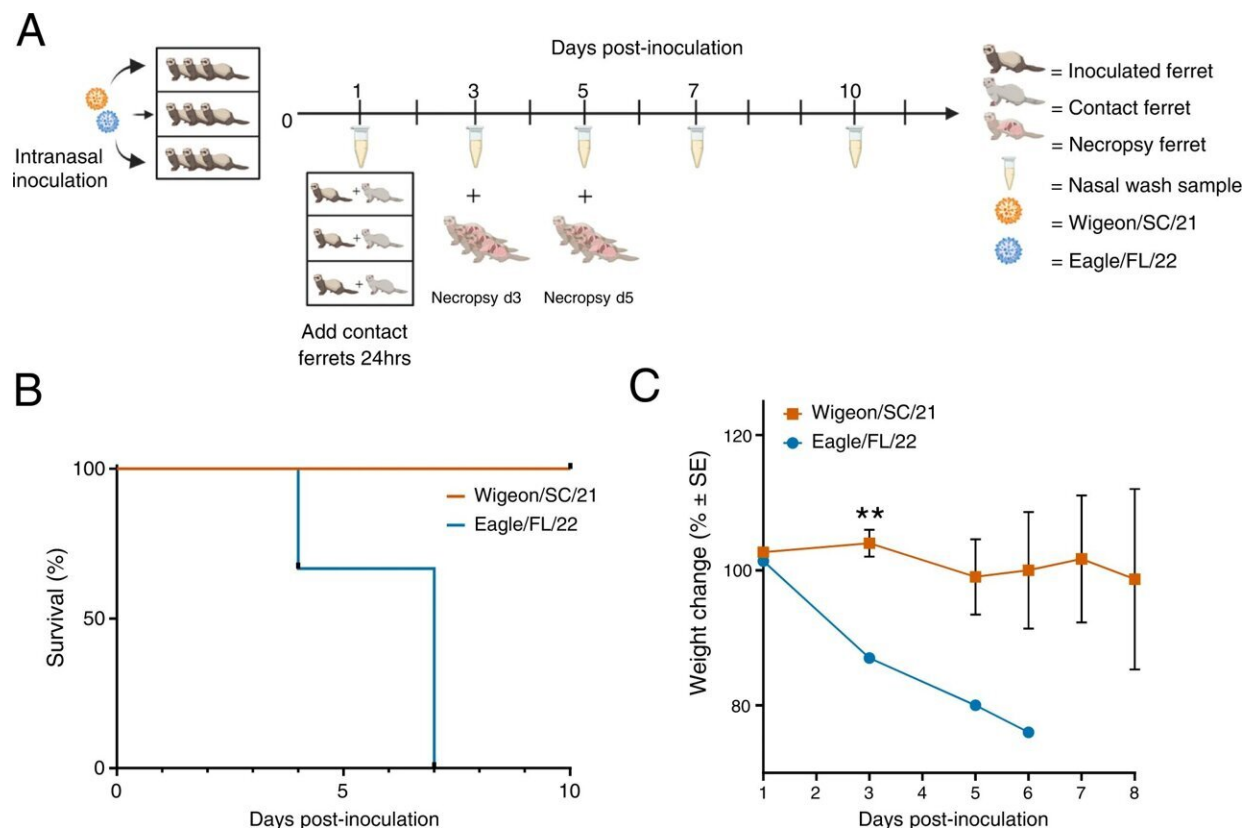


# Genetic change increased bird flu severity during US spread, shows study

May 30 2023



Pathogenicity of North American HPAI Influenza A(H5N1) clade 2.3.4.4b Wigeon/SC/21 and Eagle/FL/22 viruses in ferrets. **A** Experimental design of ferret pathogenesis and transmission. At 0 dpi, ferrets ( $n = 9$  per virus) were inoculated with  $10^6$  EID<sub>50</sub> units of A(H5N1) virus. Three inoculated ferrets were individually co-housed with 3 naïve contact ferrets beginning 1 dpi. Clinical course of infection was monitored, and nasal wash samples were taken at indicated time points from both inoculated and contact ferrets. The remaining inoculated ferrets were euthanized at 3 dpi and 5 dpi ( $n = 3$  per time point per

virus) for viral titration in tissues. **B** Survival and **C** weight changes of inoculated ferrets ( $n = 3$  per virus). Ferret weights every  $\approx 48$  h were used to calculate percentage of weight change from the initial mean weight at 0 dpi. Ferret weight values are the average  $\pm$  SE for each group.  $P$  values for weight change were calculated using an unpaired  $t$ -test. <sup>\*\*</sup> $P$

Citation: Genetic change increased bird flu severity during US spread, shows study (2023, May 30) retrieved 29 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2023-05-genetic-bird-flu-severity.html>

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