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ISOLATION OF INFLUENZA VIRUSES AND A PARAMYXOVIRUS FROM CAGED BIRDS

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Six influenza A viruses and a paramyxovirus were isolated from caged birds obtained from pet clinics, pet shops and a pet wholesale dealer from May 1977 to March 1978 in Sapporo. For virus isolation, the respiratory organ including trachea and lungs, and large intestine with contents, collected from these birds were inoculated into 9-to 11-day-old embryonated eggs.

Six influenza viruses were isolated from 6 budgerigars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*). One was isolated from the respiratory organ and large intestine of a dead bird from a pet clinic, and the remainder were from the respiratory organs of dead birds from a wholesale dealer. The latter 5 birds died during transportation from Aichi to Sapporo. The post-mortem examination of the 6 budgerigars did not reveal any gross diagnostic abnormalities. Hemagglutinating inhibition (HI) tests and neuraminidase inhibition tests indicated that the influenza viruses isolated from the budgerigars belonged to subtype Hav 4 Nav 1.

A paramyxovirus was isolated from the respiratory organ of an amaduvade finch (*Estrilda amandava*) obtained from a pet shop. The bird died from some unknown cause and did not reveal any gross diagnostic abnormalities. The virus was found to belong to genus *Paramyxovirus*. In HI tests, the virus was different from but slightly related to NDV, Ty/Wis, Pigeon, Kunitachi and HVJ.

The epidemiological significance of the infections of influenza virus and paramyxovirus in caged birds was discussed.