

## Diseases of European mink (*Mustela lutreola*)

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Newborn European mink pup

The European mink (*Mustela lutreola*) is one of the most endangered animal species in Europe. The NGO Euronerv e.V. set itself the target to re-introduce this animal species in Germany where it has been extinct for along time.

Together with scientists from the University of Osnabruck breeding systems are organised at mating season. Genetically matching animals, which are kept in different zoological institutions involved in the conservation program, are joined in these breeding facilities. Despite successful raising of offspring unexplained mortalities occurred among all different age groups predominately in early winter.

In cooperation with the IZW and Euronerv e.V. patho-histological, bacteriological and virological examinations are performed to clarify the causes of deaths. The majority of cases revealed severe haemorrhagic enteritis, mostly due to infection with toxinproducing strains of bacteria (*Clostridium perfringens*). However, a small number of animals comprised mink parvoenteritis.



Haemorrhagic enteritis of the lower intestine in a European mink