



Introduction

Toxoplasma gondii infections in mink might be of public health importance, when dead mink are handled.

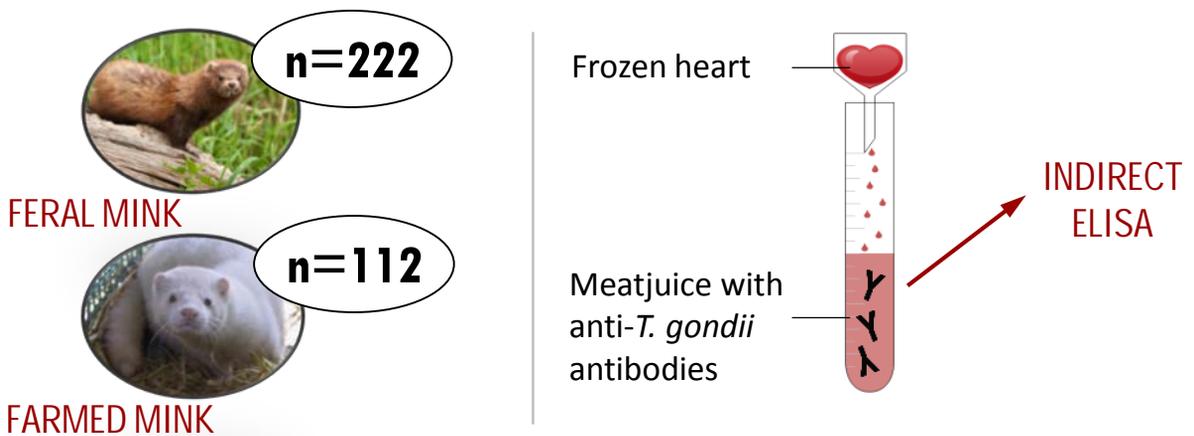
The literature on *T. gondii* in mink is, however, generally scarce, and to our knowledge, no studies on *T. gondii* in feral, Danish mink have been carried out and only one previous study in Danish farmed mink in 1994.

The previous Danish study observed 3% sero-positive farmed mink by latex agglutination test.

In this study we examined *T. gondii* sero-prevalence in feral- and farmed Danish mink

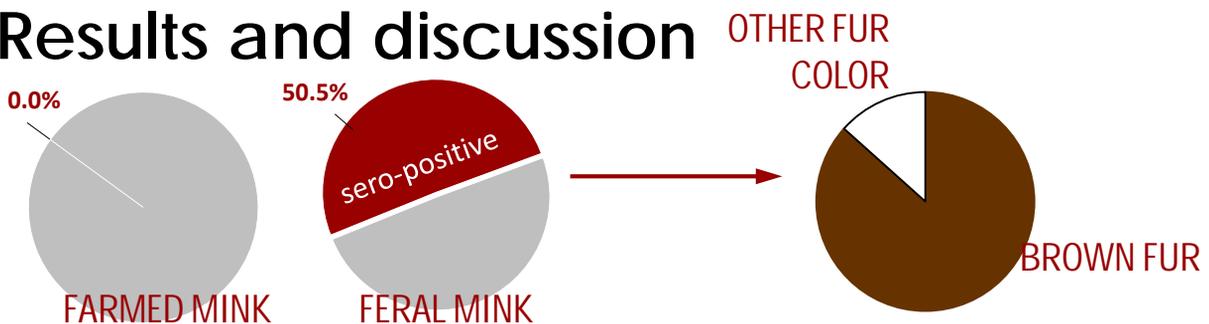
Method

At necropsy, the hearts was collected from farmed mink submitted for diagnostic examination, and from feral mink sampled by Danish hunters.



The hearts were stored at -20°C until analysis. Meat juice was extracted from the hearts when thawed and analyzed for anti-*T. gondii* antibodies using a commercial indirect ELISA.

Results and discussion



None of the farmed mink were sero-positive, while half the feral mink were sero-positive.

Of the positive feral mink, 13.4% had fur colors other than brown.

In consideration of the results, **precautions should be taken when handling feral mink.** In contrast, handling farmed mink, pose a neglectable risk of acquiring *T. gondii* infections.

Feral mink with other fur colors than brown have seemingly escaped from farms recently. Since these escaped mink can also be sero-positive, *T. gondii* infection seems not to be limited til feral mink, but might be linked to the feed.