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UCDAVIS VETERINARY MEDICINE
California Animal Health & Food Safety Laboratory System
PO Box 1770, Davis, CA, 95617
(530) 752-8700
www.cahfs.vetmed.ucdavis.edu

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CAHFS Accession #: D2602205

FINAL REPORT

Ref.#: [redacted] S98

[redacted]

3/6/2026 2:19:47PM

[redacted]

[redacted]

This report supersedes all previous reports for this case

Specimens Received: 1 Carcass;

Date Collected: 02/23/2026 **Date Received:** 02/23/2026

Comments: 1 carcass

Case Contacts

[redacted]

Specimen Details

Animal/Source	ID Type	Taxonomy	Gender	Age
[redacted] S98	Unknown	Chinchilla	Female	7.00 Months

Laboratory Findings/Diagnosis

Chinchilla, sudden death: Streptococcal pneumonia
1) Streptococcus equi ssp zooepidemicus isolated from lung and liver
2) Right lung – unilateral bronchopneumonia, necrotizing, marked
3) Right thoracic cavity – unilateral pleuritis, fibrinosuppurative, marked
4) Heart – epicarditis, fibrinous, multifocal, mild

Case Summary

03/06/26: There were numerous Gram positive cocci in the affected lungs, consistent with Streptococcus sp. infection. This concludes testing.

03/02/26: The most significant finding and likely cause of death was the unilateral bronchopneumonia. Strepcoccocus equi ssp zooepidemicus was isolated and was thought to be the cause. The other changes were likely secondary to the severe pneumonia. S. equi ssp zooepidemicus seems to be uncommonly reported in Chinchillas, and appears to be more commonly associated with abscesses. A Gram stain is pending, and a final report will follow.

02/24/26: The most significant finding involved the right lungs. The cause is currently under investigation. Further report(s) to follow.

Clinical History

Duration of Illness:
Seven-month-old chinchilla housed individually, found deceased in enclosure. No prior clinical sings observed. Wet blood present in nose and mouth at time of discovery. Fecal pellets within enclosure appeared normal in size, shape and consistency.

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Treatments: N/A.

Gross Observations

A whole carcass of a 1.4 lbs, female, juvenile (7 months old, per history) chinchilla was submitted in a state of fair postmortem preservation status. The necropsy was performed on February 23, 2026. The chinchilla was in a good body condition, with an adequate amount of subcutaneous and internal fat reserves.

There was a small amount of blood staining the nose and rostral lips.

The right thoracic cavity was filled with a large amount of red, opaque fluid with fibrin strands. The right lung lobes were diffusely moderately enlarged compared to the left, diffusely pale tan, firm and all right lung lobes sank in formalin. The right middle lung lobe had a focal, approximately 2 mm in diameter, round, dark red focus on the pleural surface. The left lung was mottled red to pink, soft, aerated, slightly wet and floated in formalin. The epicardium of the heart had a small amount of fibrin adhered to the surface. The heart weighed 2 grams (0.31% of body weight). Cranial to the heart, was an approximately 1.5 x 1.5 x 1 cm, pale pink, soft, poorly demarcated tissue (presumably remnant thymus?).

The stomach contained a moderate amount of brown liquid feed. The rectum contained a scant amount of formed, brown feces.

The remainder of the viscera had no significant findings.

Bacteriology

BACTERIAL AEROBIC CULTURE

Animal/Source	Specimen	Specimen Type	Result
[redacted] S98	[redacted] S98	Lung Swab	Streptococcus equi ssp. zooepidemicus Mod# Mixed flora Rare#
[redacted] S98	[redacted] S98	Liver Swab	Streptococcus equi ssp. zooepidemicus Sm#
[redacted] S98	[redacted] S98 (Right)	Pleural Swab	Streptococcus equi ssp. zooepidemicus Mod#

Histology

Trachea: There are scattered, small numbers of lymphocytes and plasma cells.
Thymus: Overlying the surface are moderate numbers of lymphocytes and histiocytes and there are small numbers of small bacteria.
Lungs: There sections of lungs are examined. One section is entirely necrotic, and there appears to be outlines of inflammatory cells (too poorly preserved to determine type). Throughout this segment of lung, are numerous small bacteria. In another piece, there are multifocal, extensive foci of necrosis, and multifocal alveolar lumina filled with proteinaceous fluid and/or fibrin admixed with small bacteria.
Heart: There are multifocal epicardial fibrin deposit, and scattered, small numbers of lymphocytes and histiocytes. There are rare fibrin thrombi in small vessels in the epicardium.
Spleen: There is overall increased red pulp cellularity.
Esophagus: The tunica adventitia is expanded by fibrin and moderate numbers of histiocytes, plasma cells and fewer granulocytes.
Liver, adrenal glands, kidneys, small intestines, large intestine, pancreas, urinary bladder, tongue, skeletal muscle, pawpad, brain: There are no significant microscopic findings.

Special stains:
Gram stain performed on lung: There are numerous Gram positive cocci throughout the affected lung.

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