**Table S1 Replication of H5N6 avian influenza viruses in the tissues of dead contact ducks**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Strains** | **Dead time** | **Virus replication in organs (log10EID50/100 mg) a** | | | | | | |
| **Liver** | **Spleen** | **Lung** | **Kidney** | **Intestine** | **Pancreas** | **Bursa of Fabricius** |
| GS16568-contact duck | 4 DPI | 4.5 | 4.25 | 6.5 | 5.5 | 3 | 2.75 | 3.5 |
| DK16873-contact duck | 5 DPI | 6.25 | 2.5 | 6.25 | 5.5 | 4.5 | 2.25 | 3.5 |
| DK16873-contact duck | 6 DPI | 5.75 | 4.25 | 5.5 | 5.5 | 4.5 | 2.25 | 5.25 |

a: For statistical analysis, a value of 1.5 was assigned if the virus was not detected from the undiluted sample in three embryonated hen eggs.

Viral titers were expressed as mean ± SD in log10EID50/100 mg of tissues