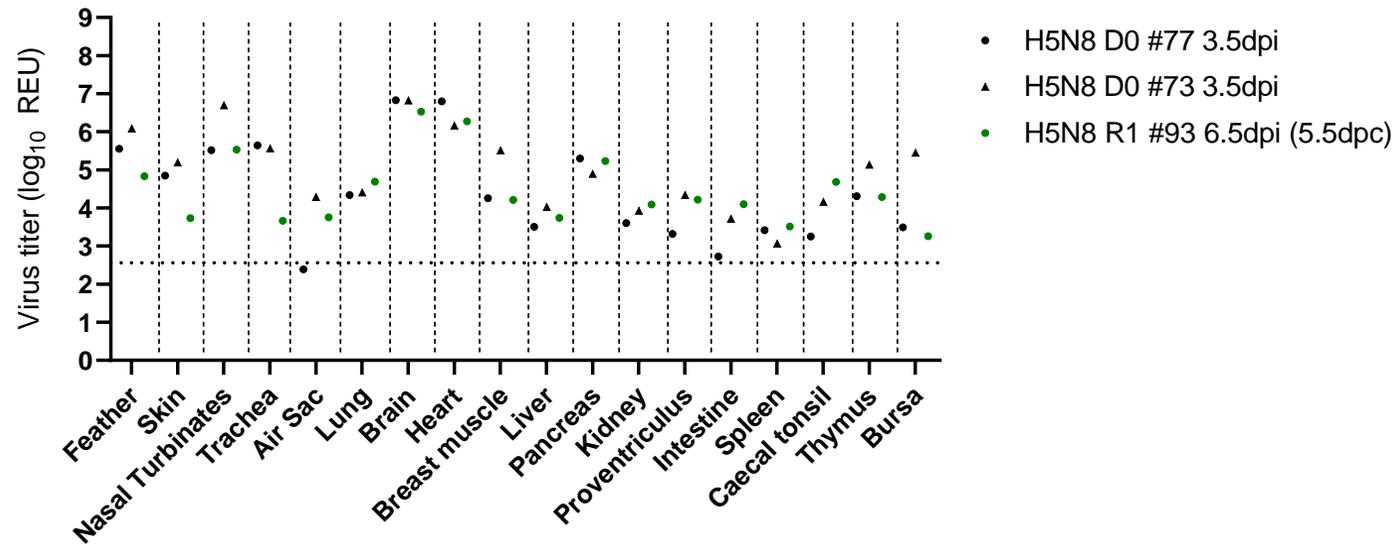
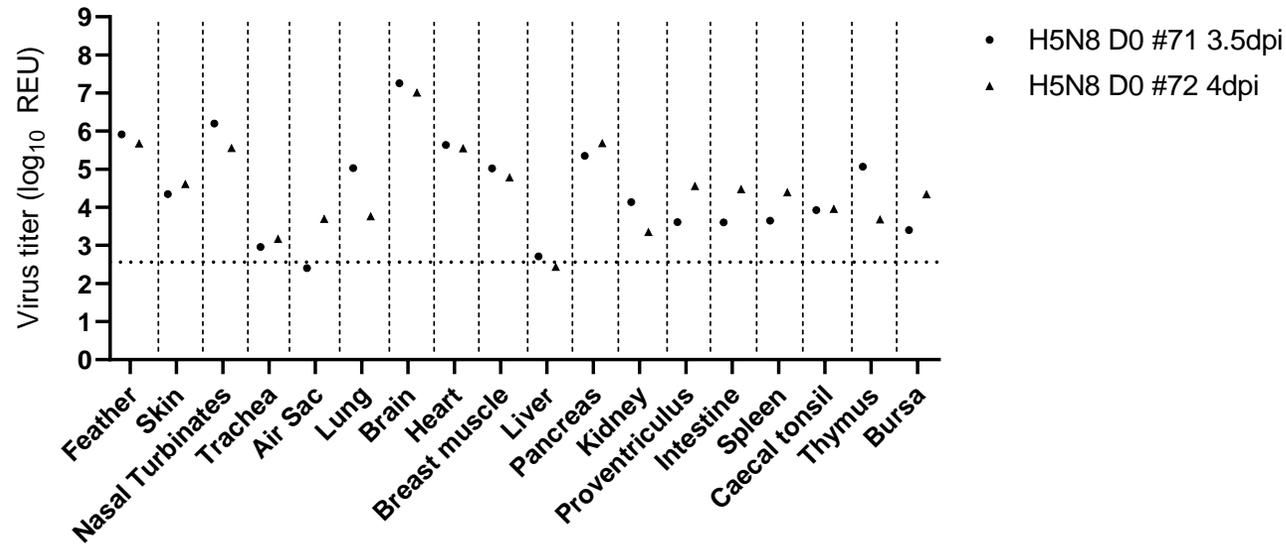


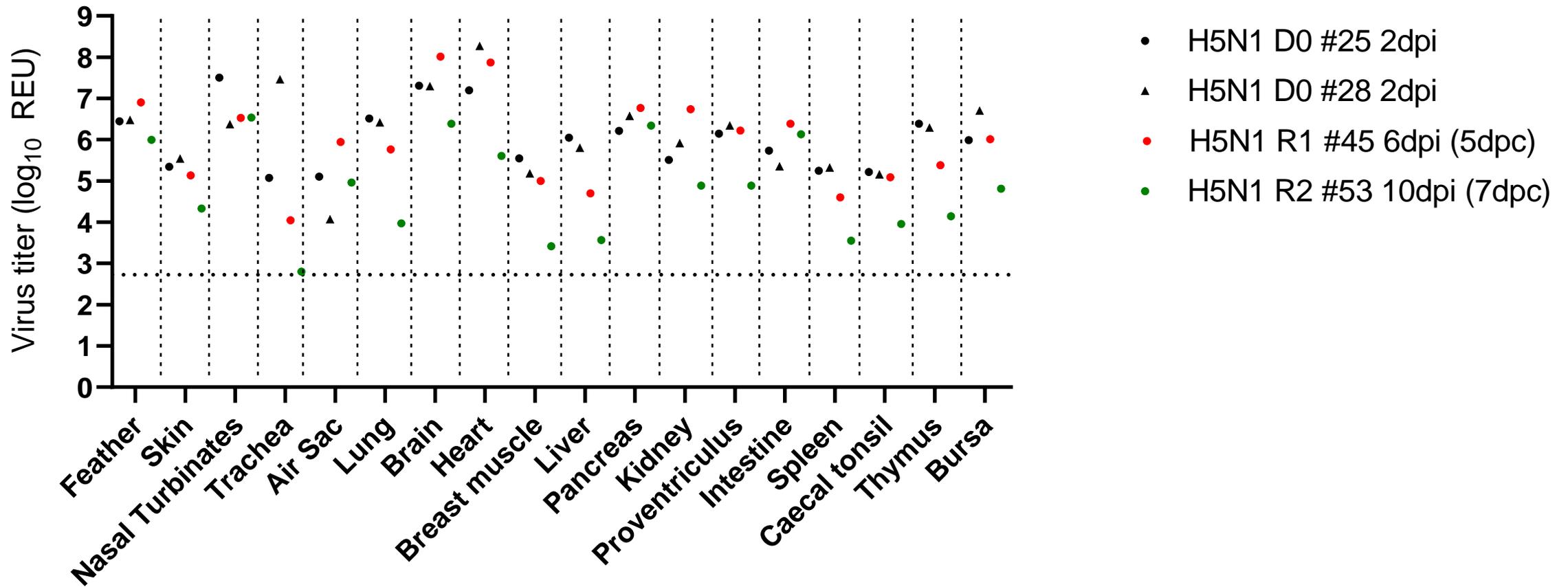
(a) Opportunistic deaths following infection with H5N8-2020 (high dose):



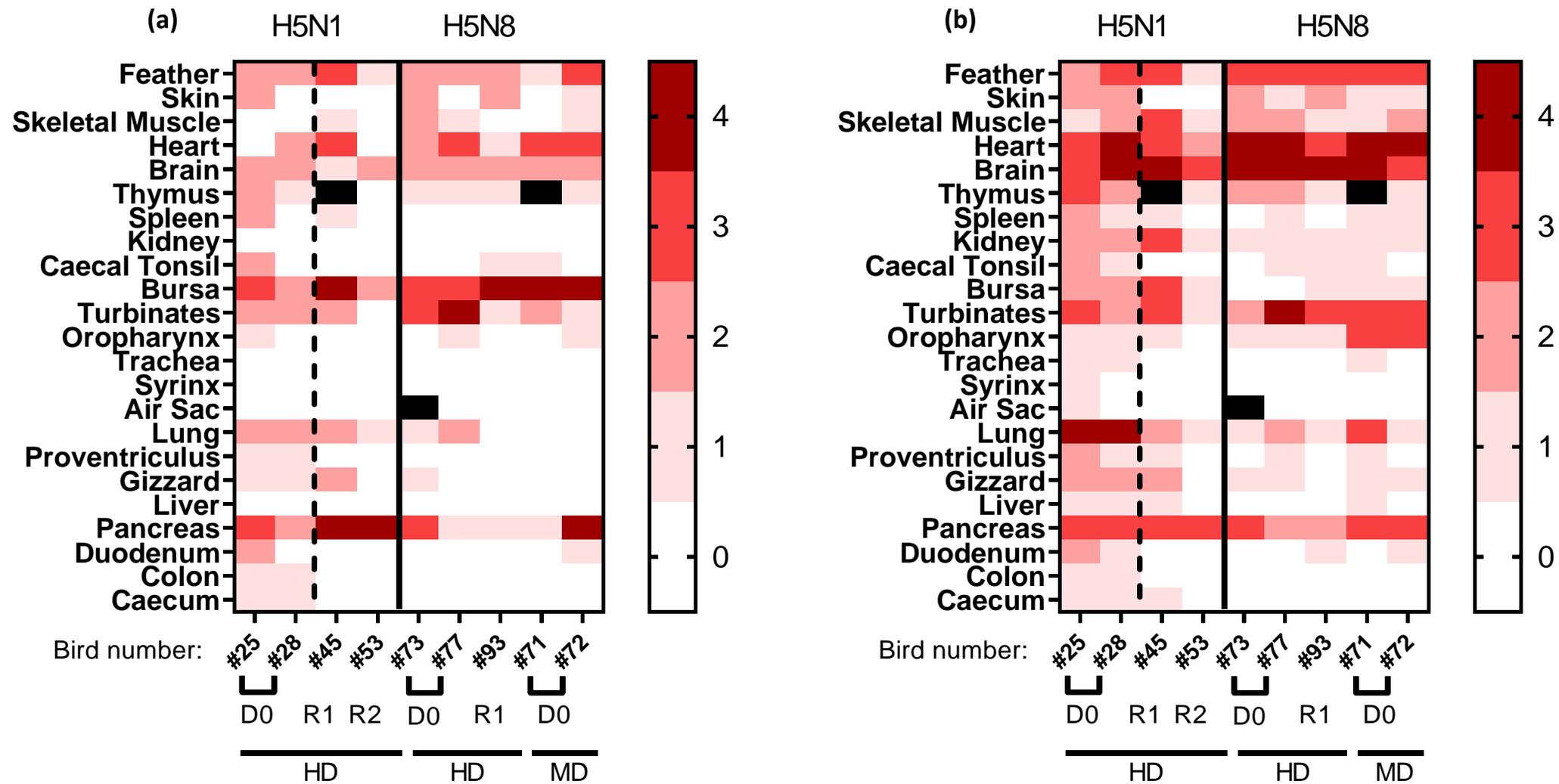
(b) Opportunistic deaths following infection with H5N8-2020 (medium dose):



**Figure S1.** Viral RNA (vRNA) levels in chicken tissues obtained from opportunistic deaths during the H5N8-2020 MID<sub>50</sub>/transmission experiment. Tissues were collected from (a) two chickens directly infected with the H5N8-2020 high dose plus the cohoused infected R1 contact; and (b) two chickens directly infected with the H5N8-2020 medium dose. Individual chicken ID #s and mortality times are indicated, see also Figure S3.



**Figure S2.** Viral RNA (vRNA) levels in chicken tissues obtained from opportunistic deaths during the H5N1-2020 MID<sub>50</sub>/transmission experiment. Tissues were collected from two chickens directly infected with the H5N8-2020 high dose plus the cohoused infected R1 and R2 contacts. Individual chicken ID #s and mortality times are indicated, see also Figure S3.



**Figure S3.** Summary of (a) histopathological changes and (b) virus-specific IHC staining observed in chicken tissues obtained from opportunistic deaths during the H5N8-2020 and H5N1-2020 MID<sub>50</sub>/transmission experiment. For the scale of semi-quantitative scoring, please refer to Figure 4 legend. D0, directly infected; R1, first contact; R2, second contact; HD, high dose; MD, medium dose. Black squares indicate that no scoring was carried-out. Individual chicken ID #s are indicated, see also Figures S1 and S2 for the mortality times.