

Protect Your Pet From Bird Flu

... by following proper preventative steps.



“Bird flu” (avian influenza or AI) is a contagious viral disease that can infect many types of birds, including pet birds.

Protect your loved ones through practicing these preventative measures!

These steps can help prevent the spread of Bird Flu and exotic Newcastle disease (END), another deadly disease that can spread quickly and kill most birds if left untreated.

PROTECT YOUR BIRDS

- Limit traffic into and out of your home.
- Use disinfectants on your clothes and hands.
- Avoid visiting other bird owners when possible and keep new birds separate from your other pets.

You are the best protection your birds have.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

While the diseases are different, many of the signs are similar.

- Sudden increase in bird deaths among your pets.
- Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing and nasal discharge.
- Watery and green diarrhea.
- Lack of energy and poor appetite.
- Swelling around the eyes, neck and head.
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs (AI).
- Tremors, drooping wings, circling, twisting of the head and neck, or lack of movement (END).



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Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

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How to Protect Your Birds

Post this guide near your birds.



1 Keep Your Distance.

Restrict access to your birds. If visitors have birds of their own, do not let them near your birds



2 Keep It Clean.

Wear clean clothes and wash your hands thoroughly with a disinfectant before handling your birds. Clean cages and change food and water daily. Remove feed from bags, place it in a clean sealed container, and throw the bags away. Clean and disinfect tools that come in contact with your birds or their droppings. Remove droppings before disinfecting. Properly dispose of dead birds.



3 Don't Haul Disease Home.

When buying a pet bird, request certification from the bird seller that the bird was legally imported or came from U.S. stock, and was healthy prior to shipment.

If you or you and your bird have been near other birds or bird owners, such as at a pet store, bird club meeting or bird fair, clean and disinfect travel bird cages, your clothing, shoes and tools before going home. Have your birds been to an exhibition? Keep them separated from your other pet birds for at least 2 weeks after the event. New birds should be kept separate from your other pet birds for at least 30 days.



4 Don't Borrow Disease From Your Neighbor.

Do not share tools or bird supplies with your neighbors or other bird owners. If you do bring these items home, clean and disinfect them first.



5 Know the Warning Signs of Infectious Bird Diseases.

- Sudden increase in bird deaths among your pets
- Sneezing, gasping for air, coughing and nasal discharge
- Watery and green diarrhea
- Lack of energy and poor appetite
- Swelling around the eyes, neck and head
- Purple discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs (AI)
- Tremors, drooping wings, circling, twisting of the head and neck, or lack of movement (END)

Early detection is important to prevent the spread of disease.



6 Report Sick Birds.

Don't wait. If your birds are sick or dying, call your local cooperative extension office, local veterinarian, the State Veterinarian, or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Veterinary Services office to find out why. USDA operates a toll-free hotline (1-866-536-7593) with veterinarians to help you. There is no charge for this service.



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