

## ~ Exotic Newcastle Disease (END): Frequently Asked Questions ~

### **What is Exotic Newcastle Disease (END)?**

[Exotic New Castle Disease \(END\)](#) [external site] is a contagious and fatal viral disease affecting all species of birds. END is so virulent that many birds die without showing clinical signs. A death rate of almost 100 percent can occur in unvaccinated poultry flocks. END can even infect and cause death in vaccinated poultry. END spreads through droppings and secretions from the nose, mouth and eyes.

Infected birds may show the following symptoms:

#### **Respiratory:**

Sneezing Gasping for Air  
Nasal discharge  
Coughing

#### **Digestive:**

Greenish, watery diarrhea

#### **Nervous:**

Depression Muscular tremors  
Drooping wings  
Twisting of head and neck  
Circling Complete paralysis

#### **General:**

Partial to complete drop in egg production  
Production of thin-shelled eggs  
Swelling of the tissues around the eyes and in the neck  
Sudden death  
Increase death loss in a flock

### **How can I protect my birds from END?**

#### **1. Keep your distance-**

- a. Restrict access to your poultry and your birds.
- b. Only let caretakers have access to your birds. Your caretakers should not attend bird shows or other events where birds are present.
- c. Provide visitors with boots to wear or have them clean their boots before and after their visit.
- d. Game birds and migratory waterfowl should not have contact with your flock.

#### **2. Keep it clean-**

- a. Keep a pair of shoes and a set of clothes to wear only around your birds or clean and disinfect your shoes and launder your clothes before you check on or work around your birds.
- b. Scrubbing your shoes with a long-handled scrub brush and disinfectant will remove droppings, mud or debris.
- c. Wash your hands thoroughly with soap, water and a disinfectant before entering your bird area.

**3. Don't haul disease home-**

- a. If you travel to places where other birds are present, even to the feed store, be sure to clean and disinfect car and truck tires, and other items that travelled with you.
- b. When returning from the fair or exhibition keep the birds that went to exhibit separate from the rest of the flock for at least 2 weeks.
- c. New birds should be kept separate from your flock for at least 30 days before putting them with the rest of your birds.

**4. Don't borrow disease from your neighbor-**

- a. Don't share birds, lawn and garden equipment, tools or poultry supplies with your neighbors or other bird owners.
- b. If you borrow these things, disinfect them before you bring them home and when you return them.

**5. Know the warning signs of infectious bird disease-**

**6. Report sick birds-**

- a. Report signs of unusual illness among birds please contact your private veterinarian or the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Avian Health Program at **1-800-606-3056**.

**What do I do if my birds have END symptoms?**

If your birds have END symptoms contact your private veterinarian or the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Avian Health Program at **1-800-606-3056**.

**Have there been any END outbreaks recently?**

In October 2002, Exotic Newcastle Disease was diagnosed in backyard poultry flocks in Los Angeles County, California. It then spread to commercial egg-laying facilities in that state. The disease was also discovered in backyard flocks in Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas. As a result, approximately 13 countries placed restrictions on U.S. or California poultry products or banned products entirely. WSDA adopted an emergency rule in January 2003 to keep infected birds and contaminated materials out of the state.

All state and federal quarantines were lifted from Arizona, California, New Mexico, Nevada and Texas. Veterinarians and animal health inspectors in California continue to survey and sample to

ensure there is no disease left in that state. In total, more than three million birds were euthanized to stop the disease from spreading and eradication efforts cost \$175 million.