



Disease Prevention Guide

Feed Stores and Pet Stores

When diseased birds are moved, diseases move too. Biosecurity means doing everything you can to protect your birds against disease. When contaminated birds, people, and materials are moved from one location to another, diseases are easily spread. However, if you follow these basic steps and make them a daily habit, you will greatly reduce the risk of carrying disease to your birds.

Store Biosecurity

Disease can be spread by anyone (sales people, customers, etc.). To protect your birds and your business, all bird handlers should:

- Wash hands and/or use sanitizer before and after handling birds,
- Wear clean clothing and closed-toed shoes within the bird area,
- Practice disinfection procedures before entering the store or bird area, particularly when disease has been detected where customers may have been,
- Consider using a footbath when entering the store or bird area,
- Consider biosecurity measures for vehicles coming onto the store property (e.g. designated parking on a hard surface away from bird areas or incorporating spray washers when disease is detected in the State), and
- Always report any sick or dead birds to the store owner or manager, and report unusual health problems to the CDFA - early detection of disease is critical to containment.

To report an unusual number of sick or dead birds, call:

Sick Bird Hotline
(866) 922-2473



In the event of an avian disease outbreak, shipments of poultry or poultry products from certain locations may be prohibited. When in doubt, contact the California State Veterinarian: (916) 900-5000 or evet@cdfa.ca.gov

Keeping Birds Healthy

- Always buy chicks from National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP) certified hatcheries that are H5/H7 avian influenza monitored and consider vaccinating for common diseases found in your area (e.g. Marek's Disease).
- Do not allow customers to handle chicks; keep stock tanks covered with wire mesh and consider an enclosed display area.
- Isolate new additions for 14 days to observe for any signs of illness.
- Isolate sick birds immediately; keep them away from other birds and consult a veterinarian.
- Keep different species of birds separated; especially prevent co-mingling of chickens and other poultry with waterfowl (wild or domestic).
- Keep cages, food, and water clean and sanitary on a daily basis.
- Keep wild birds, insects, and rodents away from your birds, as they may carry disease.
- Properly dispose of used bird litter and bedding by spraying with a disinfectant and appropriately bagging.
- Properly dispose of dead birds—check on local ordinances for acceptable disposal methods.

CDFA Animal Health Branch

Headquarters - (916) 900-5002
Redding District - (530) 225-2140
Modesto District - (209) 491-9350
Tulare District - (559) 685-3500
Ontario District - (909) 947-4462

USDA-APHIS-VS (916) 854-3950 or (877) 741-3690

For more information, please click the following:

[Animal Health Branch](#)
[Avian Health Program](#)