



California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory Necropsy Services for California Backyard Poultry Owners

The California Animal Health and Food Safety (CAHFS) Laboratory System is the backbone of California's warning system that helps to protect the health of California's livestock and poultry. CAHFS serves the people of California by safeguarding public health with rapid and reliable diagnoses for animal diseases affecting humans. CAHFS operates in partnership with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), University of California, Davis (UCD), livestock and poultry producers, and California veterinarians.



Veterinarians and owners of backyard poultry are encouraged to submit sick or recently dead birds for necropsy (postmortem) examination.

The CAHFS necropsy service:

- Is available to California backyard flock owners of fewer than 1,000 birds (chickens, turkeys, waterfowl, and squab).
- Provides standard diagnostic work for a submission of one or two birds for a nominal fee of \$20. *Additional fees apply for pet birds, game birds, or racing pigeons,*
- Accepts sick or recently dead bird(s); carcass(es) must be kept cold (in a cooler or equivalent),
- Requires a submission form to be included at the time of submission. Submission form, guidelines, and shipping instructions can be found at: http://www.cahfs.ucdavis.edu/local_resources/pdfs/submission%20forms/StandardSubmissionForm_11-16_BYF.pdf
- Assists with the State's surveillance program to monitor and detect immediate threats of disease, and
- Obtains information from the diagnostic work that is invaluable for monitoring the spread of disease.



***Note:** *If delivered by mail, shipping and handling costs are at the owner's expense.*

For more information, contact a local CAHFS Laboratory or CDFA:
<http://www.cahfs.ucdavis.edu/>

CAHFS - Davis Laboratory

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Davis, California 95616

Telephone: (530) 752-8700

E-mail: cahfsdavis@cahfs.ucdavis.edu

CAHFS - San Bernardino Laboratory

105 W. Central Avenue
San Bernardino, California 92408

Telephone: (909) 383-4287

E-mail: cahfssanbernardino@cahfs.ucdavis.edu

CAHFS - Tulare Laboratory

18830 Road 112
Tulare, California 93274

Telephone: (559) 688-7543

E-mail: cahfstulare@cahfs.ucdavis.edu

CAHFS - Turlock Laboratory

1550 North Soderquist Road
Turlock, California 95380

Telephone: (209) 634-5837

E-mail: cahfsturlock@cahfs.ucdavis.edu

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

**Sick Bird Hotline
(866) 922-2473**

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 visit:
www.cdffa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health
[Avian Health Program](#)