



# Signs of Disease

## Poultry and Pet Birds

Sick birds are inactive, dull, and tend to separate themselves from other healthy birds in the flock. Some signs of disease are:

- **General Signs**- Decrease in food and water consumption, listlessness, appears depressed, reluctance to move, ruffled feathers, sudden increase in mortality, and chicks huddling near the heat source or excessive peeping.
- **Respiratory Signs** - Coughing, sneezing, pasting of the nostrils, swollen sinuses, abnormal tearing, matting, or crusting of the eyes, gasping for air, extension of head and neck on inspiration, and ocular or nasal discharge.
- **Gastrointestinal Signs** - Persistent watery diarrhea, drinking large amounts of water, regurgitation of food or water, and bloody or mucoid diarrhea.
- **Reproductive Signs** - Impaired hatchability of eggs, infertility, reduction in egg production, soft or misshapen eggs, and early chick mortality.
- **Neurological Signs** - Twisting of the head and neck, falling to one side or the other, inability to rise, and paralysis (complete, partial, or transient).
- **Skin Signs** - Vesicles or pustules, sloughing of skin, swollen joints or foot pads, bluish comb, wattles, legs, and bloody beak.



To report an unusual number of sick or dead birds, call:  
**Sick Bird Hotline**  
**(866) 922-2473**

**The California Department of Food and Agriculture encourages responsible bird ownership. Please consult with a veterinarian on a regular basis regarding the health of your birds or flock. Good health for California poultry and pets is beneficial to everyone!**

**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](#)