



Disease Prevention Guide For Swap Meets

Disease **prevention** 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. *In other words, when diseased birds are moved, the disease moves too. Since swap meets draw people from many different locations, the possibilities of spreading disease to your birds are very high.* The following recommendations are suggested to help decrease the risk of carrying disease to your birds. Practice as many as you think are necessary to keep your birds from becoming diseased.

- Customers handling birds should use a hand sanitizer before and after handling birds.
- Isolate new additions to your bird inventory for 7 to 21 days to observe them for any symptoms of illness. Birds that were taken to the swap meet, but not sold, should be isolated from birds at your home to observe them for symptoms of illness.
- Keep different groups of birds separated and keep pet birds away from poultry.
- Keep cages, food and water containers clean and sanitary on a daily basis.
- Cubicles should be clean and free of excrement, feathers, spilled feed, and open water sources (buckets of water) to discourage unwanted animals that may be diseased.
- All bird litter and bedding should be bagged and sprayed with a disinfectant and disposed of properly.
- The store should consider having a no return/no exchange policy
- Other bird vendors should not have access to your space.
- Proper disposal of dead birds is important; either by burial, incineration, or landfill disposal. Check on local ordinances for acceptable disposal methods.

These procedures are not guaranteed to prevent highly contagious diseases from affecting your birds; however, they will reduce risks. During disease outbreaks, more stringent recommendations are advised to control and eradicate diseases.

For more information call

1-800-491-1899