

KEEP YOUR BIRDS SAFE AND HEALTHY

If you keep birds you should always follow simple biosecurity measures to help protect them from diseases and keep them healthy.

Many people keep poultry and other types of birds, and while the risk of an exotic disease such as Avian Influenza (bird flu) reaching New Zealand is low; all bird owners need to look out for signs of disease.

What can I do?

Bird owners have a vital role in preventing disease outbreaks. These simple steps will help you protect your birds against disease.

1. Don't let water and feed become contaminated

- Keep feed and water supplies away from wild birds and animals
- Store feed in a sealed container
- Always clean up spills
- Ideally use town or bore water, otherwise treat water with chlorine.

2. Don't let your birds mix with wild birds

- Use netting or fences to restrict wild birds
- Remove objects that attract wild birds such as feed, water ponds and roosting places
- Restrict your birds' access to open ponds, lakes and creeks.

3. Keep it clean

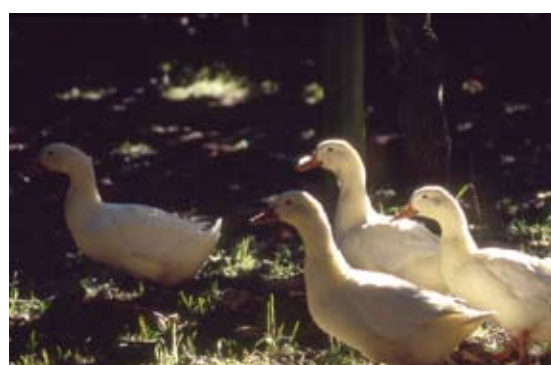
- Regularly clean aviaries, cages and poultry yards
- Disinfect equipment, feed and water containers
- Don't share equipment with other bird keepers
- Always thoroughly wash your hands, clothing and footwear with hot water and soap before and after handling birds.

4. Practice good hygiene at shows

- Don't allow your birds to mix directly with other birds
- Avoid buying birds from unknown sources at markets or shows
- On returning home, isolate show birds for 10 days before re-introducing to the flock.

5. Limit visitors to your birds

- If handling is necessary, make sure visitors wash their hands thoroughly with soap and hot water before and after handling your birds.



6. Quarantine new birds

- Clean, separate and monitor new birds for 10 days before mixing them with your existing flock
- Always buy birds from a reputable supplier
- Make sure you know the health status of any birds you buy or move.

7. Know the signs of disease

Common signs to look for include:

- sudden and unexpected deaths;
- rapid spread of disease throughout the flock;
- depression and loss of appetite;
- a drop in egg production;
- nervous signs such as unusual head or neck posture, and convulsions;
- swelling and blue combs and wattles;
- coughing, sneezing and diarrhoea.

8. Immediately report sick or dead birds



Reporting unusual symptoms

It is important to involve your veterinarian if you ever have a health problem with any of your birds. If several birds display unusual disease symptoms, abnormal behaviour or die unexpectedly, report it immediately to the Emergency pest and disease hotline on **0800 80 99 66**.

For more information, visit the MAF Biosecurity New Zealand website:
www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests-diseases/animals/avian-influenza

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: WWW.BIOSECURITY.GOV.TZ

New Zealand Government

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