

H5 bird flu

Tips to protect your pets

H5 bird flu

H5 bird flu has been detected in wildlife in Australia and has caused significant impacts in wild birds, poultry and other animals overseas.

Everyone has a role to play in identifying and reporting unusual bird or other wildlife deaths. If you observe multiple sick or dead birds or other wildlife, avoid contact, record what you see, and report it.

What you can do

AVOID - If you see sick or dead birds or other wildlife, do not touch them.

RECORD - Record your location and what you see. Take photos if safe.

REPORT - Report sick or dead wild birds or other wildlife using the online form at nt.gov.au/birdflu or if it is urgent call the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888.

Risk to humans

Infections in people are rare. Bird flu does not easily spread to people, and no infections of this strain have been reported in people in Australia.

Staying away from sick or dead birds and wildlife is the best protection. Infected animals shed the virus in secretions, faeces and other body fluids, and into the air. Getting an annual flu vaccination is recommended.

Protect your pets

You can take simple precautions that can significantly reduce the risk to your cats and dogs.

- Prevent cats from roaming by keeping them indoors or using a secure outdoor enclosure - this also protects our wildlife.
- Keep dogs on leads in public areas, especially when wildlife is present.
- Ensure food and water is out of reach of wild birds.
- Prevent your dog or cat from scavenging or touching dead birds and wildlife.
- Don't allow pets to use water bowls that may also be accessed by birds.
- Clean shoes thoroughly after walking your pet in a wildlife area.
- Follow good hygiene practices when preparing food.
- Wash your hands and equipment after handling animals, eggs or raw meat.

Signs of bird flu in cats and dogs

H5 bird flu is rare in cats and dogs overseas. Most cases involve exposure to sick or dead birds, infected animals, raw pet food or unpasteurised (raw) milk. Talk to your veterinarian if you have concerns.

Signs in dogs or cats may include:

- fever
- lethargy
- decreased appetite
- reddened or inflamed eyes
- discharge from eyes and nose
- coughing or sneezing or difficulty breathing
- neurological signs, like tremors, seizures, incoordination, or blindness
- death.



Avoid.
Record.
Report.

For more information visit birdflu.gov.au or nt.gov.au/birdflu

