

H5 bird flu

Disposal of carcasses

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.

Workers may encounter sick or dead birds or other wildlife during routine duties in parks, reserves, roadsides, public spaces and other outdoor areas.

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 while undertaking work duties, avoid touching or moving it and keep members of the public away from the area. Report it [online](#) or to the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline and follow any advice provided.

What you can do

AVOID

If you see sick or dead birds or other animals, 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.

Carcass management

In the Northern Territory wildlife carcasses will generally be left in situ to naturally decompose. Landholders will determine the best disposal option for their circumstances.

Please inform yourself about your options. If you need to handle or dispose of a dead bird or other wildlife follow the guidance below.

Poultry owners may dispose of poultry carcasses in accordance with this guidance.

- Wildlife or poultry carcasses may be buried or binned.
- Some landholders may have the capacity to incinerate carcasses, subject to advice from Bushfires NT regarding seasonal conditions and fire bans.

Before you start

Keep children, other people and pets away.

Put on personal protective equipment (PPE):

- waterproof disposable gloves
- P2/N95 respirator or surgical mask
- eye protection, such as safety goggles
- long-sleeved clothing
- enclosed shoes.

Don't touch your face until you have finished and washed your hands.



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



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Option 1 - Burial

1. If possible bury the carcass instead of putting it into a bin.
2. Bury it immediately.
3. Dig a hole of at least 60cm deep.
4. Choose a location away from your house, pets, gardens and water sources.
5. Put on PPE including disposable gloves, face mask, eye protection, long-sleeves clothing and enclosed shoes.
6. Do not bury the animal in a plastic bag.
7. Use a shovel or other tool to lift the animal and any soil touching it.
8. Place the carcass in the hole and cover it up.

Option 2 - Bin disposal

1. Put on PPE including disposable gloves, face mask, eye protection, long-sleeves clothing and enclosed shoes.
2. Put a plastic bag over your gloved hands and pick up the carcass. Tie the top of the bag closed.
3. Put the carcass in a second plastic bag and tie the bag closed.
4. Put the bag into the rubbish bin (landfill). Do not place any dead animals in the recycling bin.

Disposal and clean-up

Take off gloves and wash hands. Take off mask and put disposable items in a plastic bag. Put bag in the rubbish bin (landfill) and wash hands.

Clean any non-disposable items. Wash hands and forearms with soap and water.

Safety checklist

- Consider your physical safety before disposal.
- Limit access to the area where the dead wildlife is located.
- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Wash or sanitise your hands before and after disposal, and after cleaning.
- Wash clothing and clean and disinfect any shoes, reusable equipment or other potentially contaminated items.

- Do not touch dead wildlife with your bare skin. Wash or sanitise your skin if contact occurs.
- Do not touch your face until your PPE is removed and your hands have been washed or sanitised.
- Do not take dead wildlife indoors or store dead wildlife in your fridge or freezer.
- If burying dead wildlife, after burial, do not re-use or re-open the burial hole.

Please always check nt.gov.au/birdflu and birdflu.gov.au for the most up-to-date information, as additional details may become available and existing guidance may be revised or updated as the situation evolves.



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