

Washington State Department of Agriculture Avian Health Program's Avian Disease Prevention Training Course

The goal of this course is to provide you with a basic understanding of avian health terms, concepts and biosecurity



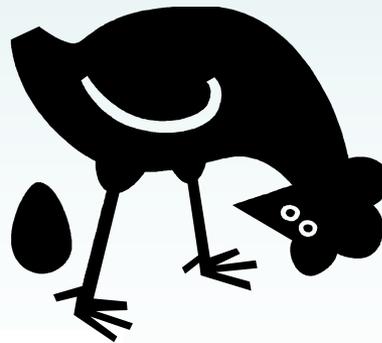
What is a Bird Disease?

- Disease is a change from normal health, not including injury
 - Effects of disease can include:
 - Reduced egg production
 - Failure to thrive
 - Increased death loss
 - Disease may be infectious or non-infectious
 - Infectious diseases are spread between birds
 - Non-infectious diseases are **not** spread between birds



Recognizing Disease

- Disease changes may be subtle
 - Know what “normal” or “healthy” looks like for your bird
 - It can be difficult to recognize when your bird is sick, especially in the early phases of illness



Recognizing Disease

- Examine your birds on a daily basis to look for early signs of illness such as:
 - Sneezing
 - Coughing
 - Reduced intake of feed and water
- Birds may appear healthy, but:
 - May still carry diseases (“carriers”) or
 - Be in the early stages of illness



Infectious Diseases

- Infectious diseases are caused by:

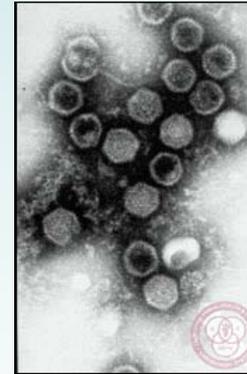
- Bacteria

- Salmonella Pullorum-Typhoid
- Mycoplasma Gallisepticum



- Viruses

- Avian Influenza
- Marek's Disease
- Newcastle Disease



- Fungi

- Aspergillosis



Infectious Diseases Continued

– Parasites

- Internal
 - Worms
 - » Round Worms
 - Protozoa
 - » Coccidiosis
- External
 - Lice
 - Mites



Disease Symptoms

- General symptoms
 - Ruffled feathers
 - Weight loss
 - Decreased appetite
 - Drooping wings
 - Depressed behavior (pet birds)
 - Failure to stand on perches (pet birds)
- Digestive system
 - Persistent watery diarrhea
 - Vomiting feed or water
- Respiratory system
 - Sneezing
 - Coughing
 - Nasal discharge
 - Gasping for air
 - Labored breathing



Disease Symptoms Continued

- Reproductive system

- Decreased egg production
- Malformed eggs
- Low fertility



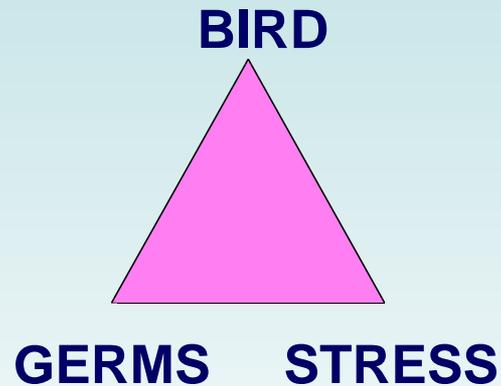
- Nervous system

- Weakness
- Circling
- Muscle tremors
- Severe depression
- Twisting of head or neck
- Lameness
- Paralysis



Disease Triangle

- Disease control is based on three areas of control:



- Increasing **bird** resistance to disease
- Reducing exposure to pathogens (**germs**)
- Reducing environmental **stress**



Increasing Bird Resistance

- Ensure proper nutrition
 - Provide adequate, clean food and water
 - Monitor weight periodically
 - Feed pet birds more than seeds (fruits, leafy vegetables, sprouted seeds)
- Locate an avian veterinarian before you need one
- Consult your veterinarian in the event of disease or before beginning treatment



Increasing Bird Resistance Cont.

- Antibiotics **do not** work against viral diseases and no antiviral drugs are available for birds



Medications & Vaccinations

- Store drugs and vaccines correctly
 - Check expiration dates
 - Discard when expired
- Follow instructions on the vaccine or medication label
- Vaccinate your birds against diseases known to exist in the area where you live



Reducing Stress

- Provide your birds with adequate:
 - Space
 - Ventilation
 - Shade
- Control dust in your pens
 - Dust creates stress on the respiratory system
- Maintain proper temperature
- Provide toys to encourage activity for pet birds



How Does Disease Spread?

- Diseases are spread in two ways:
 - **Direct Contact:** contact between a sick bird and a healthy bird
 - Direct Contact occurs through contact with:
 - Feathers
 - Waste
 - Droplets from the mouth or nose
 - **Indirect Contact :** contact with objects contaminated by a sick bird



Indirect Contact

- Dirty hands of handlers
- Contaminated clothes or boots
- Contaminated equipment
- Contaminated vehicles (tires, floorboards)
- Contact with other animals, insects, rodents, birds, etc



Biosecurity

- **Biosecurity** is the set of practices that prevent your bird from being exposed to infectious diseases.



Biosecurity Continued

- Before entering the bird area
 - Wear clean clothes
 - Scrub your shoes with disinfectant
 - Wash your hands
- Clean and disinfect where your birds live
 - Remove all old litter, manure, and other debris
 - Clean surfaces, then apply a disinfectant
 - Some disinfectants can be toxic to birds, check with your avian veterinarian for recommendations
 - **Note:** If you do not clean first, applying disinfectants is a waste of time and money!



Biosecurity Continued

- Separate your birds from:
 - Wild waterfowl
 - Rodents
 - Other animals
 - Visitors
 - If visitors have birds of their own, **do not** let them near your birds
- Prevent contact with other animals and birds
 - Keep your birds in pens or in an enclosure



Biosecurity Continued

- Limit handling and contact of your birds by other people
- Isolate new or sick birds for at least 21 days (3 weeks)
 - Have your birds been to a fair or exhibit?
 - They should be separated from the rest of your flock when you return home



Biosecurity Continued

- Don't borrow equipment and supplies from other bird owners
 - If you bring these items home, clean and disinfect them before you get to your property
- Disinfect your hands before and after handling someone else's birds
- Sterilize grooming instruments before and after each use
 - Use a clean holding towel with each bird



Biosecurity For Pet Stores

- Have customers disinfect their hands before handling any birds
- Display birds behind glass barriers to prevent their exposure to customers carrying germs
- Have employees caring for pet birds:
 - Wear clean clothes at work each day
 - Disinfect their hands before and after handling birds



Report a Sick Bird

Contact the WSDA Avian Health Program if
your birds are sick

1-800-606-3056

lbadoe@agr.wa.gov



Helpful Links

<http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/AvianHealth/>

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/birdbiosecurity/biosecurity/



Helpful Contacts

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