



Biosecurity tips for bird shows

Bird shows are a great opportunity for stud breeders and exhibitors to compete for coveted titles and see the best that different breeds have to offer. However, any grouping of birds carries the risk of spreading disease because all birds are in close contact. Judges also handle many birds from different aviaries, and disinfection of clothing and hands between birds is not always possible. In such situations, viral diseases such as avian influenza could spread rapidly from one bird to the next.

What can bird exhibitors do?

There are a few simple things that stud breeders and exhibitors attending bird shows can do to help prevent the spread of disease.

- Do not take any birds to a show if there are signs of illness in your flock.
- All bird equipment and permanent carrying containers should be cleaned and disinfected before and after a show.
- While at the show, exhibitors should not handle birds other than their own. However, if this is necessary, exhibitors should ensure their hands are thoroughly washed between birds.
- On returning home, show birds should always undergo a period of quarantine before re-introduction to the flock.
- Keep a register of all bird movements in and out of your premises, particularly to shows.
- If you notice any unusual signs of disease, abnormal behaviour or unexpected deaths in your flocks, you should immediately call your vet, stock inspector, or the Emergency Disease Watch Hotline on 1800 675 888.

What can judges do?

- Judges should take care to disinfect hands between birds, where possible.

What can show organisers do?

- Show organisers and club members can also do their part by keeping adequate records of exhibitors and birds attending shows and club meetings. This will be essential to aid traceback in the event of an outbreak of any emergency disease.
- Where possible waterfowl should not be on display in the same pavilion or area as pigeons, poultry or other birds.
- Bird clubs can also encourage presentations on cleaning and disinfection principles for prevention of avian diseases at bird shows.
- Consideration should be given to having a veterinarian present or contactable by telephone on the day(s) of the show.

Contact your local poultry extension officer, vet, or agricultural agency in your State or Territory for further information on biosecurity.