

How to Control and Prevent

- When purchasing birds, ask the seller to provide health certificates or health information of birds being sold.
- Take newly acquired birds to a veterinarian before introduction.
- Quarantine sick birds in a place with an independent ventilated system.
- Quarantine new birds for at least 30 days.
- Use disinfectants to clean and sanitize cages.
- Dampen bedding to prevent aerosolization of bacteria.
- Do not use disinfectants on objects that will come in direct contact with the birds.
- Throw away items that cannot be cleaned.
- Wear personal protective equipment such as gloves, eyewear, rubber boots, and a N95 dust respirator mask or face mask.



CHLAMYDIA IN BIRDS

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



To obtain more information, contact the Office of the State Veterinarian or check our website

State Veterinarian's Office

Telephone: (850) 410-0900
24 Hour Reporting: 1-800-342-5869
Fax: (850) 410-0916
www.FDACS.gov/AI

Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Division of Animal Industry
407 South Calhoun Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

<https://www.cdc.gov/psittacosis/>

<http://www.nasphv.org/documentsCompendiaPsittacosis.html>



Chlamydia in Birds

What is Psittacosis / Chlamydiosis / Ornithosis / Parrot Fever?

- Chlamydiosis is a disease birds acquire from the Chlamydia psittaci bacteria.
- It is a zoonotic disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans.
- The disease is called Psittacosis when humans are infected.
- Chlamydiosis is highly contagious and immunity does not occur.
- All birds are at risk, but some are more susceptible such as: amazons, macaws, cockatiels, lovebirds and parakeets.

How is it transmitted?

- Birds naturally carry the bacteria.
- Birds may become ill under stressful conditions, which allow the bacteria to cause disease.
- Stress can be associated with recent relocation, overcrowded housing conditions, shipping, breeding facilities or unstable environments.
- The bacteria is transferred through bird feces, ocular, nasal, or respiratory discharge or feather dust.
- Birds and humans may become infected by inhaling contaminated material or ingesting contaminated food and water.
- Humans run the risk of accidental ingestion during cage cleaning or when treating or handling infected birds.

What to look for... signs and symptoms.

Signs of illness in birds may present as acute or chronic.

- Acute signs:
 - Trouble breathing
 - Nasal discharge
 - Eye discharge
 - Swelling or irritation of the eyes
 - Appetite loss
 - Energy loss
 - Ruffled feathers
 - Excessive urination
 - Diarrhea
- Chronic signs:
 - Pneumonia
 - Tremors
 - Convulsions
 - Paralysis of the leg (s)
 - Depression
 - Irregular positioning of the head
 - Bending of neck

Some birds may not show signs of illness, but still transmit the disease.

- Illness in humans may present with flu-like symptoms.
 - Lethargy
 - Appetite loss
 - Nausea
 - Chest pain
 - Dry cough
 - Headaches

Now What?

- If you suspect a bird is ill, contact a veterinarian immediately.
- Diagnosis depends on how severe the condition.
- If you have come in contact with a sick bird and suspect you may have contracted the illness, contact your medical provider.

Treatment of Birds

- It is important to follow your veterinarian's instructions.
- Reducing dose, not giving full dose, or stopping treatment may lead to antibiotic resistance, asymptomatic manifestations, or worsening of the condition.

