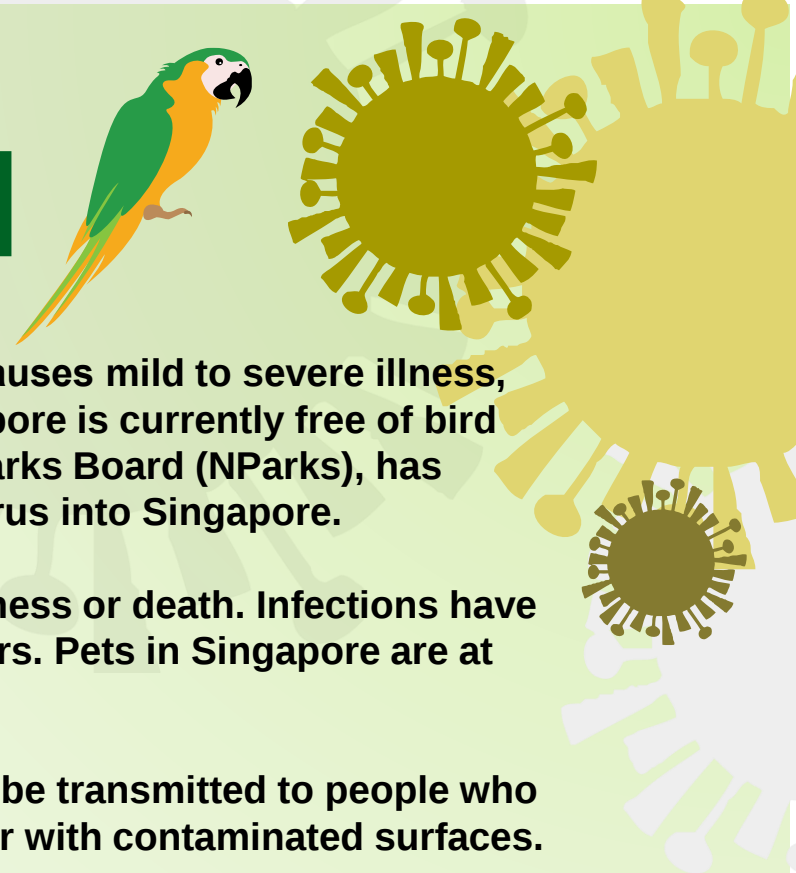


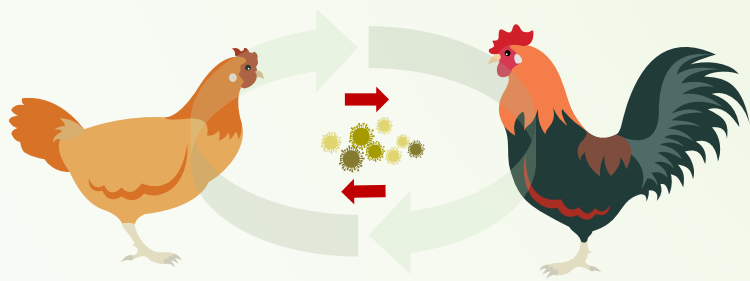
About Bird Flu



Avian influenza, also known as “bird flu”, is a viral disease in birds that causes mild to severe illness, even sudden death. Domestic poultry like chickens are vulnerable. Singapore is currently free of bird flu, and the Animal & Veterinary Service (AVS), a cluster of the National Parks Board (NParks), has stringent measures in place to prevent and detect possible entry of the virus into Singapore.

While rare, mammals can contract bird flu, which may result in serious illness or death. Infections have been reported in domestic cats, cattle, and marine mammals, among others. Pets in Singapore are at very low risk of bird flu, as the virus is not present locally.

Avian influenza viruses do not usually infect humans but may sometimes be transmitted to people who come into contact with infected poultry and their secretions and faeces, or with contaminated surfaces.



HOW DOES BIRD FLU SPREAD BETWEEN BIRDS?

- Direct contact with nasal and respiratory secretions from infected birds
- Direct contact with infected bird faeces
- Contaminated feed and water, including ponds and lakes
- Contact with contaminated equipment and humans

KEEPING PET BIRDS SAFE

- Keep them away from wild birds and their droppings.
- Use a bird-proof cage or enclosure with fine wire mesh netting preferably with a roof over the aviary.
- Separate all new birds from existing ones for at least 21 days to monitor for illness.
- Adopt hygiene practices such as washing hands thoroughly with soap after handling birds and their cage(s).
- Do not bring birds into Singapore without a valid import permit from AVS.

WHAT IF MY PET BIRD FALLS SICK OR DIES?

- Bring your sick bird to see a vet immediately.
- Keep it away from healthy birds.
- Wash and disinfect the cage regularly while wearing a mask and gloves.
- Wear a mask and gloves when disposing of dead birds. Place bodies in a plastic bag tightly sealed with a rubber band or cable tie.

IS IT SAFE FOR ME OR MY PET TO COME INTO CONTACT WITH FREE-ROAMING CHICKENS IN SINGAPORE?

- Avoid touching or feeding wild or urban birds, including free-roaming chickens.
- If you come into contact with free-roaming chickens, wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.
- Do not allow your pet to interact with wild birds, including sick or dead birds.
- If you encounter dead birds, or those that look sick or show signs of possible bird flu, contact the Animal Response Centre at 1800 476 1600.

For more information on bird flu infection in humans, you may refer to the Ministry of Health's website:

<https://www.moh.gov.sg/diseases-updates/avian-influenza>



Share your love for nature and animals at
#NParksBuzz #AnimalBuzzSG

SIGNS IN INFECTED BIRDS

Sudden death without warning

Lack of energy and appetite

Diarrhoea

Neurological problems such as neck twisting, difficulty in walking

Combs and wattles of chickens turn purplish

Discharge from nose, and coughing and sneezing

Head region and legs swell

