

BIOSECURITY GUIDELINES FOR BIRD EVENTS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

General application

The following guidelines are recommended to be used for all bird events (Agricultural shows, aviculture displays, pigeon racing, sales, etc.) in Western Australia. Individual organisations or associations may require additional procedures as a condition of entry to an event. Event organisers should consider their affiliations and responsibilities when deciding on the procedures to be adopted.

The risks

- The congregation of birds from different sources at an event provides an opportunity for the spread of infectious diseases.
- Infected birds, contaminated equipment, vehicles and personnel can transfer infectious diseases between premises.
- Many infectious agents are killed by cleaning and disinfection. However, organic material such as dirt, manure and straw may reduce the effectiveness of disinfectants and make them useless.
- Biosecurity procedures, effectively practised, will reduce the risk of spreading infectious diseases at an event.

Biosecurity principles

- The person who has regular contact with the birds where they are normally kept is best placed to know if they are healthy.
- Apply a "clean-on and clean-off" approach.
- Minimise contact between birds from different sources at the event and avoid sharing equipment.
- Maintain a record of birds that attend the event, to allow for tracing if required subsequently.

Biosecurity Guidelines For Bird Events In Western Australia (cont.)

Before the event

The event organiser *should*:

1. Clarify the biosecurity procedures under which the event will operate, and ensure all participants are advised of these in advance of the event.
2. Appoint an animal health officer who will have authority to call a veterinary surgeon to examine any birds suspected of being seriously ill.
3. Develop a contingency plan to manage the situation if a bird(s) has a serious infectious disease and there is a need to hold birds at the location for some time.
4. Be aware that the event organiser has a duty of care to the participants and their birds and has a clear understanding of legal liabilities in the event of a serious disease outbreak.
5. Provide advice on health conditions which will render a bird ineligible for admission to an event.
6. Require all participants in the event to submit a signed declaration as a condition of entry to the event.

The declaration

The declaration *should* include the following:

1. The identity of each bird to an owner.
2. The name and contact details of the person in charge of the bird(s).
3. The address of the property from which the birds will move to the event.
4. A statement that each bird brought to the event has not shown any signs of illness during the three days leading up to the event.
5. The address of the property to which the bird(s) will be moved after the event, if known.

At the event

The animal health officer *should* for each consignment of birds arriving at the event:

1. Check that all birds in the consignment are covered by a declaration (i.e. a declaration from each source property) and if so, ensure that the signed declaration/s is completed in all respects before allowing the birds to enter the event.
2. If a consignment is not accompanied by a declaration, require that a declaration is completed before allowing entry to the event.
3. Retain the declaration for a period of at least 21 days.
4. All unexpected bird deaths at or during the event should be investigated. Veterinary advice should be sought where the cause of death is not obvious.
5. At the end of the event record the destination of all birds, if this is not known at the beginning of the event or different from details on the declaration (e.g. where birds are sold at an event) should be recorded and retained for 21 days.
6. At the end of the event ensure that all vehicles, cages and equipment are cleaned appropriately. Dispose of any left-over feed, used floor covering (sawdust, straw etc) or other discarded material in a manner to avoid contact with other birds (captive or free-flying).

Responsibilities of owner/person in charge of the birds

The person in charge of the birds(s) *should*:

- Provide truthful and accurate information as required.
- Carry out instructions given by the animal health officer.
- Not share equipment between birds from different sources unless they are thoroughly cleaned.
- Minimise any contact between birds from different sources.

On return to the property

The person in charge of the birds(s) *should*:

- Clean and disinfect all equipment and the transport vehicle.
- If possible, Quarantine bird(s) for a period of three weeks.
- Continue to monitor the health of the bird(s).
- Notify the event animal health officer of any unexpected deaths in the twenty days after the return from the event.

Bird Event Participation Declaration

Event: _____ Event date: _____

Name of person in charge of consignment of birds: _____

Contact phone: _____

Address: _____

Breed/type of birds	Number

Source property (address of property from which the birds moved to the event):

Destination property (address of property to which the birds will move after the event);

i) Same as source property

ii) Different from source property

If different from the source property, detail destination;

iii) Destination unknown (e.g. birds offered for sale)

Health of birds(s)

1. I am aware that the congregation of birds at an event provides an opportunity for the spread of infectious diseases.
2. I declare that the bird(s) identified above have been in good health during the last three days leading up to this event.
3. I declare that the bird(s) identified above have not been in contact with birds of a different or unknown health status, in the five days leading up to this event.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____