

HPAI: Bird Flu

Stay Informed, Stay Vigilant, Stay Safe.



What is it?

Bird Flu, or Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a disease which has caused hundreds of thousands of wildlife deaths, especially in seabirds and marine mammals such as sea lions.

It can be spread naturally with migratory birds, or can be accidentally spread on contaminated footwear, clothing and equipment.

Practicing thorough biosecurity helps to reduce the risk of spreading the disease.

What to look for?

Symptoms in animals include:

- Sudden increase in dead wildlife
- Loss of coordination and balance
- Trembling head and body
- Lethargy
- Respiratory distress
- Twisting of head and neck
- Swollen head

What to do?

If you see dead or sick animals:

- **DON'T TOUCH** & Keep your distance
- Note the location and nature of your observations, take photos if possible
- Leave the area, ensuring that your boots and clothing are cleaned and disinfected as soon as possible
- **REPORT**



In rare cases Bird Flu can affect **people** as well as wildlife. Keep **pets** away from sick wildlife and carcasses.



**Report suspected cases to
the Veterinary Service**

T: 27366 (or 55366 out of hours)

E: birdflu@naturalresources.gov.fk

www.falklands.gov.fk/agriculture/avian-influenza

Biosecurity Checklist



1.) CHECK

Check your boots, outdoor clothing and equipment before you arrive and after leaving each location.

2.) CLEAN

Clean to remove seeds, soil, insects & dirt.

Washing outdoor clothes in the washing machine at 60 degrees will remove the bird flu virus. Scrub boots with a brush, then dip.



3.) DIP

Disinfect boots before you arrive and after leaving each location. Virkon is ideal, but if you don't have it add 35ml of bleach to 1 ltr of water. Washing footwear in seawater also helps.

4.) DRY

Where possible, let the disinfectant dry on – don't rinse! Virkon works much better once dried on, so dipping boots after your visit and before the next is really worthwhile.



5.) CHECK AGAIN

Just to be sure, check again before going out.

Being aware of biosecurity and of the health of our wildlife is the best way we can protect it.

When you arrive at a colony spend a few minutes checking for sick or dead animals before approaching. If you see signs of HPAI or are just unsure, back off, biosecure your boots and outdoor clothing ASAP and report your observations to the Veterinary Service.

THANK YOU!

By undertaking thorough biosecurity you have played your part in protecting the environment.



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