



Biosecurity for Poultry Keepers – Smallholders and Hobby Flocks

General Points

1. Avian influenza (AI) is a viral disease of birds – it is not pandemic human influenza. Poultry and humans may be exposed to avian influenza virus through direct contact with infected birds or indirectly by contact with faeces or discharges from infected birds. Exposure is not the same as infection – the current strain of avian influenza virus is very poor at establishing an infection in humans.
2. The virus can survive for relatively long periods (more than 30 days) in faeces and similar material.
3. You can protect your birds by preventing close contact with wild birds (waterfowl in particular) or their faeces.
4. You may be required, at short notice, to keep your birds housed for several weeks – consider now how this could be done and ensure that you have the materials necessary to allow you to do this.
5. Properly cooked poultry products are safe to eat.
6. Registering your flock now will help in any future disease outbreak (call freephone 0800 634 1112 for more information)
7. Additional information and links to key web sites are available on the SAC home web page (<http://www.sac.ac.uk>).

Protect your Birds

Minimise the opportunity for your birds to come into contact with wild birds or their faeces

- Enclose the birds in a run which is netted with 2.5cm (or smaller) mesh
- Do not feed and water your birds on range
- Do not allowing standing water or feed to be contaminated by wild birds

- Ensure that any footwear worn when working with your birds is not contaminated with bird faeces (eg use a disinfectant boot-dip or dedicated boots).
- Report excessive mortality to your veterinarian at the earliest opportunity

Protect yourself

Wash your hands thoroughly and avoid hand to mouth or hand to eye contact

- Wear appropriate protective clothing and a face mask if required
- Wash hands and, if necessary, arms before eating, drinking, smoking, using the telephone, taking medication, applying make-up, inserting contact lenses
- Avoid hand to mouth or hand to eye contact – e.g. don't put pens/pencils in mouths or wipe your eyes with your hand
- Cover cuts and grazes with a waterproof dressing and/or gloves before working with your poultry and treat any cuts that occur when working with your birds immediately.

Use the help line (08459 335577) to report dead wild birds

Monday-Sunday 06.00-22.00

Contact point: Nick Sparks. Avian Science Research Centre, SAC

T: 01292 525105

E: Nick.Sparks@sac.ac.uk

W: www.sac.ac.uk

Useful contact numbers

Defra Helpline: 0845 933 5577

Great Britain Poultry Register: 0800 634 1112

Animal Health Divisional Offices

Address	Telephone	email
AHDO, Russell House, King Street, Ayr, KA8 OBE	01292 268 525	A.H.Ayr@defra.gsi.gov.uk
AHDO, Cotgreen Road, Tweedbank, Galashiels, TD1 3SG	01896 758 806	A.H.Galashiels@defra.gsi.gov.uk
AHDO, Longman House, 28 Longman Road, Inverness, IV1 1SF	01463 253 098	A.H.Inverness@defra.gsi.gov.uk
AHDO, Thainstone Court, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire, AB51 5YA	01467 626 300	A.H.Inverurie@defra.gsi.gov.uk
AHDO, SEERAD, Strathearn House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive, Perth PH1 1RX	01738 602 211	A.H.Perth@defra.gsi.gov.uk

SAC Disease Surveillance Centres

Address	Telephone	email
SAC Veterinary Services, Mill of Craibstone, Bucksburn, Aberdeen AB21 9TB	01224 711 177	vcaberdeen@sac.co.uk
SAC Veterinary Services, Auchincruive, Ayr KA6 5AE	01292 520 318	vcayr@sac.co.uk
SAC Veterinary Services, St Mary's Industrial Estate, Dumfries DG1 1DX	01387 267 260	vcumfries@sac.co.uk
SAC Veterinary Services, Drummondhill, Stratherrick Road, Inverness IV2 4JZ	01463 243 030	vcinverness@sac.co.uk
SAC Veterinary Services, Allan Watt Building, Bush Estate, Penicuik, Midlothian EH26 0QE	0131 535 3130	vcedinburgh@sac.co.uk
SAC Veterinary Services, 5 Bertha Park View, Perth, PH13 FZE	01738 629 167	vcperth@sac.co.uk
SAC Veterinary Services, Greycrook, St Boswells, Roxburghshire TD6 0EU	01835 822 456	vcstboswells@sac.co.uk
SAC Veterinary Services, Janetstown, Thurso KW14 7XF	01847 892 602	vcthurso@sac.co.uk

Useful web addresses

Defra:-

FSA:

NHS - Health Protection Scotland:

SAC:

SEERAD:

www.defra.gov.uk

www.food.gov.uk/

www.show.scot.nhs.uk/scieh/

www.sac.ac.uk/

www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases