

# Preventing “Bird Flu” Is Top Priority

## Free Guide For Poultry And Bird Owners

(NAPSA)—The recent outbreaks of avian influenza (AI), better known as “bird flu,” in Asia, Europe and Africa increase the possibility of the disease entering the United States. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has created a guide in English and Spanish for people who raise poultry or exotic birds or have contact with wild birds describing the effects of bird flu and steps to prevent it.

Poultry or exotic bird owners who are concerned about avian influenza and other infectious bird diseases affecting their birds and/or those of their neighbors should request a **FREE** copy of USDA’s *Biosecurity Guide for Poultry and Bird Owners* at [www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity). This bilingual guide is an essential tool that can help prevent this infectious bird disease from affecting poultry flocks and exotic pet birds. All bird species are susceptible to contracting AI, making prevention a necessity.

Contained in the compact USDA guide is information bird owners can use on how to spot signs of illness, where to report sick or dying birds and how to practice biosecurity to keep birds safe from infectious diseases such as bird flu.

The booklet contains a handy pullout quick-reference guide and a state-by-state list of important phone numbers for reporting sick birds. It also contains color photos and illustrations to help bird and poultry owners identify the key signs of illness in their birds and



important steps they can take each day to ensure that AI doesn’t infect their flock.

USDA’s *Biosecurity for the Birds* guide is available now at [www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity). Bird owners may request a **FREE** copy of the guide for themselves or obtain one as a useful gift for a friend or relative. Using this new biosecurity handbook and practicing biosecurity are essential steps toward preventing disease from affecting poultry flocks or even pet birds. For additional information concerning avian diseases and to obtain a **FREE** handbook, you can log onto [www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/birdbiosecurity).