



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

BIOSECURITY GUIDELINES FOR
EXHIBITION
POULTRY

CLUB LOG BOOK

BIOSECURITY

EXHIBITION
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FORESTRY



BIOSECURITY



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INTRODUCTION

Exhibiting or showing poultry is a popular recreational activity in Australia enjoyed by people of all ages. Bird shows are a great opportunity for stud breeders and exhibitors to preserve the gene pool of pure breeds, compete for coveted titles and demonstrate the best that different breeds have to offer.

However, any gathering of birds carries the risk of spreading disease, particularly where there is close contact between birds from different flocks. Given the highly mobile nature of our community, with many exhibitors travelling long distances to different poultry shows across the country, our activities carry a real potential for quickly and easily spreading any diseases that might be present.

What is biosecurity?

‘Biosecurity’ describes the systems put in place to protect people, animals and ecological systems against disease and other biological threats. Biosecurity is achieved through the practices that aim to prevent the entry, establishment and spread of diseases.

Definitions

Poultry: in keeping with the National Farm Biosecurity Manual for Poultry Production, the term poultry as used throughout this manual is defined as: ‘Chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, ducks, geese, quails, pigeons, pheasants, partridges, ostriches and emus reared or kept in captivity’.

Tracing: the process of locating animals and people that may have been exposed to an infectious disease, with the purpose of advising them of their exposure and determining if their animals have been infected.



BIRD SHOW PARTICIPANTS AND ORGANISERS

What can bird exhibitors do?

1. All bird equipment and permanent carrying containers should be cleaned and disinfected before and after a show.
2. While at the show, exhibitors should not handle birds other than their own, but if this is necessary, exhibitors should always thoroughly wash their hands between birds.
3. On returning home, show birds should always undergo a period of quarantine before re-introduction to the flock.
4. Keep a register of all bird movements in and out of your premises, particularly to shows.
5. Do not take any birds to a show if there are signs of illness in your flock.

What can judges do?

Judges also handle many birds from different properties, and disinfecting clothing and hands between birds is not always possible. In these situations, viral diseases such as avian influenza, if present, could spread rapidly from one bird to the next. Judges should take care to keep their clothing and equipment clean, and disinfect hands between handling birds.

It is strongly recommended that judges should wash hands and, if possible, change their overcoat between judging of waterfowl and other poultry.

What can show organisers do?

Show organisers and club members can also do their part by keeping adequate records of exhibitors and birds attending shows and club meetings. This will be essential to aid tracing in the event of an outbreak of any emergency disease. Show organisers should:

1. Ensure whenever possible that different species are not displayed in the same pavilion - in particular, waterfowl should not be in the same area as pigeons, poultry or other birds. If only one pavilion is available, equipment should not be shared between the waterfowl exhibits and other poultry.
2. Ensure some separation between waterfowl, domestic fowl and other poultry in exhibition areas.
3. Ensure adequate hand-washing facilities are available in the exhibition area.
4. Ensure judges and stewards clean hands between handling of different exhibits.
5. Post signs in any area where animals are displayed to remind both visitors and exhibitors to wash their hands.
6. Reserve a quarantine area for sick birds if they cannot be removed from the show immediately after being recognised.
7. Use knowledgeable poultry keepers who can recognise disease to check birds on entry to exhibit areas. These people should then wash their hands before returning to the main poultry exhibition area.
8. Keep records of the names and addresses of exhibitors and people purchasing poultry at the show in case tracing of birds is required.
9. Request compulsory registration of all exhibitors with a poultry exhibition or breed association.
10. Consideration should be given to having a veterinarian present or contactable by telephone on the day(s) of the show.
11. Organisers may also wish to consider providing presentations on biosecurity principles for show employees, volunteers and participants.



FORMS

Pre-show Cleaning log

Date	Cleaning procedures applied at show venue
	Removal of: dust <input type="checkbox"/> faeces <input type="checkbox"/> cobwebs <input type="checkbox"/> feed <input type="checkbox"/>
	Cleaning with water plus/minus soap solutions <input type="checkbox"/>
	List any internal/external parasite treatments applied
	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
	Disinfectants used (please ensure disinfectants used on metal cages are suitable)

Rodent Control

Date	Time	Bait station site and level	Activity level	Corrective action / comments

Show Report

Date

Venue

Bedding type

Removed after show Yes No

Number of poultry

Number of pigeons

Number of waterfowl

Other

Isolation of species report (if required)

Pre-show bird inspection

Yes No

Personnel involved

Comments (If diseased birds are identified, complete report on following page)

Were hand washing facilities for judges and stewards provided

Yes No

If No, why not?

Were pen allocation masterbook and judges' books kept for future reference

Yes No

Comments

Veterinary Officer on stand-by

Yes No

Comments

Diseased and/or infested bird report

Pen number	Disease/infestation	Owner	Action taken	Signature

Rodent bait stations removed Yes No

Comments

General comment on biosecurity issues on the day

Report completed by

Position

Signature



Anecdotal Comments

Date	Comments
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