

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)

PHS/SPCA's Wildlife Care Center is mostly seeing ill or deceased Canada Geese, which we suspect might be infected with HPAI, but this bird influenza can affect other types of birds as well. PHS/SPCA will continue to accept wild animals for treatment and rehabilitation, and we have installed safety precautions to protect all of the animals in our care and prevent the spread of HPAI.

If you see a sick bird, please call PHS/SPCA at 650-340-7022. PHS/SPCA can also safely dispose of the remains of birds that have passed away due to HPAI. If you bring a deceased bird to us, please wear protective gloves, and if you have pet birds or chickens, you should not handle your birds until you sterilize your hands and change your clothes after coming into contact with deceased or ill birds. This influenza is extremely contagious and deadly to birds, including pet birds and chickens, but is not considered a risk to humans.

Additionally, you can report sick and dead wild birds to California Department of Fish & Wildlife using the Online Mortality at <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Laboratories/Wildlife-Health/Monitoring/Mortality-Report>

Clinical signs of HPAI can vary depending upon bird species and the strain type. In general, signs may include:

- Sudden death; increased mortality in a flock
- Neurological signs (tremors of head and neck, inability to stand, paralysis)
- Inappetence, lethargy, and/or diarrhea
- Difficulty breathing, sneezing, nasal discharge, and/or coughing
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, neck, and/or hocks; purple discoloration of legs