



## **AVIAN INFLUENZA**

### **BIRD GATHERINGS - BIOSECURITY BEST PRACTICE**

#### **Biosecurity best practice conditions to be applied**

- Show organisers must formulate a contingency plan for dealing with a disease incident at the show or nearby the show. This should include how to contact the nominated veterinary surgeon; the method of disposal for any birds, which may die during the show; how to contact the local Divisional Veterinary Office in the event of suspect Avian Influenza; arrangements must be in place to provide sufficient food and water at the premises for the duration of a complete disease investigation.
- All litter and manure within the cages, crates or baskets must be contained until disposal. Any spillages outside the cage to be cleansed and disinfected immediately.
- All litter and manure must be disposed of in a manner which does not present a risk of spread of the disease, e.g. in sealed bags for normal refuse collection in such a manner that other birds do not have direct access to it.
- All exhibitors/entrants must be instructed to cleanse and disinfect the show cages, crates or baskets before the event and be advised that they should be cleansed and disinfected on return to the home premises and before they are used to hold any other bird.
- Hands must be thoroughly washed after the event and before handling other birds

#### **Additional recommendations for Sales**

- Buyers must isolate the purchased bird(s) from any other birds (except those purchased at the same event) for at least one week. Any signs of ill health observed in the purchased bird(s) during this period must be reported to a veterinary surgeon and such birds must not be mixed with any other birds until the presence of an avian notifiable disease has been ruled out.

#### **Additional recommendations for permitted Pigeon races**

- The organiser of a pigeon show or race shall ensure that all racing pigeons taking part have been vaccinated against Paramyxovirus 1 infection in pigeons.
- Individual pigeons should be inspected for signs of disease before being mixed with pigeons from other lofts in crates or transport containers.
- All crates, baskets and pigeon containers used for transport, and holding birds prior to liberation must be cleansed and disinfected prior to and after the race.
- For a race within Northern Ireland or Republic of Ireland, birds returning to their loft more than 48 hours after the start of the race should be isolated for a minimum of 3 weeks. The period could be extended beyond 48 hours in exceptional circumstances such as where bad weather causes a delay to the return of a large number of birds.
- In all cases, if in isolation, birds should be inspected regularly and any signs of ill health notified to a veterinary surgeon.

#### **Additional recommendations for falconry events**

- To prevent contamination between birds from different sources, all boxes, cages

and equipment that might become contaminated such as gloves, hoods and perches must only be used for birds from one premise. Birds should not be handled with handling equipment belonging to birds from other premises.

- All participants in falconry activities shall, as far as is reasonably practicable, take any waste including food with them upon leaving the location of the falconry area. This must be disposed of in a manner which does not present a risk of spread of the disease, e.g. in sealed bags for normal refuse collection in such a manner that other birds do not have direct access to it.
- Falconers should cleanse and disinfect boxes, cages and perches used for the birds before the event, on return to the home premises and before they are used to hold any other bird.

**Contact your local Divisional Veterinary Office (tel: 0300 200 7840) for further advice on Biosecurity measures and any other legislation that may apply**