



Biosecurity Tips

FOR HANDLING WILD BIRDS

Wild birds can carry several diseases, including avian influenza. It's best to observe wildlife from a distance. That way, you are less likely to disturb the animal or pick up any germs it may carry.

If you do come into contact with wild birds, here are some basic precautions to take:

- Do not handle dead or obviously sick birds.
- Avoid contact with bird droppings and nests.
- Wash hands with soap and water, hand sanitizer, or alcohol wipes immediately after handling bird feeders or bird baths.
- If you have contact with wild birds, wash your hands with soap and water before you eat, drink, smoke, or rub your eyes.
- To dispose of a dead bird, pick it up with an inverted bag or disposable gloves. Place it in another plastic bag, and dispose of it in a trash can that is secure against access by children, pets, or animals.

Hunters should also follow routine precautions when handling wild birds. These include:

- Do not handle or consume game animals that are obviously sick or found dead.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke while cleaning game.
- Wear rubber gloves when cleaning game.
- Wash hands with soap and water, or alcohol wipes, immediately after handling game.
- Wash tools and working surfaces with soap and water and then disinfect them.
- Keep uncooked game in a separate container, away from cooked or ready-to-eat foods. Cook game meat thoroughly; poultry should reach an internal temperature of 165°F to kill disease organisms and parasites.

If you have any questions or concerns about wild birds, contact your local USDA Wildlife Services office at **1-866-4-USDA-WS**.

Media representatives may contact:

Public Affairs

USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)

(301) 851-4100



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