

A Quick Update on Avian Influenza & Animal Shelters

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CE Sign-In



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ASM Journals / Journal of Virology / Vol. 99, No. 4 / Highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1: history, current situation, and outlook

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Highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1: history, current situation, and outlook

Authors: Florian Krammer  , Enikő Hermann  , Angela L. Rasmussen   | [AUTHORS INFO & AFFILIATIONS](#)

<https://doi.org/10.1128/jvi.02209-24> •  Check for updates

H5N1 Influenza in Cats (and Dogs) Webinar

By [Scott Weese](#) on May 9, 2025

POSTED IN [CATS](#), [DOGS](#)

- [Veterinary webinar on H5N1 influenza in pets](#) (eligible for free CE credit)
- [Pet owner](#)

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The current public health risk from H5N1 bird flu remains low; however, risk depends on exposure, and people with exposure to animals infected with A(H5N1) viruses are at higher risk and should take additional precautions.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

trupanion
Pet & Public Health
EARLY WARNING & DETECTION SYSTEM

H5N1 BIRD FLU: WHAT WE KNOW NOW | [PETPUBLICHEALTH.ORG](https://petpublichealth.org)

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Are We on the Cusp of a Major Bird Flu Outbreak?

Scientists weigh in on the spread of H5N1 and highlight clues that portend what might come next

Influenza Background



Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)

EXPLORE TOPICS ▾

🔍 SEARCH

APRIL 30, 2024 [ESPAÑOL](#)

2020–2024 Highlights in the History of Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) Timeline

WHAT TO KNOW

- The below timeline gives a summary of significant HPAI and LPAI outbreaks in birds, infections in people, and events from 2020–2024.

Influenza Background

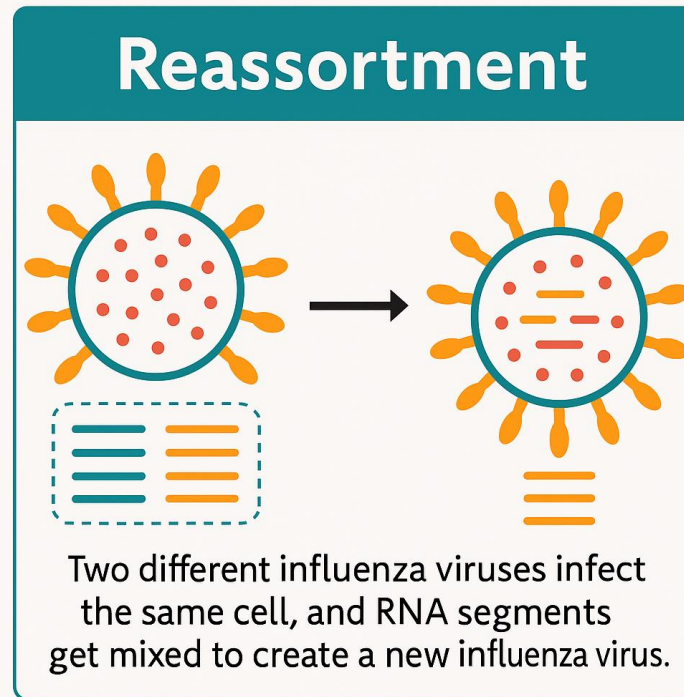
CDC Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)

EXPLORE TOPICS ▾

2020–2024 H5N1 Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)

WHAT TO KNOW

- The below timeline gives a snapshot of the situation as of April 30, 2024.



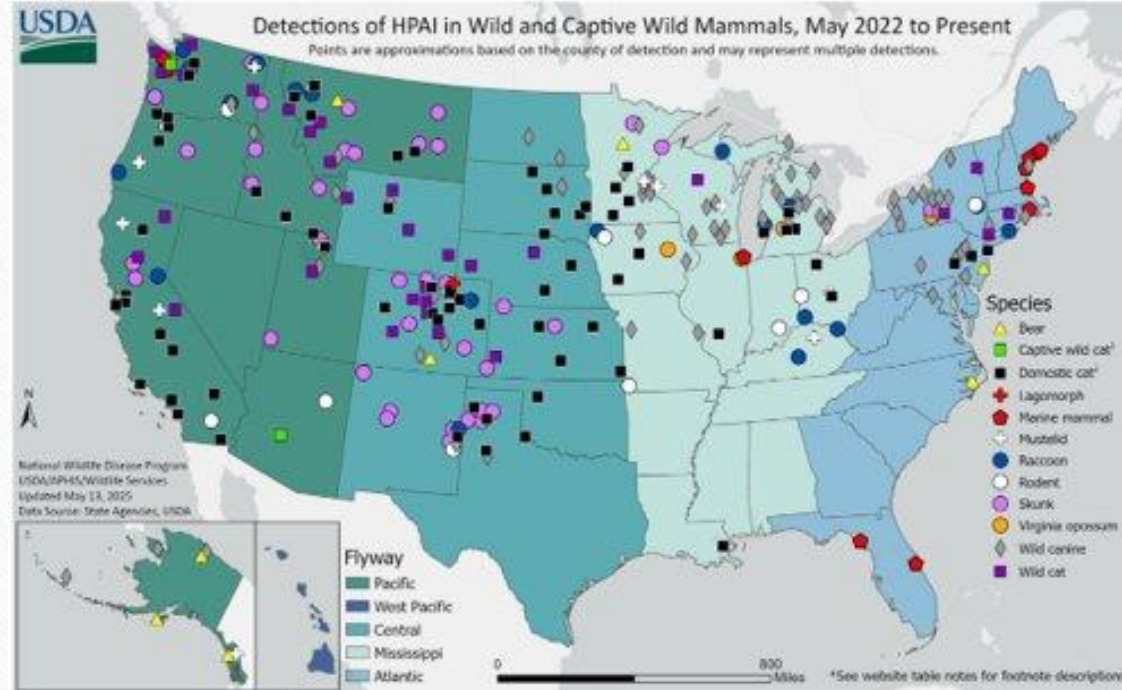
SEARCH

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of Avian

ions in people, and events from 2020–

Updates



...& Shelters

- Risk assessment:
 - Cats are the main species of concern; risk to dogs much less (now)
 - If you are a shelter handling birds, much higher risk of exposure
 - Remember that this is present in other mammals as well
- Decision making (when to suspect, test, and isolate)
 - History
 - Clinical signs→ rapid decline, loss of appetite, fever, acute neurologic signs, severe respiratory signs (which may include ocular and nasal discharge), blindness, GI signs, death
 - Differential diagnoses: rabies, FIP, panleukopenia, severe systemic disease, disease that causes neurologic signs

...& Shelters

- Biosecurity/ Human safety:
 - Isolation- preferably in a separate room
 - PPE
 - Use judiciously, but use it when you need it
 - Worry most about aerosolization and exposure to secretions
 - Sampling patients, intubation, etc.
 - Masks, eye covers/ face shields, gloves, gowns (“waist up” is most important)
 - Steer clear of raw

Diagnostic Testing

- Choose the right lab- reference labs, members of the National Veterinary Health Network
- Samples:
 - **Varies from lab to lab**
 - Nasal
 - Oropharyngeal swab
 - May ask for urine
 - Necropsy

Resources

- **Wisconsin Shelter Medicine H5N1 Guidance Document:**
<https://sheltermedicine.wisc.edu/recommendations-for-monitoring-and-response-to-possible-infections-with-avian-influenza-type-a-h5n1-in-cats-for-shelters-rescues-and-access-to-care-clinics/>
- **University of Florida Shelter Medicine Program H5N1 page:**
<https://sheltermedicine.vetmed.ufl.edu/2025/02/10/h5n1-avian-influenza-resources-for-shelters-rescues-and-access-to-care-clinics/>
- **Worms and Germs Blog:** <https://www.wormsandgermsblog.com/>
- **MN Department of Health- Guidance Document**
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/flu/current/factsheetforfetclinics.pdf>

Questions?



Evaluation



THANK YOU!