

HPAI-infections (Bird flu) in Europe

In several countries in Europe, first wild birds and afterwards domestic poultry died of the H5N8 type of the avian influenza virus. This type is, according to current knowledge, not transferable to humans. On pigeons it was only transferable under laboratory conditions. Domestic however can contaminate turkeys, guinea fowl and all other gallinaceous birds as well as ducks and geese. We recommend EE-members to refrain from housing new birds, to avoid contact with other populations and especially wild birds and to report abrupt and sudden deaths to the veterinary authorities.

The control of the bird flu, which can have an epidemic course, is exclusively the responsibility of the relevant national authorities and based on relevant national laws. Therefore the measures taken can be different in the European countries. Because of the great risk of spreading this bird disease caused by highly contagious viruses, we recommend that the measures taken by the local authorities are strictly respected. Unfortunately the EE does not have any possibility to intervene on such measures. Also the lifting of the preventive measures such as obligated indoor housing or protection zones, is also decided by the different countries, based on the further course of the infection.

The Presidium of the EE hopes that, in the interests of our breeders and their birds, in January 2017 exhibitions can take place again.

Pr. Dr. Hans-Joachim Schille

President of the Animal health and welfare committee