



ANIMAL WELFARE STATEMENT

The Mudgeeraba Agricultural Show has a proud history of educating people about agriculture. Animals play an integral role in achieving this aim and as such, Mudgeeraba Agricultural Show holds a duty of care to support the welfare of all animals whilst on Mudgeeraba Showgrounds property.

The Mudgeeraba Agricultural Show takes seriously its responsibility to provide people and facilities which promote good animal welfare. Accordingly, all animals are:

- Provided with fresh water and adequate nutrition;
- Housed in comfortable surrounds with adequate space;
- Monitored for pain, injury and disease, and treated or relieved of suffering where necessary;
- Managed in such a way as to minimise stress and exhaustion; and
- Free from any drugs which modify their behaviour or mask harmful health conditions.

Care of animals on Mudgeeraba Showgrounds property is underpinned by relevant State animal welfare legislation and codes of practice/standards and guidelines specifying requirements of their transportation, exhibition and management.

Recognising the critical role people play in ensuring animal welfare, Mudgeeraba Agricultural Show ensures that its officials and volunteers are suitably trained and experienced in providing for the welfare of animals, and are supported in their roles to identify and address concerns.

All owners and/or appointed guardians of animals on Mudgeeraba Showgrounds property are reminded of their duty of care to take all reasonable measures to ensure the welfare of their animals.

Whilst observing community values and expectations pertaining to animal welfare, the Mudgeeraba Agricultural Show strives to safeguard the rights of animal owners, exhibitors, competitors and officials and volunteers.

Mudgeeraba Show Society will promptly and actively respond to animal welfare incidents should they arise and engages with relevant stakeholders from time to time to ensure standards and practices are subject to continuous improvement.

Mudgeeraba Show Society's underlying principle in relation to animal welfare is to promote education and exhibition through animal-human interaction, without compromising the welfare of animals or their patrons' enjoyment and learning experience.



Avian influenza

Advice for birds shows

Australia remains the only continent free from the high pathogenicity avian influenza (HPAI) strain H5N1 and ongoing vigilance and surveillance is required.

The emergence of the HPAI H5N1 strain overseas has led to extensive losses of poultry and wild birds and mammals, particularly marine mammals and mammals that prey or scavenge on birds.

There is an increased risk that this severe strain of HPAI will enter Australia.

What is avian influenza?

Avian influenza is an infectious disease of birds caused by influenza A viruses.

Avian influenza virus strains are classified into two categories depending on the severity of disease in poultry:

- High pathogenicity strains (HPAI), which can cause severe clinical signs of disease and potentially high death rates among poultry.
- Low pathogenicity strains (LPAI) which typically cause few or mild clinical signs.

In Australia, wild birds usually waterfowl (e.g. ducks, geese, swans), seabirds and shorebirds carry LPAI viruses without showing signs of disease.

LPAI viruses can spillover and spread from wild birds to kept birds and reassort (mutate) to HPAI viruses. All previous outbreaks of HPAI in poultry in Australia, including the recent H7 outbreaks in Victoria, New South

Wales and Australian Capital Territory, are linked to these spillover events.

Risk from migratory birds

August to November is considered a high-risk period as large numbers of migratory shorebirds are arriving in Australia. However, waterfowl could arrive all year-round, so ongoing vigilance is needed.

Ensure kept birds do not contact wild birds or their droppings, and that wild birds cannot access their food or water.

What should you do?

- **LOOK** for signs of avian influenza in your birds
- **REPORT** suspect cases to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23, or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 immediately
- **PROTECT** animals in your care.

What to LOOK for?

Infected birds can show a wide range of clinical signs including:

- lack of coordination, tremors, swimming in circles
- twisted necks or other abnormal posture
- inability to stand or fly
- diarrhoea
- difficulty breathing, coughing or sneezing
- swelling of the head, neck and eyes
- cloudiness or change in colour of eyes
- sudden death.



How do I REPORT?

If you suspect avian influenza in any species of animal, you must report it to Biosecurity Queensland on 13 25 23 or the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888 (available 24/7). This is a legal requirement under the Biosecurity Act 2014.

How do I PROTECT my birds?

Any gathering of birds carries the risk of spreading disease, particularly where there is contact between birds from different flocks.

Exhibitors should:

- not take any birds to a show if there are signs of illness in their flock
- avoid handling birds other than their own, unless they thoroughly wash and, ideally, disinfect their hands between birds
- not share equipment between birds from different sources unless it has been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected
- clean and disinfect all equipment, cages and containers before and after a show
- ensure all birds returning home undergo a period of quarantine before re-introduction to the flock
- discard any leftover feed, used floor coverings (e.g. sawdust, straw) or other material at the end of the show in a way that avoids contact with other birds (kept or wild).

Bird show organisers should:

- have a biosecurity plan in place bit.ly/4eAqEsR
- have a veterinarian in attendance or contactable
- ensure any bird that becomes sick at an event is isolated and is assessed by a veterinarian

- where possible, different species of birds should be kept separate. In particular, waterfowl should not be displayed near pigeons, poultry or other birds
- ensure show birds cannot come into contact with wild birds, and wild birds cannot access feed and water
- ensure judges thoroughly wash and, ideally, disinfect their hands between handling birds.

Human health

Although avian influenza viruses do not normally infect humans, some strains have been associated with disease in humans.

Standard infection-control practices should always be implemented when handling animals, regardless of the perceived risk.

At a minimum, hand, equipment and facility hygiene and care with movement of animals and other items from one location to another should be applied to all interactions with animals.

For more information

- Avian influenza – Biosecurity QLD bit.ly/3TGG1YV
- National Biosecurity Manual - Exhibition poultry <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/pests-diseases-weeds/protect-animal-plant/bird-owners/national-biosecurity-manual-exhibition-poultry>
- Create a biosecurity management plan - Business bit.ly/4eAqEsR
- Watch the video, which provides an overview of exhibition bird biosecurity: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTkr72FMN84>