

## VIRULENT NEWCASTLE DISEASE

### INFORMATION FOR BIRD OWNERS



*Virulent Newcastle Disease (VND) has been found in Southern California. It is a contagious disease of birds, including chickens.*

#### WHAT KINDS OF BIRDS GET VND?

All birds can be infected with VND. In most cases the disease will kill chickens. Other birds may not get sick but can still spread the disease to chickens and other pet birds.

#### HOW IS VND SPREAD?

The disease is spread by direct contact between birds, by coughing and sneezing, and through droppings. People can spread VND by moving infected birds, moving equipment and feed, and by wearing clothing and shoes that have been in infected areas.

#### DOES VND INFECT PEOPLE?

Properly cooked meat and eggs from infected birds are safe to eat. In rare cases, people in extremely close contact with infected birds may get a mild fever, and redness and swelling in the area around the eyes. These symptoms usually go away without medical treatment.

#### WHAT DOES VND LOOK LIKE IN BIRDS?

There may be swelling around the eyes, a purplish swelling of the wattle and comb, a large amount of fluid coming from the beak and nasal areas, a twisting of the neck and head, a loss of appetite, diarrhea, and sometimes sudden death.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP

- *If you think your birds are sick please immediately call the **Sick Bird Hotline at: 866-922-2473.***
- *Keep your birds away from other birds.*
- *If you visit family or friends with birds, shower, wash your clothes, and change your shoes before handling your birds.*
- *Don't visit them without taking these same steps if you have handled your birds.*
- *Try to keep people who also own birds from visiting your property*
- *Share information about VND with family and friends*

#### How to Protect Your Birds

- Wash hands and scrub boots before and after entering an area with birds
- Avoid sharing equipment; clean and disinfect equipment and tires before moving them between properties
- Isolate any bird returning from shows for 30 days before placing them with the rest of the flock
- Do not bring any new birds on to your property as long as the disease is in California.