



Exotic Newcastle Disease in California Poultry

Update – March 19, 2003

Exotic Newcastle Disease (END) was diagnosed in backyard poultry flocks in Southern California on October 1, 2002. END is a very serious contagious and often fatal viral disease that affects most species of birds ([LINK - END Fact Sheet](#)). Birds with END may have respiratory, nervous, or gastrointestinal signs, but birds may die without showing any signs. Some bird species can be infected without showing signs of disease and spread the disease to other birds with fatal consequences.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) are currently working to eradicate END. The disease is in backyard and commercial poultry in **Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura Counties**. END has also been diagnosed in **Clark County in Nevada** and **La Paz County in Arizona**. Officials are going door-to-door to find sick birds in affected areas and tracing birds into and out of infected flocks.

Exotic Newcastle Disease is not a public health threat and does not affect the safety of poultry or eggs.

The exhibition of poultry is prohibited throughout California ([LINK to quarantine notice](#)).

Poultry species (chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, grouse, partridges, pheasants, quail, guinea fowl, pea fowl, doves, pigeons, swans, and ratites) cannot be exhibited in California*.

**An exhibition of poultry is any event, gathering or activity where live poultry from various sources are brought together for public display, competitive or non-competitive showing, inspection, trade, or sale, at venues that include, but are not limited to, auctions, bird shows, fair exhibits, feed stores, hardware stores, pet marts, pet stores, petting zoos, swap meets, and individual residences.*

Owners of all birds in the eight counties of Southern California are prohibited from moving birds and bird products out of that area without a permit from the USDA ([LINK - USDA Notice for bird owners](#)).

END Task Force Offices
South Coast: Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Kern, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Orange, San Diego 1-800- 491-1899
Inland Desert: Riverside, San Bernardino, Imperial 909-430-0850
Central California: All other counties 209-558-5637

Birds, bird products, and END-exposed materials cannot be moved out of Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Ventura, Orange, Santa Barbara, and Imperial counties.

Any gathering of birds increases the risk of spreading disease. No birds of any species should be gathered, moved into or moved within Southern California.

Quarantines will remain in effect until END has been eradicated from California. Anyone who violates the quarantine is civilly liable in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

- Over 1,304 people are working in California to eradicate this disease.
- 13,932 premises have been quarantined (birds are not allowed to leave these premises); investigations are ongoing.
- 2,376 of these premises contained birds infected with or exposed to END; all birds in these flocks have been or will be humanely destroyed. All affected premises are being cleaned and disinfected after the birds have been removed.
- 20 of these are commercial poultry facilities.
- 3,175,266 birds have been humanely destroyed
- Owners are being compensated at “fair market value” for birds that are destroyed.
- Owners will be allowed to restock birds after there is no risk of them being reinfected with END.

CDFA Animal Health Branch Offices
Sacramento (HQ) 916-654-1447
Modesto 209-491-9350
Ontario 909-947-4462
Redding 530-225-2140
Tulare 559-685-3500
United States Department of Agriculture
916-857-6170 or 877-741-3690

Call 1-800-491-1899 for more information and to report suspicious cases

Educational materials are also available in Spanish and other languages as needed

Visit our Web Site at: www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/Newcastle_info.htm