



Exotic Newcastle Disease in Backyard Poultry in California

December 11, 2002

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 to END – Information for Bird Owners 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 conducting an eradication campaign for END. The disease is restricted to backyard poultry in Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. Officials are going door-to-door to find sick birds in affected areas and tracing birds into and out of infected flocks.

Commercial poultry are not involved in this outbreak. Exotic Newcastle Disease is not a public health threat and does not affect the safety of poultry or eggs.

A regional quarantine ([LINK to Quarantine Notice](#)) is in place to prevent the spread of Exotic Newcastle Disease. This quarantine affects poultry exhibitions and owners of birds (listed species) within the quarantined area ([LINK to map](#)).

Bird Species Under Quarantine

Chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, grouse, partridges, pheasants, quail, guinea fowl, peafowl (peacocks), doves, pigeons, swans, and ratites (emus, ostriches, rheas, etc.).

Owners of any species of birds affected by the quarantine are prohibited from moving birds out of the quarantined area.

Shows and sales of poultry within the quarantined area are **only** permitted if the event manager has a signed compliance agreement with the CDFA. Poultry that enter the quarantined area for exhibition or sale are **NOT** permitted to leave the area.

Any gathering of birds increases the risk of spreading disease. It is strongly recommended that no birds of any species be moved into, within, or out of the quarantined area. This quarantine will remain in effect until Exotic Newcastle Disease has been eradicated from California. Anyone who violates the quarantine is civilly liable in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

- Over 456 people are working to eradicate this disease.
- 2,492 backyard premises have been quarantined (i.e., birds are not allowed to leave these premises); investigations are ongoing.
- 536 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.
- 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
www.cdfa.ca.gov	

United States Department of Agriculture
916-857-6170 or 877-741-3690

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

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