

## Recommendations for the Isolation/Quarantine of Poultry: A Guide for Backyard Poultry Owners

### Quarantine

Restricts the movement of birds to prevent potential spread of disease

### Isolation

- Separates birds that are sick with a contagious disease from animals that are not sick
- Separates new birds that are being introduced to a flock

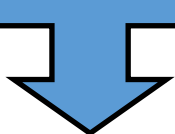
### Why isolate/quarantine new birds?

- Prevent the spread of disease between new birds and current flock
- Birds can harbor and transmit disease while appearing healthy
- Birds that appear healthy when leaving a location may pick up infectious disease en route
- Isolation gives owners and veterinarians time to observe new birds for signs of disease
- Newly added birds have time to recover and acclimate to a new environment after movement

### When should you isolate/quarantine?

- *Immediately* upon arrival of any bird from another location (off-site)
- Prevent movement of birds on/off property during an outbreak of Newcastle disease, avian influenza, or other contagious diseases

Set up Isolation/  
Quarantine Area



### Step 1: Set up an isolation/quarantine area

- Set up a separate quarantine area more than 10 meters (approx. 33 feet) from other birds
- Only use equipment designated for this area (e.g. water dishes, food, cleaning equipment, cages)
- Set up disinfectant stations; change clothes and shoes before entry and exit from the area (see *Cleaning and Disinfecting* handout)

Bird  
Care



### Step 2: Bird care

- Have all birds enter and leave quarantine at the same time
- Examine quarantined birds and feces for signs of disease on a daily basis
- Keep a daily log of birds and note down if any unusual symptoms are seen
- Make sure to visit these birds as a last step after caring for other birds that are not in your designated quarantine area
- Acclimate birds to your bird management routine (e.g. vaccination, feeding, etc.)

Length of Time  
in Isolation/  
Quarantine

### Step 3: Length of time in isolation/quarantine area

- 30 days free of illness
- 90 days if birds come from different sources
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect the area after birds are removed



For more information, call the Sick Bird Hotline at (866) 922-2473 or visit:

[https://www.cdфа.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal\\_Health/Avian\\_Health\\_Program.html](https://www.cdфа.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Avian_Health_Program.html)