Exhibition Biosecurity

SMALL FLOCKS COLLABORATIVE

Taking your birds to a fair or show is exciting, but it can also be risky. Birds coming together from different places increases risk for disease spread to your flock. Make sure to purchase exhibition birds from credible sources that participated in disease-free programs. Watch for these common signs of illness before, during, and after an event: decreased energy, ruffled feathers, joint or face swelling, coughing, nose or eye discharge, or itching, and loss of feathers.

Before the Event

Have Dedicated Shoes

Shoes can carry germs, so it's important to wear a dedicated pair when working with your birds.

Keep Wildlife Out

House birds indoors or in secure enclosures to keep wild birds, mice, and other pests out that can spread disease.

Read the Show Book

Know the health requirements, arrival times, and event instructions.

Check for Bugs Early

Start checking and treating for lice and mites a month or more before the show. Look under the tail and wings, and along the back and neck.

Leave Sick Birds at Home

Leave birds showing signs of illness at home. Isolate them and contact your veterinarian. Do not bring sick birds to the fair.

During the Event

Transport with Care

Bring birds in carriers that keep them safe and at a comfortable temperature. Use ice packs in the carriers to keep birds cool in the heat.

Arrive Early

Give yourself time to check in, set up, and get your birds settled before any important events.

Wash Hands Often

Clean your hands regularly, especially after handling birds or gear.

Clean Daily

Clean cages and feeders daily. Don't share equipment with other exhibitors.

Keep Your Distance

Limit contact between your birds and others. This helps to stop the spread of disease.

After the Event

Separate Show Birds

Keep returning birds away from your home flock for three weeks or more. Watch them closely for signs of illness or parasites. Care for the home flock first each day.

Clean Everything Again

Disinfect all cages, gear, clothes, and shoes before using them at home. Always wash your hands after handling show birds, especially before touching your home flock.

Keep an Eye Out

If birds look sick, contact a veterinarian or poultry expert. If you see any signs of avian influenza, call your state animal health official right away.

Find out more at
www.healthybirds.info