

Active prevention among animals

In relation to poultry

- Avoid contact between domestic poultry and wild birds, protect watering holes and feed troughs with fences or nets.
- Quarantine (the optimal period is 3 weeks) birds recently introduced or reintroduced (ex: unsold animals returning from markets) before mixing them with the flock on the farm.
- When there is an abnormally high mortality rate among bird stock, immediately alert the closest veterinarian or veterinary services.
- Farming birds in single-age flocks allows better control of disease in general.
- Although the advantages of vaccination in general are well known, the ideal vaccine against H5N1 does not yet exist. In effect, certain vaccines in circulation were made from an inactive strain of H5N2.
 - Cross protection with the H5N1 virus therefore is not perfect, and the inactive character of the vaccine leads to an immunity of short duration. To obtain a satisfactory level of protection, two initial injections are required, followed by regular booster injections among birds with long life spans (laying hens, breeding birds). This treatment is expensive and involves repeated handling of the animals. Such practices are possible on modern farms, but are problematic for smallholders in Asia or Africa with free-ranging birds.
 - The vaccine protects the bird against the disease, but does not guarantee that the wild HPAI H5N1 virus will not replicate itself in the digestive system of the bird if the vaccinated bird was exposed to the infection. Such a bird could then disseminate the virus and contaminate other birds that were not vaccinated.



*Poultry stall in a
Vietnamese market, 2003
Jean-Charles Maillard,
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In relation to other animals

- Separate the different species raised on the farm (e.g., ducks, pigs).
- Avoid contact with other animals, notably dogs, cats, and rodents.
- Follow closely the recommendations of the veterinary services concerning confinement and vaccination.



Meeting of pigs, chickens, and a dog over waste water in Madagascar, 2005 - Renaud Lancelot, © Cirad

In relation to material, equipment, and vehicles

- Do not allow soiled material, equipment, or vehicles to enter the farm.
- Material and equipment should be cleaned and disinfected regularly (egg trays, cages...).
- Avoid using materials that are difficult to disinfect (wood, fibers...).
- Control the origin of water and food that may be a source of contamination.



Donkey transporting a nomadic Peul shepherd's camp in Niger; 2006 Alexandre Caron, © Cirad