

24<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**ALERT: With H5 BIRD FLU NOW DETECTED IT IS NOW TIME TO BE VIGILANT – PARTICULARLY WITH YOUR PET CATS.**

**H5 BIRD FLU CAN AFFECT CATS. PROTECT THEM. KEEP THEM SAFE.**

**Avian Influenza (H5 bird flu) primarily affects birds, but it can infect cats through contact with infected birds or contaminated environments.**

#### **SYMPTOMS TO WATCH FOR**

Seek urgent veterinary attention if your cat shows any of the following:

- Sudden lethargy or weakness
- Loss of appetite
- Fever
- Coughing, sneezing or difficulty breathing
- Discharge from eyes or nose
- Vomiting or diarrhoea
- Neurological signs (tremors, incoordination, seizures)
- Sudden death without illness or collapse

#### **HOW TO PROTECT YOUR CAT**

- Keep cats indoors or fully contained on your property
- Use secure cat runs / catios and enclosed outdoor enclosures
- Prevent hunting of birds
- Do not let your cat catch or eat wild birds
- Wash hands after handling birds or bird droppings
- Report sick or dead wild birds to relevant wildlife authorities

**Note: Unless future positive detections are announced within Australian poultry there is currently no risk from feeding your raw poultry product.**

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**WHY CONFINEMENT MATTERS NOW MORE THAN EVER** Free-roaming cats are at a much higher risk of exposure to H5 bird flu. Keeping your cat indoors or safely contained significantly reduces exposure and injury risks. Cats need secure housing and care now more than ever.

#### **YOUR CHOICES TODAY WILL SECURE THEIR TOMORROW.**

**While currently this is important for cats in Western Australia it may become vital if the virus does spread. So get prepared now to keep your cats healthy, happy and safe.**

**Need help transitioning your cat indoors or creating a safe space? Send us an email and our Cat Representative can provide more information. Email: [cats@animalcareaustralia.org.au](mailto:cats@animalcareaustralia.org.au)**