

27th June, 2026

H5N1 tips for dog walkers

To protect your dog and prevent the spread of H5 bird flu, always keep your dog on a leash in coastal, wetland, or park areas. Actively steer them away from dead or sick wildlife, feathers, and droppings. The virus can be transmitted to mammals that scavenge or hunt infected birds

Actionable Tips for Dog Walkers

- **Keep Dogs Leashed:** Maintain strict control of your dog, especially near beaches, wetlands, or estuaries where migratory birds congregate. This prevents them from chasing or catching sick birds.
- **Avoid Scavenging:** Prevent your dog from sniffing, mouthing, or eating any dead or sick birds, marine life, or other wild animals.
- **Clean and Disinfect:** Wipe down your dog's paws and wash their bedding when you get home. It is a good practice to wash your own hands and clothing with soap and warm water immediately after returning.

What to Do If You Spot Sick Wildlife

If you encounter multiple sick or dead wild birds or animals, **do not touch them or let your dog get close.** Instead, follow the "Avoid - Record - Report" protocol:

1. **Avoid** contact and keep your dog away.
2. **Record** the location, number, and type of animal, and take photos if safe to do so.
3. **Report** the incident immediately to the national **Emergency Animal Disease Hotline** on **1800 675 888.**

When to Call the Vet

If you suspect your dog has eaten or come into direct contact with a sick bird, keep them separated from other animals or children. Monitor closely for the following symptoms and consult your veterinarian immediately:

- Difficulty breathing or coughing
- Neurological signs like tremors, seizures, or uncoordinated movement
- Swelling around the head, neck, and eyes
- Lethargy, diarrhea, or a sudden fever

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

YOUR CHOICES TODAY WILL SECURE THEIR TOMORROW.

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