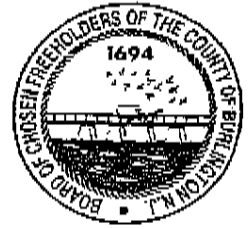


Board of Chosen Freeholders
County of Burlington
New Jersey



Burlington County Health Dept.
Raphael Meadow Health Center
15 Pioneer Boulevard, Westampton
P.O. Box 6000
Mount Holly, N.J. 08060

Tele: (609) 265-5548
Fax: (609) 265-5541

N-O-T-I-C-E OF Q-U-A-R-A-N-T-I-N-E

July 2, 2004

Mr. Jack Lantz
Bird Paradise
551 Route 130
Burlington City, New Jersey 08016

Dear Mr. Lantz:

On June 24, 2004, the Infectious and Zoonotic Diseases Program, of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services issued a letter regarding various cleaning and sanitization procedures due to a reported case of psittacosis in a bird purchased from the Bird Paradise facility. The Infectious and Zoonotic Diseases Program issued a recommendation based on the preliminary information. Since that time two (2) other cases have associated with the facility and now it appears as though several other birds may be infected/carriers according to preliminary data.

This Notice of Quarantine is required until such time as the quarantine has been lifted or the time period has expired as indicated. No birds can be sold from the facility or brought into the facility during the quarantine period.

You may however transport the current birds to another acceptable location for quarantine. This facility should be approved by your Veterinarian in writing. Clean the existing facility as specified. Have it inspected when ready by one of our Department's Communicable Disease personnel. After cleaning, inspection and approval, you may begin to re-supply the facility with new birds in accordance with existing regulations. If this course of action is chosen, cleaning of the cages and facility at the selected quarantine location will also be required. You may continue in operation with your other non-bird business.

Psittacosis is a disease of birds, which can be transmitted to humans. The organism

causing the disease is shed in the nasal discharges and feces of infected birds; other birds and people become infected by inhaling air contaminated with the dust from bird droppings or feathers. The organism can remain infectious in dried feces for many months. Do not dry sweep. Spray misting and wetting of any fecal material and debris is recommended prior to removal. The use of household bleach (5.6% sodium hypochlorite) disinfecting solution will kill the organism. Mix 2/3 cup bleach per gallon of water; apply solution after scrubbing debris off of surfaces with a cleanser; allow to sit 15 minutes; rinse. Personnel cleaning cages or handling infected birds should be instructed to wear protective clothing, gloves, and a respirator.

All birds in your facility, are to be quarantined and not sold until they complete a course of treatment, as detailed below:

1. Consult your veterinarian regarding the treatment of birds currently in your pet shop that may have been exposed. Any birds in the same air space as the affected bird(s) would be considered to be exposed, as well as new birds exposed to secondary or tertiary contacts of the index case. A course of preventive treatment is required for all exposed birds.
 - a. large birds - 45 days treatment with medicated feed, medicated water, oral doxycycline, injectable doxycycline or injectable oxytetracycline; and
 - b. small birds (budgerigars, canaries, and ricebirds only) - 30 days chlortetracycline impregnated millet seed, doxycycline medicated feed, or chlortetracycline pellets.

If birds are treated with medicated feed, it should be the main diet supplied to the birds during this time period, although small amounts of finely diced low calcium fruits (e.g., nectarines, apples, bananas, peaches, blueberries, cranberries, grapefruits, grapes, strawberries) or vegetables (corn, asparagus, peas, lettuce) may be added to increase palatability of the diet. Birds should not receive calcium supplements during this time period, as calcium interferes with the absorption of the medication. Vitamins without calcium may be administered.

PLEASE NOTE: tetracycline in the drinking water WILL NOT eliminate the disease in budgerigars.

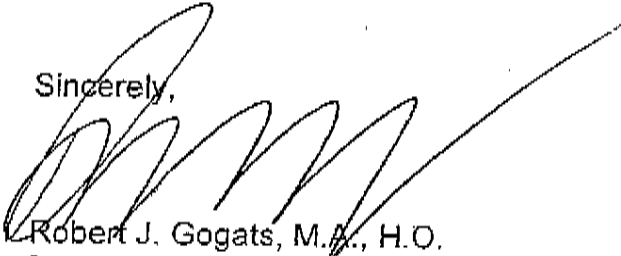
2. Thoroughly cleanse and sanitize (with bleach) all surfaces in the same air space as the affected bird and other exposed birds, and continue to clean and sanitize this area on a regular basis. Droppings and feather dust should be moistened prior to removal to minimize aerosolization.
3. The symptoms of psittacosis (fever, headache, chills, muscle aches,

(cough) should be explained to your employees, and any employee having such symptoms should be advised to consult their physician and inform him/her that they may have been exposed to psittacosis.

A letter from your veterinarian to our department indicating that treatment has been administered under his or her supervision will be required before the birds will be released from quarantine.

You or your veterinarian may contact me at (609) 265-5548 if there are any questions regarding this matter.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Gogats, M.A., H.O.
Public Health Coordinator

c: Colin T. Campbell, D.V.M.
Barbara Gibson, MD
Mayor Darlene A. Scocca

