



Organisation
Mondiale
de la Santé
Animale

World
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Organización
Mundial
de Sanidad
Animal

Director General

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General President
Dr Carlos Fernando RAMÔA
Confédération Ornithologique Mondiale
Avenida do Mar, 109
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PORTUGAL

Dear Dr Ramoa,

I acknowledge with thanks your letter of 17 April 2017 (Ref. PG2017.23) seeking advice from the OIE on the effects of avian influenza virus on birds belonging to the orders Passeriformes, Psittaciformes and Columbiformes.

I note with interest the objectives of your organization and the role it plays in ensuring that health and sanitary regulations are respected in fancy bird keeping, including pet and ornamental birds.

With regard to your specific questions, I would like to point out that Chapter 10.4 of the OIE *Terrestrial Animal Health Code* provides for provisions that deal with infection of avian influenza viruses in poultry only. Poultry has a specific definition in the Code: *all domesticated birds, including backyard poultry, used for the production of meat or eggs for consumption, for the production of other commercial products, for restocking supplies of game, or for breeding these categories of birds, as well as fighting cocks used for any purpose.*

Birds that are kept in captivity, for any other purpose other than those referred to in the preceding paragraph, including those that are kept for shows, races, exhibitions, competitions or for breeding or selling these categories of birds are excluded from the chapter.

In view of this, we circulated your questions to the avian influenza experts within the OIE/FAO Network of Expertise on animal influenza for their advice. The general feedback received was that birds kept in strict captivity pose lower risk compared to poultry but susceptibility varies among these species and reports of natural infections exist in certain species.

Please refer to a book entitled "Animal Influenza", 2nd Edition, Nov. 2016, David E. Swayne (Editor) and the attached literature references shared by the experts to gain more insight on the risk of avian influenza infection in these species.

I acknowledge the challenges faced by your institution in dealing with trade of caged and aviary bird species and believe that the unjustified trade restrictions could be avoided if the Veterinary Services of importing countries properly implemented the OIE standards. In this context, I would like to assure you that the OIE continues to advocate to its Member Countries to implement the standards that they have democratically adopted and would encourage you to continue your ongoing liaison with Veterinary Services in the countries with which your members trade and draw their attention to the relevant OIE standards.

I trust that this information is of value to you and appreciate your willingness to assist with knowledge gaps on this subject.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Monique Eloit

Cc. M. Stone, G. Pavade, T. Brand, A. Backhouse, J. Myong Lee