Avian Influenza Animation

Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy NAQS

Disclaimer
This animation may upset some viewers because it can impact totems, birds of cultural significance, and the health of Country.

One day off the coast of Northern Australia, a group of friends are fishing. Not far off, Jim notices a shore bird struggling, then wobbling and finally it collapses to the ground.

Jim jumps up to get a closer look, but Pam stops him, telling him that that bird may have a highly infectious virus called Avian Influenza. Seeing Jim's surprise, Pam explains that the birds migrating between countries can carry the Avian Influenza virus.

Lately, a nasty strain of this virus has been causing trouble globally affecting chickens, wild birds, and other animals, including mammals such as dolphins and seals. Luckily, Australia doesn't have the strains, but there is a risk migratory birds could bring in the virus.

Jim and his friends learn that people occasionally catch the virus from handling infected birds. To stay safe, Pam advises, they keep their distance and avoid contact with sick birds. Avian influenza may look like one sick or dead bird, or many.

It affects ducks, migratory shore birds, sea birds, birds of prey, and domestic birds like chickens. The group soon notices more sick birds, some wobbling others already lying down. Alarmed, they ask Pam what to do next.

She tells them too, Avoid! Record! Report!

Avoid contact with sick or dead birds. Record the time, date, location of the sighting. If you can, take some photos or videos, and report to the relevant authorities as soon as possible.

You can also report your findings to a ranger, biosecurity officer, government vet, or trusted adult.

Let's help protect Australia from the Avian Influenza virus, so keep a TopWatch! and report any unusual signs or behaviours in wildlife, including any sick birds or increasing number of bird deaths in the area.

Call the Emergency Animal Disease Hotline on 1800 675 888

This animation was made possible by the Northern Australia Biosecurity Strategy.

Biosecurity is everyone’s business.