



What is Psittacosis?

- Avian Psittacosis, also known as Chlamydiosis, is a bacterial disease that affects a wide variety of bird species. It is communicable disease that can be transmitted from birds to humans. Since it is commonly associated with parrots, doctors often call the disease "Parrot Fever."

What are symptoms that could occur?

Symptoms in birds

- Ruffled feathers
- Depression
- Diarrhea
- Discharge from eyes/nares
- Poor appetite
- Weight loss
- Death

Symptoms in humans

- Mild, flu-like infection
- Headache
- Lack of appetite
- Rash
- Muscle aches
- Upper and/or lower respiratory disease
- Extensive pneumonia

How is it spread?

- Spread by inhaling tiny bacteria from dried feces or dust from bird cages
- All birds legally imported into the U.S. are treated to prevent this infection

How is it diagnosed and treated in humans?

- Primary care provider evaluation including laboratory work; hospitalization may be required in severe pneumonia cases
- Antibiotics are given and should be completed even if you started to feel better

How is it diagnosed and treated in animals?

- Requires treatment by Veterinarian
- Fed medicated pellets for 45 days
- Any infected bird must remain isolated during treatment period
- Only one person should do all the cage cleaning, bird handling, and treatment to minimize exposure; protective mask and clothing should be worn
- Re-test bird after 45 day treatment is over

Are there complications?

- Severe pneumonia requiring intensive-care support may also occur
- Fatal cases have been reported

How can Psittacosis be prevented?

- Avoid buying/selling ill or illegal birds
- Keep bird cages, dishes, toys and bird area clean; disinfect often
- Cage papers should be moistened with disinfectant to minimize human exposure to dried droppings
- Feather and dust circulation should be kept to a minimum since they may contain infective organisms
- Maintain accurate records of all bird purchases and sales

If I have any other questions, whom can I contact?

- Call the Genesee County Health Department at 257-1017