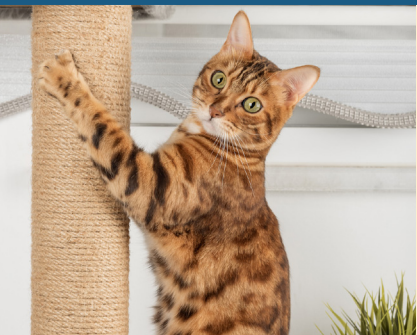


Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in CATS

HPAI is a highly contagious virus that primarily affects wild and domestic birds and is carried by migratory waterfowl. Around the country, the virus has been detected in various species of wild carnivorous mammals—such as red foxes, raccoons, opossums, skunks, and seals, etc; and in domestic, captive, and wild cats. Cats (such as tigers, mountain lions, lynx, etc.) are particularly sensitive to HPAI and care should be taken to not expose these animals to the virus. HPAI has been detected in captive and wild cats in Washington state too. It has also been detected in cats that consumed contaminated raw milk and raw pet food in other states. To date, Washington dairies have tested negative.



Symptoms in cats:

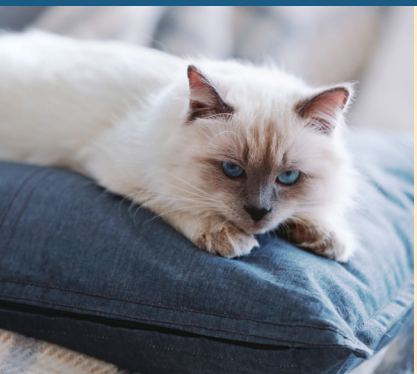


- Decreased energy and appetite.
- Neurologic signs (lack of coordination, inability to stand, tremors, and seizures).
- Respiratory signs (nasal discharge, coughing, or sneezing) may or may not be present.
- Sometimes cats can die from the virus without any symptoms.

Protecting your pets:



- Limit exposure to wildlife, especially sick or dead animals.
- Keep your pets indoors, especially cats that might come into contact with infected birds.
- Avoid feeding raw or undercooked animal products and raw milk and dairy to your pets.
- Wash your hands before and after handling animals and their food.
- Change clothes and clean/disinfect footwear when visiting farms or parks where migratory waterfowl live.
- Monitor your pets' health and consult a veterinarian if they show signs of illness.



Human precautions:

The risk to humans is currently low, but precautions are advised for those in contact with infected animals or environments.



- Avoid handling sick or dead wildlife.
- Use personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling sick or infected animals.
- Follow CDC food safety guidelines, avoid raw milk and dairy products, and undercooked animal-based products.

Who to contact:

- **For pets:** Contact your veterinarian, who will then contact WSDA Animal Health at ahealth@agr.wa.gov or **360-902-1878**. WSDA may support paying for testing of highly suspicious cases.
- **For backyard flocks or dairy cows:** Report unusual illness or mortality to WSDA at **1-800-606-3056**.
- **For wild birds or wildlife:** Report using WDFW's [online reporting tool](#).
- **For animal food:** Contact WSDA Animal Feed Program at animalfeed@agr.wa.gov or **360-902-1844**.
- **For human food:** Contact WSDA Food Safety Program at foodsafety@agr.wa.gov or **360-902-1876**.



Washington
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