



Rustenburg Bird Flu case confirmed

Rustenburg – An outbreak of High Pathogenic Avian Influenza (N5N8), or more commonly known as Bird Flu, has been confirmed in Rustenburg's Bodorp residential area.

The disease was detected after the deaths of domestic ducks at a private home in Rustenburg. The birds have been sent to a laboratory for further testing by a private veterinarian.

Is Bird Flu contagious to humans?

Bird Flu is extremely contagious and can make some domesticated birds including chickens, ducks and turkeys very sick and kill them. The risk of Bird Flu is generally low to most people, as

the virus does not usually infect humans. Although there are many different strains of avian flu, only those labelled H5, H7 and H10 have caused death in humans. Symptoms include fever, sore throat, cough and sometimes severe respiratory diseases and pneumonia. A team from the Department of Rural, Environment and Agricultural Development (READ) was appointed to deal with the infected premises to avoid the spreading of the disease.

A separate team have been deployed to collect information using the Community Policing Forums (CPF) communication network.

An area with a radius of 1km from the

index point has been demarcated as a zone for surveillance. The affected household has been placed under quarantine. The owner of the birds has been advised on bio-security measures to prevent the virus spreading by humans and bird faeces. "The department has assisted the affected family with an effective disinfectant and tools to safely eradicate the virus from the property," Mandisa Dawn, spokesperson of READ said.

The big trading facilities in Rustenburg are all outside of a 7km from the outbreak index point and all have been informed and advised to take additional precautionary bio-security measures.

Emelda Setlhako of READ says: "The outbreak has not affected trade in a negative way since all facilities that trade with poultry are outside a seven kilometre radius of the outbreak area." The Department has communicated with all affected stakeholders including farmers and veterinarians. The Provincial Disaster Management Committee has also been placed on high alert.

The local community is advised to cover bird feed and water to avoid attracting wild birds. The community is urged to report any mortality of birds to the nearest state veterinary office.

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Pieter du Plooy from Piet's Crazy Pets in Rustenburg with Kobus the African Grey. "We are shocked to learn about the bird flu outbreak in Rustenburg. I urge Rustenburg to be vigilant and report any suspected cases," says Du Plooy. For more information on Piet's Crazy Pets, contact 082-374 9536 or visit www.pietscrazypets.co.za.

SAPS
MISSING

PINK LADIES: Leigh Noreen Champion (28) was last seen on 14 July 2017 in Boksburg North GP. It is unknown what she was wearing at the time she went missing. If you have any information, please contact SAPS Boksburg Sgt Matwetja on 011 898 3000

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Carjacker nabbed

Rustenburg/ Phokeng – Through an intelligence driven operation, the Phokeng K9 Unit were successful in arresting a 41-year old carjacker on 29 August. The Police reacted to a community tip-off about the whereabouts of the suspect. While searching the suspect in the Phokeng Mall, vehicles keys were found in his possession. After questioning, the suspect led the K9 Unit to a house in Tlhabane where a Ford Focus was kept. The Police seized the vehicle, which had been hijacked in Swartruggens earlier this month. "The suspect faces charges of the possession of a suspected stolen vehicle and carjacking. He will appear before the Bafokeng Magistrates' Court soon," lieutenant colonel Adèle Myburgh, police spokesperson said.

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