

Hygiene Protocols for the Prevention  
and Control of Diseases  
(Particularly Beak and Feather Disease)  
in Australian Birds

Psittacid Herpesvirus Infections:  
Response to Test Results



**Australian Government**

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**Department of the Environment and Heritage**

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## Psittacid Herpesvirus Infections: Response to Test Results

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- At present, this is regarded as an exotic disease, and an affected property may be quarantined.
- It may be necessary to kill all birds shedding the virus and those in contact with virus-shedding birds
- Much easier to prevent than to treat
- Transmission typically through close contact - carrier status
- Confirm that the disease is caused by PHV
- Minimise human exposure and transmission
- Any bird that survives the outbreak must be considered a carrier.
- Do not use acyclovir - treated birds may subsequently carry and excrete live virus
- Stop all breeding
- PCR DNA test:
  - Whole blood (0.2 ml) sample in EDTA tube.
  - Dry cloacal swab
  - Tissue (liver, spleen or kidney) in sterile container.
- Keep track of all movements of tissues and other samples and ensure that they are destroyed to prevent other birds being directly or indirectly exposed.
- Re-evaluate quarantine effectiveness
- Prevent contact with wild birds - direct and indirect
- Cease all new additions to flock
- Destroy nest boxes.
- Discard all wood or porous objects and do not replace them until treatment is complete
- Disinfect all thoroughly cleaned surfaces with 2% Virkon S. Ensure that fan blades and air filters are effectively disinfected.
- Reduce intensification
- Isolate in pairs
- May be possible to rear herpesvirus-free progeny from positive adults, sterilising egg surfaces and artificially incubating eggs.