Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

Introduced by migrating wild birds (mainly waterfowl, marsh and shore birds, and raptors), HPAI spread through the migration flyways and is here in Minnesota. It is easily transmissible and is killing millions of domestic poultry as well as wild birds.

It is imperative that we do our part to prevent the spread of this disease. After consulting with The Raptor Center, The Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, governmental agencies, and wildlife hospitals across the country, Wildwoods made the tough decision that we will NOT admit any species that are susceptible to this virus until HPAI dies down.

Impacted species include waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans), gulls, pelicans, herons, and corvids (crows, ravens, blue jays). For raptors, we will coordinate with the finder and with The Raptor Center.

At this point, songbirds do not appear to be affected so we will be accepting them.

If you encounter one of these susceptible animals that is injured, dying, or orphaned, please call us before touching it or bringing it to Wildwoods. We will walk you through our process, and help you decide what the best course of action is. Sadly, the options will be limited to leaving the animal in place or bringing it to us to euthanize. This is an extremely difficult decision for us, but we do not have the ability to quarantine and test each individual bird that is susceptible to this disease. And the last thing we want to do is bring in infected animals and incubate this terrible disease in our facility.

Wildwoods is committed to the safety of our staff, our facility, the animals in our care, and the larger environment around us. This decision to limit the species we can accept at this moment in time is crucial to the well-being of all wild birds (and backyard and commercial flocks) that may be affected by HPAI.

We are working closely with other animal hospitals, rehabbers, and veterinarians to do the best that we can during this time. The situation is fluid, and our response to it will be fluid as well.

This is devastating for us, and we do not make this decision lightly. We care about the animals that live around us, and we care deeply about doing everything that we can to make sure that we do not spread this disease to other areas. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns at (218) 491-3604.

For more information on HPAI, go to: