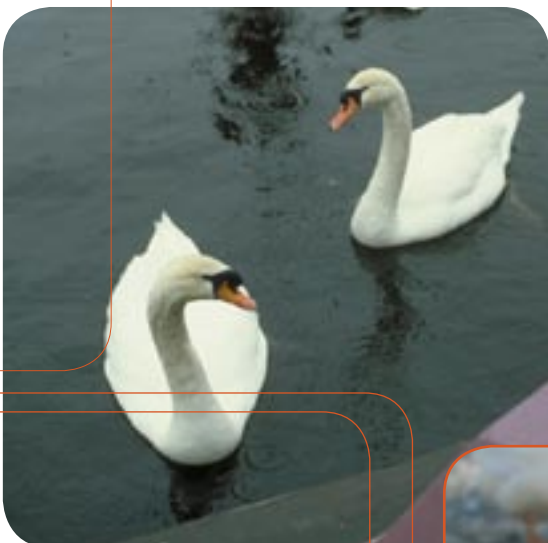


## TEN KEY FACTS ABOUT AVIAN INFLUENZA

# Avian influenza

May 2007

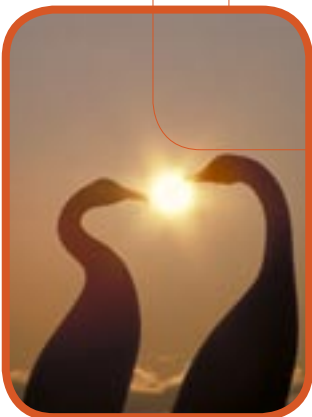
- Avian influenza type H5N1 is a disease currently affecting birds, wild and domestic, in several parts of the world.
- In the EU, a few sporadic outbreaks have occurred since 2006 which have so far been successfully contained.
- Highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza is primarily a bird disease, which does not cross easily to other animals and to humans.
- People that have been infected had been in very close contact with live or dead infected birds, principally domestic poultry in backyards.
- Very stringent veterinary measures are in place in the EU. These seek to prevent the spread of the virus from wild birds to poultry and to contain any outbreaks in poultry.



## Avian influenza



- Temporary protection and surveillance zones are established in areas where infected birds are found. In these zones, movement of live animals is restricted, poultry is confined indoors and closely monitored, and disinfection measures are strictly applied.
- When there is an outbreak in a domestic holding, all the birds are culled and measures are taken to protect the workers.
- Very specific measures are also in place to prevent infected birds entering the food chain.
- In any case, thorough cooking ensures that meat and eggs are free of any virus.
- The risk to the general public of catching the H5N1 virus from live animals or from poultry products is very low and there is no need to change food consumption habits or travel plans.



For more information  
[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health\\_consumer/dyna/influenza/index.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/dyna/influenza/index.cfm)