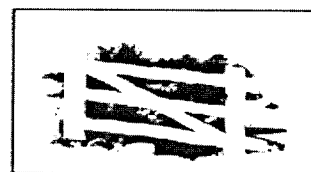


**Department of Agriculture & Food**  
**An Roinn Talmhaíochta agus Bia**



**AVIAN INFLUENZA VACCINATION PROGRAMME FOR**  
**BIRDS KEPT IN ZOOS IN IRELAND**

## **Context**

Representatives from Dublin Zoo and Fota Wildlife Park have submitted a request for vaccination against avian influenza to avoid pre-emptive culling of valuable and endangered species in zoo collections. In addition confinement of birds, of unknown duration, is considered by them to be detrimental to welfare. Commission Decision 2005/744/EC of 21 October 2005 replaces the pre-emptive culling of and confinement in zoos with preventative vaccination of birds kept in zoos in the Member States.

## **Details of zoos participating in the vaccination programme**

The approved zoos have submitted an inventory of the birds, which require preventative vaccination. All birds in the participating zoos will be vaccinated. Vaccination in zoos will be carried out on a voluntary basis. The list of zoos participating in the vaccination programme and a detailed inventory of birds to be vaccinated is given in Annex I.

## **Pre Vaccination**

- A detailed timetable of all vaccinations to be carried out must be submitted to Department of Agriculture and Food before starting the vaccination programme.
- All expenses relating to the vaccination will be paid by the zoo authorities.

## **Vaccination Procedure**

Blood samples must be taken from at least 10% of the birds to include birds of different species prior to being vaccinated and 30 days post vaccination. These samples will be submitted to the CVRL in Backweston for serological testing for avian influenza. It is preferable to centrifuge the samples before they are sent to the CVRL. The minimum amount of serum required is 100µl. A record of the test results must be kept for 10 years.

## **Vaccine**

The vaccine will be stored at the CVRL. The veterinarian in charge of the zoo will receive the necessary quantity of vaccine in accordance with the inventory and timetable submitted by the zoo. With a view to optimal effectiveness, the vaccine must be stored in accordance with the prescriptions during transport as well as at the place of final destination.

Primary vaccination consists of 2 injections given 6 weeks apart.

Nobilis® Influenza H5N2 (INTERVET)

Vaccine Type: Inactivated

Initial vaccination: 0.25 ml (if BW < 1.5kg) **or** 0.5 ml (if BW > 1.5 kg)

Second vaccination: 0.25 ml (if BW < 1.5kg) **or** 0.5 ml (if BW > 1.5 kg)

Administer subcutaneously or intramuscularly.

### **Requirements for use of vaccination**

- Vaccination shall only take place on birds in a zoo.
- Each vaccination campaign must be completed within 1 week.
- A list of all birds to be vaccinated to include the specific identification and number of the susceptible birds must be recorded.
- All birds to be vaccinated must be individually identified and wherever possible bear as indelible identification indicating that the birds have been vaccinated.
- The list of all the vaccinated birds must be kept for at least 10 years from the date of vaccination.
- Vaccination shall be carried out by the veterinary surgeon affiliated with the zoo and must be carried out under the supervision of an official veterinarian from the Department of Agriculture and Food.
- Each injection is recorded on a vaccination form.
- A complete list of all vaccinated birds, bearing all possible annotations (side effects), must be submitted when the vaccination programme is finished.
- Vaccinated birds shall not be traded or moved unless under supervision between zoos in Ireland or after specific authorisation of another Member State and in accordance with Community legislation.
- Bird products from vaccinated birds shall not enter the food chain.
- Any residual vaccine shall be returned to the CVRL or the Cork Regional Veterinary Laboratory with a written record of the number of birds vaccinated and the number of doses used.

### **Reporting to the Commission**

A detailed report on the execution of the vaccination programme including results of testing carried out will be provided to the Commission and the Member States in the framework of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health.

### **Concise description of the biosafety measures in force**

- Access to all places in the zoo where the birds are kept is forbidden to all vehicles, persons and equipment that have had contact in the last 4 days with birds, poultry or poultry eggs in an infected region or country.
- A record must be kept of all persons in charge of taking care of the vaccinated birds.
- All staff must be informed of the biosafety measures in force in the zoo.
- Where the design of the birdhouse is such that wild birds may come in contact with the vaccinated birds, nets or wire nets may be required.
- Every effort must be made to avoid contact between the birds and the public visiting the zoo.

## Annex I

### (1). Location of zoos participating in the vaccination programme:

1. Dublin Zoo  
Phoenix Park,  
Dublin 8.
  
2. Fota Wildlife Park,  
Carrigtwohill,  
Co. Cork.

### (2). Inventory of birds in Dublin Zoo:

<b>Species</b>	<b>Population</b>
Ostrich	6
Penguin	16
Flamingo	67
Geese	15
Shelduck	5
Turkey	2
Chickens	11
Peafowl	6
Guinea Fowl	3
Black Swan	3
Marabou Stork	1
White Stork	1
Pink Footed Goose	1
European White fronted Goose	1
Bar-headed Goose	6
Barnacle Goose	1
Canada Goose	1
Egyptian Goose	1
Ibis	15
Egret	2
Parrots	15
Owls	4
Canaries and foreign finches	32
Ground hornbills	2
Tropical birds	47
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>264</b>

**Inventory of birds in Fota Wildlife Park:**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Population</b>
Ostrich	4
Rhea	4
Emu	2
Penguins	16
Pelicans	2
Ibis	2
Flamingos	12
Geese	155
Ducks	327
Shelducks	33
Swans	6
White-tailed Eagles	2
Indian Peafowl	97
Common Pheasant	32
Guineafowl	25
White Cockatoo	1
Blue and yellow Macaw	2
Scarlet Macaw	4
Parakeet	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>727</b>