

PetSmart is making the public aware of the possibility of the Psittacosis bacterial infection in Cockatiels sold at their stores.

Information from Riverside County Dept. of Animal Services

The following material is being supplied to you by Allan Drusys, D.V.M., MVPHMgt, Chief Veterinarian, Department of Animal Services, County of Riverside

1. The California Department of Public Health, the Riverside Community Health Agency and the Riverside Department of Animal Services have been alerted to this situation and will continue to monitor this event.
2. There have been no reported human illnesses associated with these birds to date.
3. The current inventory of birds has been withdrawn from sale and the birds are under treatment by PetSmart staff.
4. Please refer to the website www.petsmartfacts.com for further updates.

The following information is being supplied to you by PetSmart:

PetSmart – The Facts

Small Number of Birds Test Positive for Bacterial Infection

We recently conducted random tests of the pet birds in our stores and a small percentage of Cockatiels tested positive for being exposed or infected with psittacosis. All of these Cockatiels and other birds came from the same vendor and, we believe, may have been exposed to the bacteria prior to arrival at our store. While we don't believe there is any cause for alarm, we want our customers to be aware of this possibility.

Psittacosis is an infection caused by bacteria that can be carried by birds, primarily Cockatiels. It is easily treatable and infected birds generally fully recover. In rare cases, it can cause a respiratory infection in humans similar to a cold or flu and is treatable with antibiotics. We have developed a [fact sheet about psittacosis](#) that provides additional information. If you have questions or concerns about your health, please contact your health care provider.

As a precautionary measure, we have voluntarily and temporarily suspended sales of birds at all of our stores supplied by this vendor while we preventatively treat them. And we're [contacting Pet Parents](#) who may have purchased a Cockatiel or other type of bird from these stores on or after October 3, 2007, to make sure they're aware.

Birds infected with psittacosis may appear drowsy, eat poorly, and have runny eyes or nose and diarrhea. If your bird is exhibiting these symptoms we encourage you to contact your veterinarian. We are happy to discuss any questions or concerns you may have. Please contact our Customer Service team at 800-738-1385, ext. 2518.