

BIOSECURITY INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

Stafford Bird Gathering - Sunday 5th July 2026

Venue: Stafford County Showground, Staffordshire



Dear Participant,

Thank you for booking to attend the Stafford Bird Gathering.

To protect the health and welfare of all birds and comply with the **APHA/ Defra General Bird Gathering Licence** conditions, we must follow strict biosecurity measures to prevent the introduction and spread of notifiable avian diseases (such as avian influenza and Newcastle disease).

Notifiable avian disease can spread easily through people, equipment, clothing, footwear, vehicles, and contaminated cages.

Even healthy-looking birds can carry disease, so everyone's cooperation is essential.

1. Before Travelling to the Event – Prepare Your Birds

- **Health check your birds** thoroughly before leaving home. Look for any signs of illness (e.g., respiratory issues, lethargy, reduced appetite, neurological signs, sudden deaths, or abnormal droppings). Do not bring any bird that appears unwell.
- Ensure your birds have **not** been in contact with any birds from premises under disease restrictions or within any notifiable avian disease control zone (Protection Zone, Surveillance Zone, Temporary Control Zone, etc.).

- Clean and disinfect all cages, crates, carriers, and equipment **before** arrival. They must not be visibly contaminated with droppings, bedding, or other bird material (except fresh faeces produced during transport).
- Confirm that you (or the keeper) are registered on the Kept Bird Register with APHA where required.
- **Ensure you comply with the cage sizing for the species you are bringing and NO more than TWO birds per cage unless it is a trio of finches.**

2. Membership Requirements (Reminder)

- Birds brought **for sale or exchange**— you must be a current member of **The Parrot Society UK**.

3. On Arrival at the Event

- All birds will remain isolated from other birds until they have passed a visual health inspection by our designated Welfare Officer / bird expert.
- You must present the completed Seller's Form (a list of all individual birds brought to the event). This list will be checked and cross referenced with your birds, then stamped when birds have been visually inspected.
- Foot dips/mats and hand-washing facilities will be provided at entry points. Please use them.

- Strictly no person or equipment visibly contaminated with faecal material will be permitted entry.

4. During the Event

- Follow all instructions from the organiser, Welfare Officer, security, officials and any on-site veterinary support.
- Minimise unnecessary movement between different bird areas, and contact with other birds or sellers.
- Do not allow public handling of your birds and **USE CATCHING AVIARIES PROVIDED.**
- Report any concerns about bird health immediately to the organiser or Welfare Officer.
- If any bird shows signs suggestive of notifiable avian disease, it will be moved to a designated isolation area. **No birds will be allowed to leave the premises** until an APHA Veterinary Inspector has assessed the situation and given instructions.

5. After the Event – Returning Home

- **Isolate** any birds that attended the gathering from the rest of your collection for **at least one week.**
- Closely monitor them for any signs of disease during this period.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect all cages, equipment, clothing, footwear, and vehicles used at the event before reusing them.
- Dispose of any waste (bedding, droppings, uneaten feed) safely so that other birds (including wild birds) cannot access it.

6. What Happens if Notifiable Avian Disease is Suspected

We have a written **Contingency Plan** in place (available on request). In summary:

- Suspect birds will be isolated immediately in a separate area.
- APHA will be notified without delay.
- **All birds may need to remain on the showground until an APHA Veterinary Inspector attends and authorises movements.**
- In the unlikely event that the venue falls within a disease control zone (notified during the event), all birds may be required to stay on-site until restrictions are lifted. The venue has capacity and facilities to support extended holding with welfare monitoring.
- Your cooperation helps protect everyone's birds and allows the event to run safely. Failure to follow these measures may result in refusal of entry or removal from the event.

Key Contacts

- Event Organiser: Mr Leslie Rance
The Parrot Society (44) (0) 1442 872245
- Defra Rural Services Helpline (for disease reporting): 03000 200 301
- For the latest national disease situation and general biosecurity guidance, visit:
– <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bird-flu-avian-influenza-how-to-prevent-it-and-stop-it-spreading>
- Thank you for helping us run a responsible and compliant event. We look forward to seeing you and your birds in July.

Best regards, Leslie Rance
Event Organiser / Licensee