

PSITTACOSIS (PARROT FEVER)

INFORMATION FOR BIRD OWNERS

Psittacosis causes flu-like symptoms in people. It can also lead to pneumonia and other serious health problems, especially in elderly or immune suppressed people.

You can get psittacosis by breathing in the bacteria found in feather dust, nasal discharges or dried droppings from an infected bird.

Healthy-looking birds can shed the harmful psittacosis bacteria off and on. Birds stressed by relocation, shipping, overcrowding, chilling or breeding are more likely to shed the bacteria and to become sick themselves.

SIGNS OF INFECTION

In People

Fever
Headache
Chills
Coughing
Sore throat
Muscle aches

In Birds

Poor appetite
Ruffled feathers
Eye or nose discharge
Coughing & sneezing
Lethargy
Diarrhea

If you develop signs and have been near pet birds, contact your health care provider.

If your bird develops signs, contact your veterinarian.



Stop Germs, Stay Healthy!

Zoonotic Disease Program
206-263-9566

www.kingcounty.gov/health/zoonotics

Caution Notice for Bird Owners
State Regulation WAC 246-100-201

Public Health
Seattle & King County 

Lethargy
Diarrhea