

SAFE HANDLING GUIDELINES

Members of the public should **not** handle wild animal carcasses unless it is essential to do so. If you must handle dead wild birds, follow the guidance below on safe handling.

Wild birds can carry several diseases that are infectious to people. To minimize the risk of infection, it is important to take simple hygienic precautions when handling the dead birds or any contaminated material.

1. Wear disposable protective gloves when picking up and handling the carcass.
2. Place the carcass in a suitable leak proof plastic bag. Care should be taken not to contaminate the outside of this bag.
3. Seal the bag and place it in a second plastic bag.
4. Remove gloves by turning them inside out and then place them in the second plastic bag or in a separate plastic bag that should be sealed.
5. The second plastic bag should be sealed and remain sealed, without any leakage, for disposal or shipping.
6. If shipping the carcass to a laboratory, wash the outside of the second plastic bag with soap and water or disinfectant.
7. If gloves are not available, a bag can be turned inside out and used as a makeshift glove. When the dead bird has been picked up, the bag can be reverted and sealed. This should then be placed in a second plastic bag, which should be sealed and washed (as above).
8. **Wash your hands, nails and forearms thoroughly with soap and water after handling the carcass. Do not handle any food until this has been done.**

Keep children away from dead bird carcasses.