

# Prevent Psittacosis



**Psittacosis** (parrot fever or ornithosis) is a bacterial infection caused by *Chlamydia psittaci* that some birds can spread to humans. Nasal discharge and droppings of an infected bird can make people sick.



The infection in birds is called **avian chlamydiosis**. Infected birds may not show symptoms, but they can still spread the disease. These healthy-appearing birds can shed the bacteria when they're stressed due to relocation, shipping, crowding, chilling, or breeding.

Many different types of birds can spread psittacosis, but it is most commonly identified in psittacine (parrot-type) birds, especially cockatiels and budgerigars (also called parakeets or budgies).

## Watch for these symptoms:

### Birds:

- Nasal discharge
- Sneezing
- Coughing
- Ruffled feathers
- Lethargy
- Diarrhea

### People:

- Chills
- Fever
- Headache
- Cough
- Muscle aches

**If you notice any of these symptoms, consult a veterinarian or health care provider.**

