

## Avian Chlamyophilosis

*Chlamydomphila psittaci* (*Chlamydia psittaci*) aka psittacosis, ornithosis or parrot fever is a virus-like bacteria that can live inside body cells of pet bird birds. Studies of various bird groups place average infection rate around 9-11% but it can rise to over 90% of birds in a closely held collection.

*Chlamydomphila psittaci* is contagious to people. Some exposed people will contract the disease with symptoms of atypical flu-like pneumonia that doesn't improve. The elderly and the immunosuppressed may be more at risk.

A variety of screening procedures are now available to test your pet bird even if it isn't ill. Their accuracy and usefulness varies depending on the type of bird, length of ownership, and the type of test.

Birds that are clinically ill with Chlamydomphila may show just general sick bird signs (sleepy, fluffy, quiet) to eye and respiratory signs, to changes in droppings. Sick birds are most contagious to other birds and people. Rapid blood tests can help the avian veterinarian determine if the illness might be due to this disease. Early treatment is usually successful. Some birds relapse in the future.



For more information visit: <http://www.avma.org/pubhth/psittacosis.asp>