



The Hong Kong Veterinary Association Ltd

Press Release

While the Hong Kong Veterinary Association (HKVA) views the current Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak in Yuen Long farm with concerns, we appeal to the public to give government authorities time to conduct various control measures as well as to investigate the source of infection.

The HKVA considers it inappropriate and irresponsible for anyone at this time to start speculations such as the effectiveness of the current vaccines being used, mutation of viruses, smuggling of infected poultry as a cause before investigation has been completed and facts become clear. We urge all persons making statement to the media to be responsible and to use “evidence based science” in making their comments. Unnecessary speculations not based on any scientific evident could cause unnecessary local public concerns and damage Hong Kong’s reputation which may secondarily impact heavily on the tourism industry.

HKVA would like to advise the public to adopt good personal hygiene practices as well as observe all food safety measures as prescribed by the Center of Food Safety. Base upon epidemiologic information and pattern, it is shown that unless a person comes to close contact with infected birds, the likelihood of being infected with HPAI H5 is low.

Hong Kong Veterinary Association
11 Dec 2008