



City of Cottonwood Water and Wastewater Utility
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MEDIA RELEASE

COTTONWOOD, Arizona (August 21, 2014). – [Arizona Game and Fish Department](#) is requesting the public be aware of a potential health threat following the discovery of the disease psittacosis, also known as parrot fever, in Arizona.

Arizona Game and Fish Wildlife Health Specialist, Anne Justice Allen, stated currently it appears psittacosis is present only in feral (wild) lovebirds. A Scottsdale homeowner reported finding 20 dead lovebirds in his yard. Game and Fish tested the birds and results indicated the birds had psittacosis.

It is important to know the disease CAN spread to humans and can be difficult to diagnose.

Game and Fish officials indicated it takes from one to four weeks from exposure to become infected. Symptoms can vary, from a severe persistent cough to body aches and eye infections. Those with pre-existing immune-system conditions would be the most impacted and can have complications. According to Game and Fish, The good news is it is treatable with the right antibiotics.

Game and Fish offers these tips to avoid infection:

- Be cautious how you feed wild birds
- Don't overfeed -- It attracts too many birds, which leave behind waste; overfeeding can also artificially keep wild-bird populations high
- Use diluted bleach at a ratio of one cup per gallon of water when cleaning up bird waste
- Report any sick or dead animals to AZGFD Wildlife Health Specialist Anne Justice Allen at (623) 236-7351.

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