

**With the help of the lectures and this additional reading material, you will be able to:**

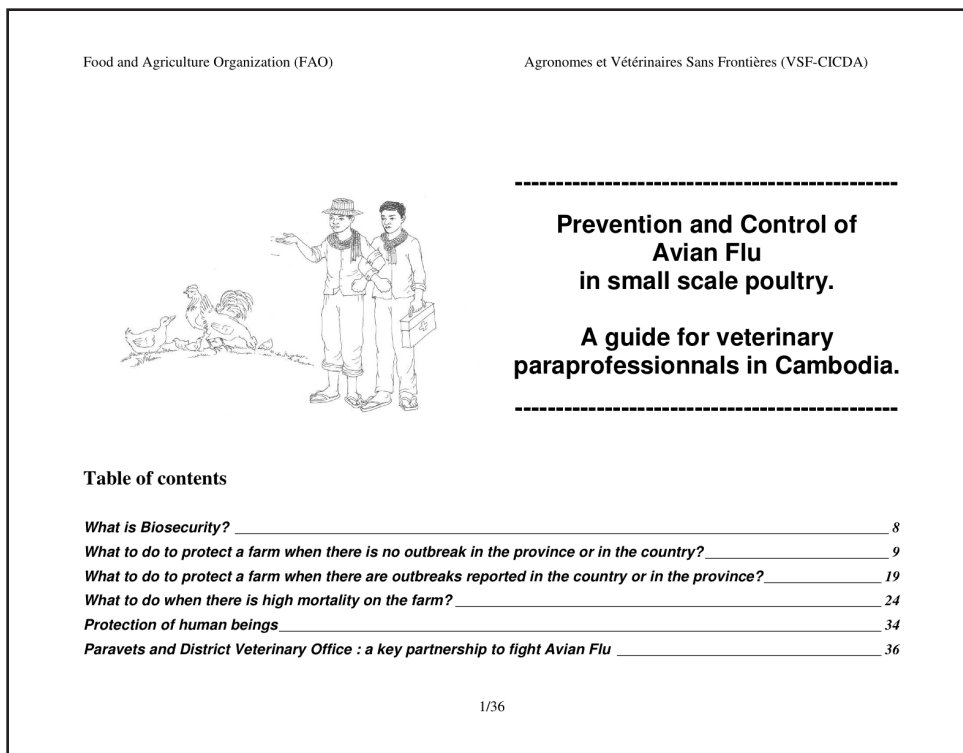
- 1) Advise chicken owners how to keep their flock safe.

Keeping birds safe

## Keeping your birds safe from infection

### Practicing backyard biosecurity

See the attached FAO document, *Prevention and Control of Avian Flu in Small Scale Poultry: a guide for veterinary paraprofessionals in Cambodia*, for some best management practices.



### Special interests: Cock-fighting

Cock-Fighting text from the FAO document, " PROTECT POULTRY – PROTECT PEOPLE"

Many birds are kept for sporting purposes in many countries – cock-fighting, falconry, pigeon racing, and others. The avian influenza virus can be transmitted through contact with poultry and other birds, and their droppings, feathers, intestines and blood. It is very important to minimize contact with poultry and other birds used for sporting purposes.

- Respect hygiene and safety:
  - o Wash your hands thoroughly after handling birds

- o Cover your nose and mouth with a clean cloth/face mask when cleaning areas where birds are kept
- o Do not let children handle your birds
- Take care when cleaning fighting cocks:
  - o Cleaning a cock after a fight is very dangerous - minimize your contact with the cock's blood and secretions
  - o After a fight, never clean the beak of the cock by sucking
  - o Cover your nose and mouth with a clean cloth/face mask when cleaning areas where birds have been fighting

### **Other concerns: Pigs, cats, dogs, and other animals**

Other concerns text from the FAO website ([www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org))

At the end of February 2006 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI), caused by the H5N1 virus was detected in a domestic cat found dead on the northern island of Ruegen, Germany. Although cats have been infected on rare occasions with avian influenza viruses, including H5N1, they do not appear to play any discernible role in the transmission of H5N1. Experimental studies have shown that the domestic cats can become infected with the virus and that cat-to-cat transmission is possible in principle.

Pigs are known “mixing vessels” for different influenza virus subtypes and therefore present a risk for avian influenza virus re-assorting with a human influenza virus into a strain more able infect humans. Regarding the present H5N1 subtype, studies conducted in pigs in Vietnam yielded 8 animals out of the 3000 investigated pigs seropositive. None of the animals had any clinical signs and it was not possible to isolate any virus

Carnivores can become infected, after consuming infected poultry that succumbed to the disease. To date no H5N1 clinical cases of dogs have been reported but in an unpublished study carried out in 2005 by the National Institute of Animal Health in Bangkok, researchers tested 629 village dogs and 111 cats in the Suphan Buri district of central Thailand. Out of these, 160 dogs and 8 cats had antibodies to H5N1, indicating that they were infected with the virus or had been infected in the past.

**Notes . . .**