



## ORNITHOSIS (PSITTACOSIS)

### WHAT IS ORNITHOSIS (PSITTACOSIS)?

PSITTACOSIS IS AN INFECTIOUS DISEASE USUALLY SPREAD TO HUMANS FROM BIRDS IN THE PARROT FAMILY, TURKEYS AND PIGEONS. IT IS CAUSED BY BACTERIA CALLED ***Chlamydia psittaci***.

### WHO GETS PSITTACOSIS?

SINCE BIRDS IN THE PARROT FAMILY SPREAD THIS DISEASE, IT IS SOMETIMES FOUND IN PET STORE WORKERS AND PEOPLE WHO HAVE AN INFECTED BIRD. IT MAY ALSO BE FOUND IN FARMERS AND SLAUGHTERHOUSE WORKERS WHO WORK WITH TURKEYS.

### HOW IS PSITTACOSIS SPREAD?

PSITTACOSIS IS USUALLY SPREAD BY BREATHING DUST FROM DRIED DROPPINGS FROM BIRDCAGES AND BY HANDLING INFECTED BIRDS IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES. WASTE MATERIAL IN THE BIRDCAGE MAY REMAIN INFECTIOUS FOR WEEKS.

### WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS OF PSITTACOSIS?

THE SYMPTOMS ARE FEVER, HEADACHE, CHILLS AND SOMETIMES PNEUMONIA.

### HOW SOON AFTER INFECTION DO SYMPTOMS APPEAR?

SYMPTOMS APPEAR FROM FOUR TO 15 DAYS AFTER INFECTION.

### DOES PAST INFECTION WITH PSITTACOSIS MAKE A PERSON IMMUNE?

EVEN AFTER SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT, A PERSON CAN AGAIN BE INFECTED.

### WHAT IS THE TREATMENT FOR PSITTACOSIS?

MEDICATION IS GIVEN TO TREAT THE ILLNESS.

### WHAT CAN BE THE EFFECT OF NOT BEING TREATED FOR PSITTACOSIS?

THE DISEASE MAY CAUSE DEATH, ESPECIALLY IN UNTREATED OLDER PEOPLE.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF PSITTACOSIS?

IF BIRDS ARE KEPT AS PETS, CLEAN THE CAGE OFTEN SO THAT FECAL MATERIAL DOES NOT BUILDUP, DRY UP AND BECOME AIRBORNE.