



## NO KEEPING OF LIVE POULTRY ON PULAU UBIN

1. The Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority (AVA) announced today a ban on the keeping of live poultry on Pulau Ubin, to take effect in two weeks, from 17 Jun 2005.
2. Under the new Animal and Birds (Prohibition of Live Poultry on Pulau Ubin) Rules, no person shall keep, breed, sell or purchase live poultry on Pulau Ubin. In addition, live poultry may not be imported into or exported from Pulau Ubin. The Director-General of AVA can require the owners of any buildings, facilities and structures used for keeping live poultry on Pulau Ubin to demolish them.
3. All affected farmers and residents who are keeping poultry on the island will be given two weeks, from 3 Jun to 16 Jun, to remove the poultry. AVA will offer to buy any remaining poultry at market prices at the end of the two weeks.

### Need for ban

4. Bird flu has become endemic in the region, with reports of repeated outbreaks and human infections that resulted in at least 53 deaths. Migratory birds were found to be carrying the bird flu virus. Most of the outbreaks were caused by the introduction of the virus into non-biosecured backyard poultry farms.
5. Last year, to alleviate the risk of incursion of bird flu into Singapore through backyard farming, AVA issued a directive prohibiting farms and households on Pulau Ubin from keeping more than 10 poultry each. The poultry must also be properly caged to prevent direct contact with wild birds. The farmers and residents were rearing poultry in their backyards without proper biosecurity measures and under free-range conditions.
6. Despite repeated checks and reminders by AVA officers, some of the farmers and residents who keep poultry have not complied with the 10 caged poultry restriction, thereby perpetuating the risk of bird flu entering Singapore. AVA is thus imposing a complete ban on poultry rearing on Pulau Ubin to eliminate the risk of a bird flu outbreak there and to safeguard public health.

# MEDIA RELEASE



## NO KEEPING OF LIVE POULTRY ON PULAU UBIN

### Resettlement for affected farmers

7. As the livelihood of farmers who are permitted to keep poultry under their farming licence may be affected by the ban, the Government will offer to resettle them. They will be offered the standard resettlement benefits, and compensated for the removal of their poultry keeping structures. Farmers who do not wish to be resettled can remain on Pulau Ubin and carry on their farming activities other than livestock rearing. They will receive the ex-gratia payment for removal of their poultry keeping structures.

### Compensation for other residents who keep poultry

8. For the other residents on Pulau Ubin who keep poultry but do not have a farming licence, they will be given ex-gratia payment on a goodwill basis, for the removal of their poultry structures.

### Singapore is free from bird flu

9. AVA would like to reiterate that Singapore is free from bird flu and all necessary precautionary measures are in place to keep it that way.

**Issued by Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority  
Ministry of National Development  
on 3 June 2005**

---

# MEDIA RELEASES

# E

Pg 2 of 2