

Guidelines for Submission of Dead Crows or Blue Jays for West Nile Virus Testing

Procedure

Reports of dead crows/blue jays may be recorded on a standard form for use by local health departments to keep track of bird mortality in their jurisdiction.

Criteria for further investigation:

If a crow/blue jay is to be submitted for testing, use the “Dead Crow/Blue Jay Submission Form.” Collect only crows and blue jays that have been dead for 48 hours or less.

Discontinue submissions after 2 West Nile virus positive crows/blue jays have been identified.

Investigate and collect only if the bird is in suitable condition.

Assign a local identification number by health district.

Example: Wayne 1-02

(Bird Number 1 collected by the Wayne County Health Department in 2002)

Example: Columbus 2-02

(Bird Number 2 collected by the Columbus Health Department in 2002)

See “Local ID number” on the “Dead Crow/Blue Jay Submission Form”

Deliver to Ohio Department of Agriculture,

Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (ODA-ADDL)

INCLUDE HARD COPY OF DEAD CROW/BLUE JAY SUBMISSION FORM

On Line Reporting to the Ohio Department of Health

Record this submission electronically by completing the Dead Crow/Blue Jay Submission Form for West Nile Virus on the ODH West Nile virus web site and submit on-line. Consult with the Ohio Department of Health Vector-borne Disease Program if you have any questions. Call 614-752-1029.

Web site address: <http://www.odh.state.oh.us/ODHPrograms/ZOODIS/WNV/Pubs/wnvpubs.htm>

Handling Dead Birds (Only Crows and Blue Jays should be submitted at this time)

To be collected, crows/blue jays should not be dead for more than 48 hours.

Wear rubber, latex, nitrile, or other impermeable gloves in handling dead birds.

Place in plastic bags (Double bag) and seal each tightly.

Crows/Blue Jays should be refrigerated, if possible.

Refrigerate on bagged wet ice or chill packs as soon as possible.

Transport to ODA or place in freezer if transport cannot be done immediately.

Frozen birds can be held indefinitely, but transport to ODA should be done ASAP.

Data for collected birds

SEE DEAD CROW/BLUE JAY REPORTING AND SUBMISSION FORM

E-mail inquiries may also be sent to: zoonoses@gw.odh.state.oh.us

Dead Crow/Blue Jay Submission Form for West Nile Virus

ONLY dead crows/blue jays should be submitted for testing with this completed form to ODA. ODA will also use this form for submission of specimens to the Ohio Department of Health, Vector-borne Disease Program lab. Use one form for each crow/blue jay collected, unless they come from the same address.

Send birds and report forms to: The Ohio Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Industry
 Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
 8995 E. Main St.
 Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Record this submission electronically by completing the Dead Crow/Blue Jay Submission Form for West Nile Virus on the ODH West Nile virus web site and submit on-line. While this may appear to be a duplication of effort, it will expedite the testing process. Call the Vector-borne Disease Program with any questions (614-752-1029).

Web site address: <http://www.odh.state.oh.us/ODHPrograms/ZOODIS/WNV/Pubs/crowsubm.PDF>

State ID number _____

Local ID number _____ (To be assigned by local health districts, by jurisdiction. (See guidelines))

Person completing form:

Name: _____ Date: ___/___/_____

Agency: _____ Phone: _____

Person reporting dead bird(s):

Date of initial report: ___/___/_____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Date dead bird(s) found or seen: ___/___/_____

Number of birds seen: _____ Any evidence of trauma: yes: _ no: _

Species of bird(s): _____

Location of bird(s)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ County: _____

Zip Code (MOST IMPORTANT): _____

GPS location (If possible) Lat: _____ Long: _____

Handling Dead Crows/Blue Jays

To be collected, they should not be dead for more than 48 hours.

If in doubt, but the bird is in good condition, collect it.

Wear gloves in handling dead birds

Place in plastic bags (double-bag)

Refrigerate on bagged wet ice or chill packs as soon as possible

Transport to ODA or place in freezer if transport can not be done immediately

Frozen birds can be held indefinitely, but transport to ODA should be done ASAP.

Date collected: ___/___/_____

Date shipped for testing: ___/___/_____

Important. Check this box if this report form was also submitted electronically.