

Be prepared

- Wildlife disease events can happen anywhere and at any time, so it is best to be prepared.
- Have a footbath and Virkon® available to make up. If you do not have a footbath available please contact the FIG Environment Unit.
- Use the footbath even if there is no sign of a disease outbreak. Signs and symptoms mean a disease has already arrived. Prevention is better than cure.
- When using a footbath make sure that the footbath is closer to the colony than your vehicle is.
- Always respect the countryside code.

Useful Numbers

- FIG Environment Unit: 28427
- Department of Agriculture: 27355
- Veterinary Department: 27366
- Falklands Conservation: 22247

Falkland Islands Government

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Falkland Islands
Government



Wildlife Diseases

Guide for landowners,
farmers and visitors.



Responding to a Wildlife Disease

Seeing ill, sick, diseased or injured wildlife can be distressing. If you do encounter it however, knowing what to do can help **prevent further spread** and **keep you safe**.

Report it!

If you notice something out of the ordinary please report this as soon as possible to **Falklands Conservation** or the **FIG Environment Unit**. When you report it you may be asked a series of questions to help us know the right course to take. Take a note of:

- ✓ **Where** the sick animals are?
- ✓ **When** did you first notice this?
- ✓ **How many** animals were affected?
- ✓ **What** were the **symptoms**? If there are any obvious symptoms please take a photo. If it is behaviour please describe this.
- ✓ Were the animals **chicks or adults**?
- ✓ **Which** species was affected.

During the course of the incident we will keep in touch with you and let you know of any updates. We will also run you through how you can prevent the spread and keep yourself safe.



Sudden unknown death. © Falklands Conservation

What can you do now?

- ✓ **Report it.** If you suspect something please report it.
- ✓ **Avoid trips** to the colony as much as possible. If necessary control the access points to the colony.
- ✓ If you do need to visit please **use a footbath**. Make this up with Virkon® (a biocide) in an at least 1% solution. The footbath should be placed at the entrance point and all visitors should use this when entering and exiting. Leave vehicles further away than the footbath.



Avian pox lesions in a Gentoo Chick
© Falklands Conservation

What is normal?

Not every incident is necessarily a wildlife disease. However, if you are unsure please contact us.

Chicks: Not all chicks make it to adulthood, the number of chicks that will make it to adulthood is extremely variable and will vary year on year and can be as high as 66% mortality. Chicks are also much more susceptible to any illness and so will show signs and symptoms first. Panting is normal behaviour in response to warm weather.

Adults: Injuries from nest fights or trauma from predation attacks can be common and seen in a colony. As with chicks if you see any panting this can be a normal response to warm weather.

In both chicks and adults any staggering, falling, paralysis, lameness, bloody discharge, diarrhea and lesions can be signs of disease. Any unexplained sudden death or large numbers of dying animals in a short period of time are also abnormal. **If you are unsure—report it!**



Ocular lesions in an Avian pox outbreak
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