Small Poultry-Keeper’s Familiarity with Biosecurity

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Introduction

Research focus: To improve our understanding of the biosecurity practices of keepers of small numbers of poultry and to:

❖ Assess attitudes to disease risk
❖ Assess access to information and awareness of poultry regulations and disease control
❖ Describe the practices associated with biosecurity and welfare
❖ Identify ways of reaching unregistered owners in the event of an outbreak
Research Structure

39 qualitative semi-structured face to face interviews
- 16 poultry keepers and 1 vet in Aberdeenshire
- 20 poultry keepers and 2 vets in Fife
Participants Types

- Poultry no other livestock
- Poultry with other livestock
- Exhibitors
Type of Location and Participant

- Urban / village / rural
- Traditional (livestock/arable) farmers
- Veterinarians
Why keep poultry?
“Pets with Purpose”

十几年来一直想养鸡，或是在小时候就养过鸡

喜欢鸡蛋

以前的“商业育种”鸡被救援

展览/展示
Characteristics of Poultry Kept

- Numbers ranged from 3 to around 500
- Variety of breeds and species
Holding Characteristics

- Area varied
- Standard of housing varied
- Confined / free range
Poultry Movements

- Between keepers
- Shows / sales
- Hatching eggs
- Disposal of dead birds

WANTED .... Black bantam Orpington pullet. Willing to travel for the right girl 😊
Biosecurity Practices

- Sporadic isolation of incoming birds
- Regular basic cleaning
- Sporadic disinfecting of facilities
- Few biosecurity measures
Veterinary Expertise

 diret engagement uncommon

 DIY medication / dispatch
Access to Information

Multiple routes

- Social media
- Clubs and groups
- Word of mouth
- Rarely veterinarians
Attitudes to Disease Risk

- More familiar with Avian Influenza in Fife than Aberdeenshire

- Incursion “out-with keepers control”

- Mixed reaction to guidance / regulations
2016 – 17 Avian Influenza Outbreak

Opportunity to follow keepers reactions via Facebook

- Confusion
- Inconsistent information
- Different responses to regulations
- Tensions between keepers
Conclusions

- Limited awareness of risks of Avian Influenza

- Veterinarian access varied

- Not well equipped to deal with an outbreak

- Considerable risk to small flocks

- Limited risk to commercial flocks
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Questions ?