



USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

# GAIN Report

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## Hong Kong

### Poultry and Products

## Carcasses of a Goose and two Ducks tested Positive for H5N1 in Hong Kong

2009

**Approved by:**

Philip A. Shull & Anita Katial  
American Consulate General

**Prepared by:**

Caroline Yuen

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**Report Highlights:**

A dead goose and two dead ducks found on a beach in an outlying island of Hong Kong in late January 2009 have been confirmed to be H5N1 positive after a series of laboratory tests. They were highly decomposed when found. There were no poultry farms within three kilometers of where the carcasses were found and there was no evidence of any backyard poultry being kept in the area. The Hong Kong government (HKG) is looking into different possibilities of why the goose and duck carcasses were found, including whether they had been washed ashore from China. Between February 1 and 5, 2009, 20 more bird carcasses of birds were found in various areas of Hong Kong. Based on preliminary tests for the H5 virus, seven carcasses are suspected to be positive for the H5 virus and another seven have tested negative, and test results of others for the remainder are not yet available. Meanwhile, the HKG has alerted poultry farmers to strengthen precautionary and biosecurity measures against avian influenza. There have been no reports of any abnormal mortality or symptoms of avian influenza among chicken flocks in local poultry farms. Pet bird shop owners, license holders of pet poultry and pigeons have also been reminded to take proper precautions.

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Includes PSD Changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Trade Report  
Hong Kong [HK1]  
[HK]

A dead goose and two dead ducks found on a beach in an outlying island of Hong Kong in late January 2009 have been confirmed to be H5N1 positive after a series of laboratory tests. They were highly decomposed when found. There were no poultry farms within three kilometers of where the carcasses were found and there was no evidence of any backyard poultry being kept there. The Hong Kong government (HKG) is looking into different possibilities of why the goose and duck carcasses were found, including whether they had been washed ashore from China. Between February 1 and 5, 2009, 20 more bird carcasses of birds were found in various areas of Hong Kong. Based on preliminary tests for the H5 virus, seven carcasses are suspected to be positive for the H5 virus and another seven have tested negative, and test results of others for the remainder are not yet available.

A HKG official indicated that the three carcasses confirmed positive of H5N1 virus most likely drifted down from the Pearl River, originating in China last week. He said Hong Kong has in place an avian influenza surveillance program for wild birds and dead birds. About 40 dead birds are collected and tested for avian influenza virus each day and the average H5 positive cases amounts to approximately 10 to 20 cases each year.

Meanwhile, the HKG has alerted poultry farmers to strengthen precautionary and biosecurity measures against avian influenza. There have been no reports of any abnormal mortality or symptoms of avian influenza among chicken flocks in local poultry farms. Pet bird shop owners, license holders of pet poultry and pigeons have also been reminded to take proper precautions. A ban on backyard poultry has been in place since 2006 as one of the measures to minimize the risk of avian influenza outbreak in Hong Kong. The HKG has also inspected villages throughout the territory to ensure that no citizens have raised chickens illegally.