Exotic Newcastle disease in Miami parrots

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Exotic Newcastle disease, a devastating foreign disease of poultry and other birds, has been confirmed by U.S. Department of Agriculture veterinarians in parrots at a pet shop in Miami, Fla.

According to Harry Mussman, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the disease was isolated from a double yellow-headed

Amazon parrot at Fernwood Gardens, 7800 S.W. 117th Ave., Miami, a retail outlet with an inventory of about 120 birds.

Mussman said the diseased bird was one of a shipment of ten from an Arizona bird dealer. The dealer said the birds originated from

California and that two others in the ship shipment were sold to an individual in New Mexico.

Mussman said APHIS has placed Fernwood Gardens under quarantine and that APHIS veterinarians are tracing the other shipments.

There are different forms of Newcastle disease — ranging from mild domestic strains to the highly virulent exotic Newcastle. The milder forms of the disease, common in poultry since the 1940s, have been controlled by vaccines. Commercially raised chickens

and turkeys are highly vulnerable to the disease. The more virulent exotic Newcastle disease virus causes losses even in vaccinated poultry. Young birds are particularly susceptible, with mortality rates approaching 100



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