

# Pike County Health Department

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**HomeCare**



**Across Illinois**

## **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Start Date: 6-20-18**

**Stop Date: 6-26-18**

Contact: Jane Johnson, 217-285-4407 x118

### **Dead Bird Testing Program**

**PITTSFIELD, IL** – Once again this year, the Pike County Health Department will be collecting dead birds to test for the presence of West Nile Virus (WNV). Suitable dead birds are forwarded to the Illinois Department of Agriculture Animal Lab for testing. When the bird tests are positive, we are able to alert the public and recommend protective measures people should consider.

An eligible dead bird would be one that has recently died, shows no signs of decomposition, and appears intact with no signs of trauma (such as being driven over, crashing into a window, being killed or chewed upon by a predator). Most bird species are acceptable for testing except eagles, large hawks or owls, or waterfowl. If contacted, we would try to pick up the bird on the same day and send it off. In some cases, citizens have placed specimens in containers such as a Ziploc bag and removed it to a more secure location. If you would choose to collect a dead bird, be sure that the collector's hand is protected by being inside of the collection bag or by using a plastic glove.

If you encounter an eligible dead bird, we would appreciate you contact our office.

For more information, contact Jane Johnson at Pike County Health Department, 217-285-4407 x118.

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