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Taiwan confirms first bird flu case

Authorities on the island of Taiwan have confirmed the island's first case of bird flu, it was revealed today.

After stopping a Panama-registered freighter, the Taiwanese coast guard discovered 1,037 smuggled birds, which originated in China. The country's Agricultural Council said some of the birds then tested positive for the deadly H5N1 virus.

Authorities are holding a smuggler, whom has not been identified.

In Australia, quarantine officers are to destroy seven pigeons imported from Canada that were found to have been exposed to bird flu.

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service said the birds were part of a shipment that had arrived in Melbourne in September.

All the birds were tested on arrival and three were found to have flu antibodies, but did not test positive for the dangerous H5N1 strain or any other bird flu virus.

Web links

- [Dept of Health - pandemic flu](http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/EmergencyPlanning/PandemicFlu/fs/en)
<http://www.dh.gov.uk/PolicyAndGuidance/EmergencyPlanning/PandemicFlu/fs/en>
- [WHO - Bird Flu fact sheet](http://www.who.int/csr/don/2004_01_15/en/)
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