

## Common Diseases in Poultry

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### Introduction

Raising hens, whether commercially or in your home, offers several advantages. However, severe chicken illnesses represent a significant danger to the venture's long-term viability. Many people abandoned their interest in chicken production owing to the threat of illness. Knowing about these important poultry illnesses will help you prevent and manage your hens better. So we've compiled a list of the most common chicken ailments, along with information on how to avoid and/or treat them.

#### 1) Newcastle Disease-

**Etiology-** Newcastle disease is a viral infection that causes a respiratory neurological condition in hens and other birds. Other birds, particularly wild birds, carry this illness. If you come into contact with an infected bird, you can spread it to your clothes, shoes, and other belongings and this will become a cause of spreading in other birds.

**Symptoms-** In this condition there is respiratory symptoms seen. You will notice breathing issues, discharge from their nose, and their eyes will get hazy. They also cease to lay. The bird's legs and wings are paralyzed, and its neck is twisted.

**Prevention and treatment:** Older birds normally recover and do not become carriers again. However, the sickness will kill the majority of newborn birds.

#### 2) Fowl Pox-

**Etiology-** Avipox virus is responsible for the sickness. The sickness can be disseminated from a virus carrier to other fowl through wounds or even to a neighbouring poultry house.

**Symptoms** -Include white patches on the chicken's skin, scabby sores on their combs, and white ulcers in their mouth or trachea. They also cease to lay.

**Prevention and treatment-** Feed them soft food and keep them in a warm, dry environment to recover. With proper treatment, your birds have a good chance of



surviving this sickness. A vaccination is available to protect healthy birds from developing the illness. Otherwise, the disease can be transferred by other infected birds, insects, or through the air.

### 3) Quail Disease-

**Etiology-** The sickness is caused by *Clostridium colinum*, a rod shape spore-forming bacterium. The illness spreads from sick or carrier birds to healthy birds through their droppings. Causative agent is very resistant to disinfectants and will survive in a variety of environments.

**Symptoms-** Acute cases may expire unexpectedly while still in excellent flesh, however chronic cases grow listless, have ruffled feathers, yellowish watery diarrhoea, and have a humped-up posture. Infected birds frequently die in a state of acute malnutrition.

**Prevention and Treatment-** If you suspect an infection, get expert help. The most effective medications for treating and preventing this condition are bacitracin and penicillin. If bacitracin is used, include up to 200 grams per ton of feed in the feed.

### 4) Botulism-

**Etiology-** It is an illness induced by ingesting a toxin produced by the bacteria *Clostridium botulinum*. The toxin's effects are felt by all domestic poultry and the majority of wild birds. If your hens have got this sickness, it is likely that some form of dead meat was left near their food and water, contaminating it.

**Symptoms-** Chickens begin to develop tremors. Tremors will develop to total bodily paralysis, including breathing. Their feathers will also be simple to pluck out, and death will typically occur within a few hours.

**Prevention and treatment-** Antitoxin can be obtained from a veterinarian for prevention and treatment. If you catch the sickness early enough, you can combine one teaspoon of Epsom salts with thirty milliliters of warm water. Once a day, use a dropper to administer to the birds. This sickness is preventable if you maintain your hens in a clean environment and clear up any dead carcasses in their surroundings.

### 5) Fowl Cholera-



**Etiology-** *Pasteurella multocida* is the bacteria that causes Fowl cholera. Fowl Cholera may be transmitted via wild animals, as well as polluted food and water.

**Symptoms-** Include greenish or yellowish diarrhoea and evident joint discomfort in birds. They also have a darker head or wattle and have difficulty breathing.

**Prevention and treatment-** There is no effective therapy or prevention. Even if your chicken survives, it will always be a carrier of the illness. To avoid the spread of disease, it is typically preferable to destroy their carcass. However, there is a vaccination available to protect your hens from the sickness.

#### 6) **Infectious Bronchitis-**

**Etiology-** Avian infectious bronchitis virus (IBV) causes the sickness.

**Symptoms** – It includes sneezing, snoring, and coughing in chickens. The discharge will soon begin to exude from their nose and eyes. Laying will also come to an end.

**Prevention and Treatment-** Used vaccination to protect your hens from this sickness. If vaccination is not done, isolate as soon as you see signs of the disease. Infectious Bronchitis is a viral infection that spreads swiftly via the air. Give your hens a warm, dry area to recover from Infectious Bronchitis. Warm herb tea and fresh herb feeding may be beneficial.

#### 7) **Infectious Coryza-**

**Etiology-** A bacteria called *Hemophilus gallinarum* causes the sickness. Outbreaks are typically caused by the introduction of diseased or carrier birds into a flock. It can also be transmitted through polluted water and surfaces.

**Symptoms-** It includes enlarged head. Their eyes will physically swell shut, as will their combs. The discharge from their eyes and nostrils will then begin to flow. They will cease producing eggs and have wetness beneath their wings.

**Prevention and treatment-** Unfortunately, there is no vaccination to prevent or treat this condition. If your hens get this sickness, they should be slaughtered and either buried or burned. If not, they will be a carrier of the disease for the rest of their lives, posing a risk to the remainder of your flock.

To prevent sickness, keep your hens away from other chickens and keep their coop and water clean.

#### 8) **Marek's Disease-**



**Etiology-** Marek's illness is caused by a virus from the Herpesviridae family. They get the virus by inhaling fragments of shed skin and feather from an infected chick. They are highly susceptible to this sickness.

**Symptoms-** More prevalent in younger birds, generally younger than 20 weeks. Tumors form within or outside of your chick. Their iris goes grey, and they stop responding to light. They are rendered immobile.

**Prevention and Treatment-** If your chick affected with this disease, it must be euthanized. If it survives, it will be a carrier of the illness for the rest of its life. To avoid the illness, day-old chicks can be given a vaccination.

#### 9) Thrush-

**Etiology-** It is a fungal disease caused by the yeast *Candida albicans*. It is important that Thrush is a fungal disease so it can be spread if you allow your chickens to eat moulded feed or other moulded food and this can also spread from contaminated water or surfaces.

**Symptoms-** A white oozy substance inside their crop. The chicken will appear lethargic and have a crusty vent area and their feathers will look ruffled.

**Prevention and Treatment-** Though there is no vaccine, it can be treated by an anti-fungal medicine that you can get from your local vet. Be sure to remove the infected food and clean their water container as well.

#### 10) Bumblefoot-

**Etiology -** This condition is caused when a poultry wound on the foot becomes infected. The chicken may inadvertently cut its foot on something when digging in the garden, digging on surface of mulch, or in a variety of other situations.

**Symptoms-** This infected wound causes swelling up the leg.

**Prevention and treatment-** Bumblefoot is fairly common, and there isn't much you can do to avoid it other than keeps a constant check on your chickens' feet. If you discover a wound on your foot, wash and clean it immediately to prevent the disease from spreading.

#### 11) Air Sac Disease –

**Etiology-** *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* is the bacterium that causes it.



**Symptoms-** The disease begins with reduced egg production and a frail chicken. Coughing, sneezing, breathing issues, swollen joints, and possibly death as it develops.

**Prevention and treatment-** The sickness can be prevented and treated with a vaccination. It can also be treated with an antibiotic. It can spread from bird to bird, so keep a watch out for any of these signs so that it can be treated as soon as possible.

#### 12) Mushy Chick-

**Etiology-** The cause is a bacterial infection caused by incorrect navel closure. It is frequently caused by improper incubation, poor hatchery cleanliness, or chilling/overheating shortly after hatching.

**Symptoms:** This condition usually manifests as in freshly hatched chicks with an enlarged, inflammatory and blue-tinged stomach. The chick will have a foul odor and seem sleepy. Naturally, the chick will be feeble as well.

**Prevention and treatment-** There is no vaccination for this disease, however antibiotics may be effective in certain cases. It is mainly spread from chick to chick or through a filthy surface where an infected chick has been. It is usually caught from a dirty environment by a chick with a weakened immune system. In the event of a disease outbreak, the best strategy is to isolate the birds from the ill ones.

#### 13) Pullorum Disease-

**Etiology-** The disease is caused by bacteria known as *Salmonella pullorum*. This organism is typically transferred by eggs; however, it may also be transmitted through other ways. It is spread through contaminated surfaces and other birds that have gotten infected with the sickness.

**Symptoms-** The sickness has various effects on chicks and adult birds. The chicks are motionless and have a white paste all over their backsides, as well as evidence of trouble breathing. Sneezing and coughing, as well as poor laying, are common in elderly birds.

**Prevention and treatment -** There is no vaccination to prevent or treat this condition. All infected birds should be put down, and the dead birds should be burned or buried so that the disease does not spread.

#### 14) Avian Influenza-



**Etiology-** It is one of the first concerns about keeping hens since all you hear about in the news is people getting sick when their chickens get bird flu. However, if you understand the signs, you'll be able to put your fears to rest. If you are concerned that your backyard birds have come into touch with it, you must be prepared to respond immediately.

**Symptoms-** Include respiratory problems and a cessation of egg laying. They get diarrhoea. The chicken's face may expand, and its comb and wattle may become discolored or blue. They may get dark red markings on their legs and combs as well.

**Prevention and treatment-** There is no vaccination, and the birds are not treated.

### Conclusions

Poultry industry is the one of the most growing sectors in the India. There are so many diseases discuss above are the main concern of poultry industry but by the better management as discussed above we can control the disease outbreak and can take the much benefit from poultry industry.

