



For further information contact your nearest Animal Health Technician or State/Private Veterinarian

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Newcastle disease



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The risk to your birds

- An acute, rapidly spreading, contagious viral disease of domestic poultry and other birds worldwide, characterised by rapid onset and variable mortality.
- Birds affected by this disease include chickens, turkeys, geese, ducks, pheasants, guinea fowl and other wild and captive birds (e.g. parrots), including raptors such as ostriches and emus

How to recognise the disease

What to look out for:

- The clinical signs in affected birds can be very variable. The disease can be present in a very acute form with sudden onset and high mortality or as a mild disease with respiratory distress or a drop in egg production as the only detectable clinical sign.

Clinical signs include:

- Depression
- Nervous symptoms
- Lack of appetite
- Respiratory distress with beak gaping
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Gurgling noises
- Green diarrhoea
- Swollen sinuses

How to recognise the disease In laying flocks a sudden drop in egg production with a high proportion of eggs laid with abnormal (soft) shells is often an early sign of this disease.

- Young birds are particularly susceptible and mortality can be high, with survivors often exhibiting permanent nervous symptoms.
- When lesions are present, these may include haemorrhages (bleeding) in the lining of the glandular stomach,

gizzard, intestines, heart, inner surface of the chest wall, some skeletal muscles and air sacculitis/pericarditis (inflammation of the air sacs/heart sac)

Reducing the risk of this disease

This disease is transmitted via:

- Infected or diseased birds
- Direct contact with secretions from infected birds, especially faeces
- Contaminated vehicles, equipment, personnel, clothing, water or feed

Reducing the impact of the disease

- If Newcastle disease is suspected or confirmed in poultry, the owner or keeper of the birds is immediately obligated not to move anything off the premises that could spread disease.
- In compliance with the requirements of the Animal Diseases Act, 1984 (Act No. 35 of 1984), the owner must immediately report any suspect or confirmed outbreak of Newcastle disease to his nearest Animal Health Technician, State Veterinarian or Private Veterinarian.
- Controls on the movement of poultry, other captive birds, people, animals, eggs, vehicles and other things liable to spread disease to and from the premises will be imposed by the Provincial State Veterinary Services. Poultry and captive birds on site must be housed or otherwise isolated from other birds.
- Disinfection facilities must be installed at the entrances and exits of the premises and bird housing if not already in place.

Reducing the impact of disease as a disease control measure, infected birds must be isolated and destroyed by a responsible person. Contact animals have to be isolated and immunised by the responsible person with an efficient remedy. Cleansing and disinfection should be done of buildings used to house poultry, their surroundings, the vehicles used for transport and all equipment likely to be contaminated.

Prevention

- Vaccinate your birds against Newcastle disease with a registered vaccine.
- Consult your nearest State Veterinarian or Animal Health Technician if you suspect or notice any clinical signs of Newcastle disease in your birds.

