

**Poultry Diagnostic Quick Fact Sheet**

**HIGH MORTALITY or RESPIRATORY or CNS SIGNS**



CONTACT YOUR STATE VET or LAB – DO NOT MOVE LIVE BIRDS  
See Reportable Disease Information Chart

- 1) Egg binding or ascites can cause penguin walk.
- 2) Drop in production – feed, management changes, molting, seasonal lighting. Infections- generally have changes in shell quality
- 3) Calcium deficiency
- 4) Fatty Liver Hemorrhagic Syndrome – larger/heavy birds with high BCS
- 5) Egg yolk peritonitis – yolks deposited into abdominal cavity instead of oviduct

- 1) Evaluate for head/sinus swelling, coughing, sneezing
  - 2) Mucoïd or bloody discharge
  - 3) Airsacculitis, peritonitis, tracheitis on necropsy
- CONSIDER ALL REPORTABLE DISEASES !!**

Collect Choanal Swabs in BHI or saline = PCR (Cloacal swabs for AI in waterfowl)  
Serum for serology screening – may be advised to collect convalescent samples in 3-4 weeks  
Swollen head or sinus – MG, Coryza (*Avibacterium pg*), etc  
Submit lungs/airsac swabs/liver for culture/PCR

REPRO

RESPIRATORY

- 1) Dropping evaluation – see Dropping evaluation chart – perform fecal exam Consider management/feed reasons for loose droppings.
- 2) Necropsy – Evaluate each section  
Mouth – oral lesions, discoloration  
Crop – mycosis, capillaria  
Proventriculus – Hemorrhage, thickening, ulcerations  
Ventriculus – ulcers, unusual content  
Intestine – Note lesions, section where they occur, and description of content. Coccidiosis, Clostridial infection.  
Ceca – Content should be green/brown, Very enlarged, hard, or bloody content are abnormal. Coccidiosis. heterakis .

Fecal Floatation – coccidiosis, worms (cocci may be normal in low # in adult)  
Necropsy - Submit various segments for histopathology  
Consider Clostridial infection- culture or lesions  
Collect feed sample  
Water – regular changes, water testing

**LOW MORTALITY**  
Non-Reportable Disease

Gastro-intestinal

Nervous Muscular Skeletal

General Other or Unknown

- 1) Apply examination skills to determine if cause is CNS/PNS/musculoskeletal
- 2) Look at foot pads for ulceration/infection.
- 3) Evaluate joints for swelling.

- 1) Bumblefoot – infection of footpad. Debride, treat, surgery.
- 2) Joint infections - Collect joint fluid for culture or tendon for Reovirus PCR
- 3) Ricketts – young birds or layers – Collect feed sample. Calcium:phos ratio.
- 4) Mareks – paralysis of one or both legs – confirm on histopathology
- 5) Nutritional deficiencies – check ration formulation  
Collect a feed sample

- 1) Septicemia with *E. coli*, *Pasturella multocida*, or other bacteria can occur.
- 2) Many problems are secondary to diet, management, or weight issues. Correct management issues as well as treat.
- 3) Submit birds for necropsy and /or samples to the poultry specialist at a poultry diagnostic lab. Good history, physical exam notes, and photos are helpful.

For Diagnostic Sampling and Treatment Info  
See Poultry Resources Pages or contact your diagnostic lab