Flyte Sc Fancy The Heart of Quality



The Flyte so Fancy Helpful Health Chart

This simple reference guide to poultry health has been collated from customer's questions we regularly receive on our advice line here at Flyte so Fancy, and after many requests from our customers. We hope you find it useful.

Please note though, **we are not vets** and these notes should not replace the advice from a qualified person. Weoffer these guidelines from our own experiences as long-time poultry keepers.

We cover many of these Poultry Problems in our website Information Centre: flytesofancy.co.uk/blogs/information-centre/tagged/chickens-ducks

| Symptoms | Disease or Problem | Cause | Treatment | Bird Species |
|---|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Listless, ruffled, head sunken neck, white diarrhoea, maybe blood in faeces | Coccidiosis | Coccidia, an internal Parasite | Baycox (via Vet) or Coxoid* in water for five days. Keep litter dry with Stalosan F Disinfectant powder. Give poultry tonic after treatment. | All Birds from three weeks, usually affects younger birds |
| Listless, greenish diarrhoea, thirst, reduced egg laying | Internal Parasitic worms | Round worm, Tape worm, Threadworm, Caecal worm | Flubendazole from a Vet, mixed into feed for seven days. Ongoing herbal treatment with Verm-X or Easyverm. Apple Cider Vinegar in water as preventative. | All Poultry |
| Visible parasites around vent; egg cases on base of feathers; listless | Lice or Mites | Very common. Poultry Lice or Mites | Louse Powder, Red Mite Powder or Diatom (DE) Powder all over bird. Spray house with Poultry Shield or Total Mite Kill spray, or other proprietory product. | All Poultry except waterfowl |
| Sneezing, nasal discharge, foam in eye, lameness, rattly breathing, swollen sinus | Mycoplasma | Mycoplasma infectious bacteria. Contagious. | Quarantine. Antibiotics from Vet. Oreganico Herbal Tonic in water or Respite Tonic. Disinfect everything with Virkon S or other poultry disinfectant. | Chickens, Turkeys, Ducks |
| Raised, encrusted scales on legs, swelling, limping | Scaly Leg | Scaly Leg Mite, contagious, damp litter or wet ground | Scaly Leg Spray or Ointment. Ensure house litter is not damp. Disinfect housing. Dry it with Stalosan F. Use in Run too | Any Bird |
| Blood on skin | Wounds | Feather Pecking, heat stress, overcrowding | Remove injured bird, treat bloodied wounds with antiseptic e.g. gentian violet, wound spray, wound powder. | Any Bird |
| Brown Diarrhoea, slow growth, slow feathering | Enteritis | E. coli bacteria, stress, bad diet, overcrowding, dirty litter | Vet for antibiotic. Oreganico Tonic in water. Disinfect house and all utensils with Virkon S. Keep litter dry with Stalosan F. | Young Stock from Five Days |
| Purple Comb, unwell | Heart Failure, sudden death | Age, Deformity, poisoning | Vet for diagnosis/post mortem. | Large older Hens |

| Symptoms | Disease/ Problem | Cause | Treatment | Bird Species |
|--|--|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| Swelling under foot, lameness, abscess on foot | Bumblefoot | Staphylococcus bacteria, injury to foot and infection, landing on hard ground | Vet may suggest Sulphur Powder. Abscess may need removing. Antiseptic spray. Lower the perches. Avoid hard surfaces and gravel. Better hygiene. | Old Heavy Birds |
| Top beak overgrown, long claws | Overgrowth | Deformity, soft ground | Trim to shape with clippers | All birds |
| Unusual behaviour, aggression, seeming traumatised | Stress | Disturbance (fox attack) or change to new environment. New birds introduced. | Vitamin Tonic or probiotics. Give treats to distract. Hang Pecking blocks. Reduce any overcrowding. Add poultry tonic to water. It should pass in time. | All birds |
| Lameness | Injury, tumour, scaly leg | Kidney disease, tumour, arthritis, leg mite | Isolate. If tumour or suspected kidney problems consult Vet. Treat any injury with antiseptic e.g. Antiseptic Spray. Allow to recover quietly. | All birds |
| Paralysis, same side leg and wing, disorientation | Mareks's disease | Herpes-type Virus | Vet diagnosis. Vaccinate new stock, cull affected birds, no cure. Any surviving birds would be carriers and infect others. | Hens up to point of lay, cockerels |
| Weight loss, stopped laying, swelling around head, wheezing | Bird 'flu (these symptoms are common to other diseases too, please don't panic) | Avian influenza virus | Vet diagnosis. No treatment, cull affected birds. Wild birds are carriers. DEFRA Notifiable Disease. | Birds over one year |
| Respiratory distress, discharge, deformed eggs | Infectious Bronchitus | Coronavirus | Vet for diagnosis and treatment. Vaccinate early. Respite Tonic. | Hens, pheasants, guinea fowl |
| Gasping, neck stretching | Gape Worms | Gape Worm in throat | Treat with Flubenvet from Vet immediately. | All birds |
| Pendulous (drooping) enlarged crop | Cropbound, impacted crop | Ranging in long grass, weak muscles | No food 48 hours. More Flint Grit, gently syringe warm olive oil into mouth and massage crop. | Old hens or birds on long grass |
| Enlarged crop, smelly discharge from crop, lethargic | Moniliasis, Sour Crop | Yeast infection (like thrush) | Vet for antifungal drug. Give live yoghurt or Oreganico Tonic. Turn bird upside down to gently massage crop and expel contents. | All birds |
| Cheesy substance in ear canal | Ear infection | Bacteria or Mites | Vet diagnosis and treatment. Veterinary powder | All birds |
| Listless, straining to lay egg | Eggbound | Deformity, low available calcium, extra large egg, old age | Keep warm. Apply olive oil to vent to help expel egg. Do not break egg! DO NOT hold bird over steaming water! May contract peritonitis which is hard to recover from. | All female birds |
| Waterfowl - wing droops then sticks out | Angel wing | High protein diet | Reduce protein, tape wing in natural position for three days. | Young waterfowl |
| Waterfowl no longer waterproof | Wet feather | Shaft lice, excess preening | Keep off pond until next moult, de- louse with Diatom, wash in mild detergent if necessary | Waterfowl |
| Feathers missing from back and wing tips | Overmating | Overmating by cockerel | Protect Hen with poultry saddle or remove Cockerel. | All Hens |

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|---|---------------------|--|--|------------------------|
| Runny Poo, usually yellow | Diet | Excess cabbage, sunflower seeds or sweet corn | Restrict treats, make sure they eat layers pellets primarily supplemented with mixed corn. | All birds |
| Waterfowl sitting down all the time, unable to walk, lame | "Off-its-legs" | Worms | Flubenvet or similar from Vet | Waterfowl primarily |
| Panting | Heat Stress | Temperature over 30 deg, poor ventilation, no shade | Increase ventilation but no draughts. Give outdoor shade in summer. Birds can't sweat to release heat. | All birds |
| Floppy neck, paralysis | Botulism | Bad hygiene, eating rotting meat or veg, dirty drinking water, excess of flies. | Vet diagnosis, probably incurable. Clean and disinfect everything with Virkon S, follow up with Stalosan F powder. | All birds |
| Diarrhoea, lethargy, droopy wing, ruffled | Salmonella | Unvaccinated birds. Bad hygiene in house and utensils. | Vet diagnosis. No treatment available, surviving birds remain carriers. Whole flock to be culled. Disinfeeect everything before new birds. | All birds |
| Unwell, convulsions, purple tinge to comb | Poisoning | Poisoning by plants or insecticides. Algea build up in drinkers. | Observe & cull if necessary. Birds will naturally avoid most harmful plants but beware: Laburnum, pea family foliage, potato & tomato (nightshade) foliage, Privet, Yew, Rapeseed, Foxgloves. | All birds |
| Convulsions, vomiting, sudden death | Poisoning | Poisoning by other agents | Observe & cull if necessary. Beware: <u>SALT</u> , Creosote, Herbicides, Lead paint, Nitrates, Fungicides on bought garden seeds, Ammonia, Slug Pellets | All birds |
| Intestines hanging out of birds vent | Prolapse | Damage to connective tissue inside (e.g. laying extra large egg) | Vet. Attempt to gently push back into bird lubricate with liquid paraffin. Recovery possible but unlikely. | All birds |
| Black marks on, or loss of comb & wattle | Frostbite | Out in temperatures well below zero | Protect these vulnerable areas with Vaseline or Comb & Wattle Protector | Adult Poultry |
| Not laying any eggs or laying rarely | | Moult, unwell, obesity, old age, change of routine, travel, reached point-of-lay too late in year, too many treats & lack of exercise | Reduce treats, make sure they eat layers pellets. Enlarge run area. Are they laying somewhere you don't know about? Is the comb bright red? Plenty of daylight? Are they suffering from another problem e.g. worms or other disease? | Adult Poultry |
| Broken eggs in nestbox, egg eating | | Broken egg shells in nestbox | Hard habit to break. Collect eggs several times a day. Put rubber or china eggs in nesting boxes. | All Hens |
| Soft shelled eggs, deformed eggs, small eggs no yolk | | Calcium deficiency. Young hens not yet laying properly. | Natural when birds first come into lay or return to lay after moult. Give oystershell grit or calcium supplement e.g. Cal-Boost. | All Hens |

| | Disease/ | | | |
|--|---------------------------------|---|--|-----------------|
| Symptoms | Problem | Cause | Treatment | Bird Species |
| Shell-less eggs | | Finding just the inner egg sack without a shell | Young birds first starting to lay. Their body simply hasn't got into the routine of adding a shell to the egg. | Young hens |
| Depressed, pale comb & wattles, itchy head, brown mites around eyes | Northern Fowl Mite | Northern Fowl Mite | Dust bird with Diatom (DE) powder or a Pyrethrum-based louse powder. Apply Ivermectin*. Try and reduce contact with wild birds. | All birds |
| Reluctant to enter house at night, pale comb, lethargic | Anaemia/Red Mite infestation | Red Mite | Treat house immediately with Poultry Shield/Smite/Total Mite Kill and follow with Diatom (DE) powder in house/on birds. Repeat every 6 days. Or spray once with Ardap spray to last 6 weeks. | All hen housing |
| Cannibalism, drawing blood | Heat stress, other stress | Too light in house, overcrowding, boredom, hunger/ thirst, parasites, bad housing | Make house dark at night, increase ventilation in house, add boredom busters to run, have ad-lib access to layers pellets all day, larger drinker, diatom powder on hens and in house to reduce parasites. | All birds |
| Aggressive feather pecking | Feather pecking | Boredom, cramped house, no cockerel, new birds introduced | Give more room, hang boredom busters in run area, remove aggressor completely or remove victim for one week. | All hens |
| Feathers falling out | Moulting | Annual moult | Natural annual process, could last up to 2 months. No action needed or, give high protein feed or tonic to speed up recovery. | All birds |
| Feathers pulled out and eaten | Feather eating | Lack of protein in diet, eating feathers as they are high in protein. | Change type of layers pellet to higher protein content for a period. Give high protein treats, Net-tex Vit- Boost or Poultry Zest pellets | All poultry |
| Not perching, sleeping in nest box or on floor | | New birds, point- of-lay birds, new house, rescue hens, red mite. Perches too high, unstable or wrong size. | Teach them to perch by putting them on the perch every night until they learn. Perch size should be 2" wide with rounded off edges, lowest perch no higher than 12"-18", lower for large birds/ bantams. Always check perch ends for red mite. | All poultry |
| Green diarrhoea, respiratory problems, soft-shelled eggs, twisting of neck, sudden death | Newcastle Disease | Paramyxovirus, fowl pest | No cure, infected birds culled. DEFRA Notifiable Disease. | All poultry |

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Please note though, we are not Vets and these notes should not replace the advice from a qualified person, but we are offering these guidelines from our own experiences as long-time poultry keepers.

We would like to add that most poultry keepers would rarely come across most of these diseases or problems in a lifetime of keeping so, please don't panic, we are not trying to scare you.

For even more information visit our website: flytesofancy.co.uk/blogs/information-centre/tagged/chickens-ducks

