Poultry Illness
Flow Chart

Quickly Dying
(Within 12 hours of first symptoms)
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Sick and Slowly Dying
(Symptoms persist for more than 24 hours)

Dying overnight?

- Bright purple skin?
- Purple Comb?

- Bird on their Back feet in the air

Sudden Death Syndrome

- Electrolyte imbalance, heat related

- Reduce Stocking Density
- Increase Air Flow
- Apple Cider Vinegar 1 oz. per gallon in drinking water
- Move poultry in Midday
- Plan to process chickens earlier than planned.

Dying Anytime?

- Birds depressed?
- Eating bedding?
- Drinking extra water?
- Runny manure

Ascites - Water Belly

- Generally from cool damp stress

- Increase Air Flow
- Apple Cider Vinegar 1 oz. per gallon in drinking water
- Limit or withhold feed during the night
- No great treatments
- Birds may continue to die from time of stress to time of slaughter.

Ascites - Water Belly

- Blood in Manure

Coccidiosis

- No Blood but same symptoms

Necrotic Enteritis

- Change bedding
- Offer Raw Milk 1 hr feedings daily
- Copper Sulfate Treatment 1/5 oz per 5 gallon water. 3 days only!

- Antibiotics will not help; these conditions are not viral or bacterial.

If symptoms persist:
- Commercial Coccidea treatment may help.

Sinusitis
Sinus infection, 95% probability
Or
New Castles Disease
5% probability

- For Sinusitis
- Improve air quality
- Top apply to feed with Kelp meal.
- Vitamin Electrolyte mixed in water.
- Symptoms should be relieved within 4 - 7 days.
- Continue treatment for 14 days minimum.

If symptoms persist:
- Treat with antibiotics
Quickly Dying
(Within 12 hours of first symptoms or no symptoms)

- Feed or Water either mold, algae or spoiled
  Blood poisoning from bacteria toxin formation
  - Get fresh feed or water to resolve the problem.
  - Feed plain yogurt or cultured milk to reseed the digestive tract with beneficial bacteria.

- Feed and Water is OK
  - Chickens eating feed from the litter around feeders and waterers?
    - Is that litter damp and musty smelling
  Severe Enteritis, Botulism, Salmonella or E-Coliform poisoning
    - A serious toxin forming bacterial infection.
    - Immediately change bedding.
    - Try feeding yogurt, cultured milk or probiotic.

- None of previous symptoms exist?
  - Study birds more closely (Observation time should be no less than 15 minutes quietly watching for irregularities.)

  - If still no similar symptoms call veterinarian or state laboratory for diagnosis.

  If symptoms persist:
    - If no response is noticed within 24 hours treat with commercial antibiotics.
Leg Problem Flow Chart

Curled Toes

How many?

5% or more?
- Riboflavin Deficiency
  - Check feed formulation for adequate riboflavin.
  - Quick cure feed brewer’s yeast on top of feed.

1-5% or less?
- Genetic Abnormality
  - May not be curable.
  - Supplement added Vitamin E 50 IU per chick per day

Splayed or Spraddle Leg

How many?

5% or more?
- Manganese Deficiency
  - Check feed formulation for adequate manganese.
  - Quick cure supplement manganese on top of feed.

1-5% or less?
- Genetic Abnormality
  - Once tendon has slipped there is no cure.

Other Leg Disorders

Walks strange or lays around

How many?

Does not want to walk?

Possible Calcium Deficiency

- Verify dietary Calcium content.
  - If calcium is OK
    - If calcium is low adjust calcium in ration.
    - Supplement Oyster shells until new feed is ready.

No cart

Note: This flow chart does not include all possibilities merely the most common. These remedies are not mainstream commercial treatment. They have worked for others but they may not work all of the time. It is my wish that it helps some of you some of the time.

Jeff Mattocks