



SPCA CERTIFIED

Flock Health Planning for Turkeys

The following Tables 1 & 2 are provided as examples of minimum response and treatment plans and are not exhaustive. Producers must include additional information, conditions and protocols specific to their operations.

Table 1. Bird Health Response Plan

Trigger for Investigation	Response Plan
An unexplained increase in mortality Excessive rates include: Mortality > 0.5% in the first 24 hours Mortality > 1% in any given week Mortality > 5% per flock	Specimens collected and submitted to vet / lab or call vet
Onset of clinical signs of disease such as reduced activity, huddling, cough, watery eyes, diarrhea, weakness or paralysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor birds ▪ Diagnostics ▪ Cull ▪ Enhance environmental comfort (e.g. heat, ventilation)
An unexplained change in feed / water consumption	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitor rate of change ▪ Change feed ▪ Supplement with vitamins ▪ Assess pasture environment (if applicable) and barn environment
An unexplained drop in egg production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diagnostics – lab or vet ▪ Serology/blood tests ▪ Supplement with vitamins/calcium
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Investigate as appropriate

Table 2. Treatment Protocols

Illness	Signs to look for	Treatment protocols	Preventative protocols / when to call a vet
Bacterial infection: Yolk sac	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High early mortality ▪ Mushy, rotten poults 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cull 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mortality > 1% in 1st week
Bacterial infection: Ecoli / Fowl cholera septicemia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Difficulty breathing ▪ High mortality ▪ Uneven birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cull 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mortality > 1% per week
Coccidiosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wet droppings ▪ Hunched up birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amprol 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ > 5% flock affected
Fowl Pox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dry scabs on face and skin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No treatment ▪ Provide iodine topically ▪ Prevent by good cleaning and disinfection and biosecurity programs ▪ Fly and mosquito control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Confirm with lab diagnostics
Salmonella	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ May be no clinical signs ▪ May see an increase in mortality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Antibiotics not recommended ▪ Good cleaning and disinfection program between flocks ▪ Rodent control 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If excessive mortality
Mites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feather loss ▪ Picking 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Diatomaceous Earth ▪ Insecticidal sprays / powders 	
Internal Parasites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unthrifty birds ▪ Diarrhea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ De-worm program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If no response to de-worming

Ascites / Congestive Heart Failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dark blue birds ▪ Difficulty breathing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase heat 	
Lameness	Paralysis	Cull and further investigate cause (e.g. feed error, botulism)	Contact the vet if > 1% of flock is affected
Lameness	Sick bird (bird reluctant to walk but also showing clinical signs of illness – e.g. watery eyes, diarrhea etc.)	See Tables 1 and 2	Contact the vet if > 1% of flock is affected
Lameness	Angular leg deformities	Cull	Contact the vet if > 1% of flock is affected
Lameness	Infectious arthritis (joints feel warmer than rest of leg)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Treatment with appropriate antibiotic under supervision of vet ▪ Prevent by good litter management and low ammonia, which reduces chance of foot pad dermatitis and hock burns 	Contact the vet if > 1% of flock is affected
Lameness	<p>Rickets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Will affect a greater number of birds and present relatively quickly ▪ Birds walk gingerly and / or stand up, take a few steps and sit down <p><u>Note:</u> the incidence of rickets in turkeys is higher than in broiler chickens</p>	Supplement with vitamin D or general vitamin supplement and observe for improvement for 3 days	Contact the vet if > 1% of flock is affected
For more information on signs of lameness and other relevant information for turkeys, also see the BC SPCA lameness factsheet.			