



Pullorum Disease & Fowl Typhoid (PT)

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Pullorum and Fowl Typhoid are septicaemic diseases, primarily of chickens and turkeys, caused by Gram negative bacteria, *Salmonella Gallinarum* and *S. Pullorum*.

Fowl typhoid should not be confused with typhoid fever in humans, which is caused by a distinctly different organism.

Pullorum Disease and Fowl Typhoid (PT) can affect young poultry similarly. Affected birds huddle near a heat source, appear weak, have diarrhea (accompanied with pasting around the vent), loss of appetite, increased thirst and a pale appearance of the comb and wattles. Though both diseases can affect growing or mature flocks, Fowl Typhoid is most likely to do so.

Outbreaks of pullorum and fowl typhoid must be reported to the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock and poultry regulatory agency.

Transmission of Pullorum - Fowl Typhoid

Although an outbreak of pullorum-typhoid may result in high mortality, some birds will survive to become disease carriers for life. If these birds are introduced into a new flock, they can start the cycle of disease over again.

Transmission of PT is primarily through the egg, but can also occur via direct or indirect contact with infected birds. Many of these bacterial-laden eggs will not hatch, or the chicks will die shortly after hatching.

Because the organisms can stay alive for months, the pullorum and typhoid bacteria can be mechanically transmitted from one site to another on shoes, clothing or equipment that has not been properly disinfected.

Many poultry and bird diseases can present similar signs. Unexpected, high mortalities or widespread, unusual illness affecting the flock should be reported to your veterinarian, the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL), or to the TAHC, so samples may be collected and submitted for laboratory testing.

Testing Requirements Participants in the NPIP Program

To prevent the introduction of disease, it is extremely important to know the health status of flocks from which birds or chicks are obtained. Reputable hatcheries and breeders voluntarily enroll in the NPIP program and maintain high health standards for their flocks.

Pullorum-free flocks should be the only source for hatching eggs. Flocks participating in the NPIP are issued an individual number, which is noted on official health documents.

Nearly all shows require that poultry and birds entered, be tested negative for pullorum-typhoid or originate from an NPIP participating flock.

Owners earn NPIP participation status certificates for their flock or hatchery through required record keeping, sanitation practices and statistical testing of birds. The NPIP program is open to all poultry producers. To learn more about the program or to enroll, contact the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory at 979-845-4186.

Farm Biosecurity Measures

- Poultry owners and producers should practice sound biosecurity measures to prevent the introduction of disease into their flock.
- Use an all-in, all-out philosophy of flock management.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect equipment, tires, and undercarriages of vehicles entering or leaving the farm.
- Do not loan or borrow equipment or vehicles from other poultry operations.
- Allow only essential workers and vehicles to enter the farm.
- Provide clean clothing and disinfection facilities for employees who work with poultry.
- Protect poultry flocks from coming into contact with wild or migratory birds.
- Keep poultry away from any source of water that may have been contaminated by wild birds or migratory waterfowl.
- Avoid visiting other poultry farms. If you must go to another farm, live bird market, or flea market, change footwear and clothing before working with your own flock.
- Don't bring birds to your flock unless you know the health status of the flock of origin.

Report Suspicious Signs

Don't wait. If your flock has large, unexpected death loss or illness, notify the TAHC immediately. The TAHC is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 1-800-550-8242.

Information provided by the USDA-APHIS-VS and the TAHC
P.O. Box 12966, Austin, TX 78711-2966
www.tahc.texas.gov - 800.550.8242

