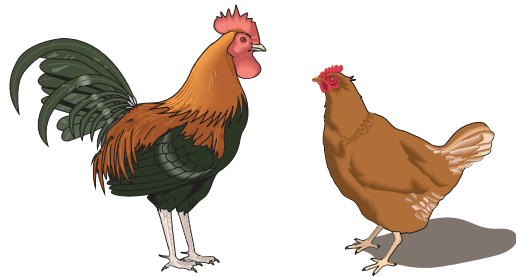


# NEWCASTLE DISEASE

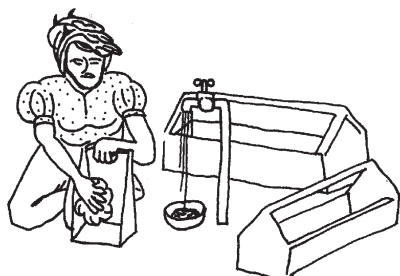
Newcastle disease is a serious disease and poses a constant threat to poultry in Southern Africa. It is caused by a virus, and once the chicken has become infected, it cannot be cured by, for instance, antibiotics. The disease affects most types of poultry including chickens, pigeons, parrots and guinea fowl (waterfowl are less susceptible to the disease).



There are three types of Newcastle disease virus, namely a serious type (can cause up to 100 % mortality in an unvaccinated flock), a less serious type, and a mild type which causes no symptoms in a flock. The virus occurs in certain parts of the body, for instance the airways, intestines or the nervous system.

## TRANSMISSION OF THE DISEASE

The chicken comes into contact with the disease by inhaling contaminated air or eating contaminated material. The major ways in which the disease is transmitted to poultry are the movement of live poultry, people, equipment and poultry products.



Transmission can also take place via the air, infected poultry feed or infected water.

## SYMPTOMS

The period from first exposure of the chicken to the virus, to the appearance of symptoms varies according to many factors, but is usually between 2 to 15 days.



*Serious form of the disease:*

- deaths
- listlessness
- rapid breathing
- green diarrhoea
- nervous symptoms (twisted necks, lameness)

*Less serious form:*

- rapid breathing
- difficult breathing
- decrease in egg production



*Mild form:*

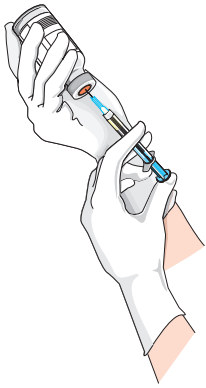
- no signs
- further problems with bacterial infections, especially colisepticaemia



**CONTACT THE NEAREST STATE VETERINARIAN IF  
MANY CHICKENS IN YOUR FLOCK ARE DYING**

## HOW TO DEAL WITH NEWCASTLE DISEASE

- Contact the nearest state veterinarian, animal health technician or poultry veterinarian to make sure that the cause of deaths in your flock is Newcastle disease.



The state veterinarian will advise you on:

- quarantine measures for live chickens, dead chickens, products, litter and feed to prevent the spread of the disease
- emergency vaccination of in-contact chickens with a suitable vaccine, preferably applied via the spray method
- how to effectively disinfect the affected poultry houses
- how to deal with litter from infected houses
- how to deal with unused feed
- what to do with dead chickens.

## PREVENTING NEWCASTLE DISEASE



Newcastle disease is caused by a virus and there is no treatment for chickens once they have the disease.



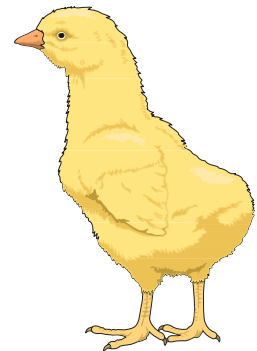
Chickens must be protected against the disease by vaccination.



Your nearest veterinarian will give advice on the best vaccination programme for your flock.



Handle all vaccines carefully and apply according to the instructions on the leaflet included with the vaccine.



**DO NOT BUY UNVACCINATED CHICKENS**

For more information on the subject, contact Dr A.C.E. Pienaar  
of the  
Directorate Animal Health, Private Bag X138,  
Pretoria 0001  
or telephone her at (012) 319 7444

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