

Backyard Poultry Case History Sheets

(essential) questions



Owner/Keeper Case reference

Address

..... Date

Problem (When first noticed? Is this the first case?).....

.....

What treatments have already been given (vitamins, electrolytes, herbal, minerals, homoeopathic, wormers, lice/mites, antibiotics, vaccinations)

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How long owned..... Source (Purchased, Swapped, Home-bred)

Total number birds owned

Number and species of other animals owned

Husbandry

Indoors/Outdoors/Brooding/Rearing/Laying.....

Number of flocks /number in flock.....

Feed (pellets, mash, crumbs, other)/ supplier

Drinkers (capacity, number, frequency filled, frequency cleaned)

Water supply (mains/borehole/pond/stream/puddles)

Feeders (capacity, number, frequency filled, frequency cleaned)

Lighting

Heating (brooder type and capacity)

Recent changes (housing, management, feed, purchases, vaccination)

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Number of birds presented..... Female Male

Breed Age Weight (Kg)

Identification (Leg Ring, Microchip)

Last seen eating Last seen drinking

Observations before handling

Standing.....Y/N SittingY/N AlertY/N DepressedY/N

Eyes closedY/N Abnormal head carriageY/N Open mouthed breathingY/N

Extended neckY/N Abdominal breathing.....Y/N Respiratory noises.....Y/N

Feathers ruffledY/N Drooping wingY/N TailUp /down

Head between shoulders....Y/N No obvious abnormalityY/N

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Beak

Beak openY/N MalocclusionY/N Beak overgrowth - upperY/N
 - lowerY/N Crossed beak.....Y/N Longitudinal groove in the beak.....Y/N
 Trauma to beak (describe).....Y/N Erosions of tomiumY/N

Mouth

Damage to the angle of the mouthY/N Excess mucus from the mouthY/N
 Damage to the tongue ...Y/N (describe).....
 Inability to move tongue or swallow.....Y/N
 Damage to the oral mucosa (describe)Y/N
 • swellings, growths, ulcers, diphtheritic membranes, discharges
 Colour of mucous membranes Damage to the choanal cleftY/N
 Damage to the glottisY/N Motile protozoa (wet preparation)Y/N
 Swabs from choanal cleft/oropharynx/glottis for - PCRY/N
 - *Mycoplasma* culture (*Mycoplasma* broth required).....Y/N
 Microbial cultureY/N Cytology (rapid stain)Y/N

Nostrils

Rhinitis... ..Y/N Describe discharge
 Blocked nostrils - unilateral.....Y/N bilateral.....Y/N
 Sneezing after manual occlusion of nostrils.....Y/N
 Abnormal shape of nostrils - unilateral.....Y/N bilateral.....Y/N
 Scratching at nostril.Y/N
 Abnormal size of nostrils - unilateral.....Y/N bilateral.....Y/N
 RhinolithY/N Trauma to nostrilsY/N
 Swabs for – Microbial cultureY/N Cytology (rapid stain)Y/N SerologyY/N

Eyes

Shape of eyes – round/oval/symmetrical.....Y/N Trauma to eyeY/N
 Lachrymation ..Y/N Conjunctivitis....Y/N Corneal opacity....Y/N Blepharospasm ..Y/N
 Encrustations around eyeY/N Discoloured feathers around eyeY/N
 Damage to nictitating membraneY/N Frothy exudates in corner of eyeY/N
 Colour change of the irisY/N Retinal damageY/N

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Pecten damage.....Y/N Fluoresceinpositive / negative
 Swabs for – Microbial cultureY/N Cytology (rapid stain)Y/N
 Periorbital swellingY/N SinusitisY/N Needle biopsyY/N
 Microbial cultureY/N Cytology.....Y/N

Ears

Trauma to earsY/N Loss of feathers around ear.....Y/N
 Encrustations in or around ear.....Y/N Microbial cultureY/N
 CytologyY/N Wet preparation.....Y/N

Skin/Feathers/Wattles/Comb

Colour of skin and legs (describe)
 Subcutaneous fat present.....Y/N Skin elasticity normal.....Y/N AnaemiaY/N
 Blood sampleY/N PruritusY/N Comb well-developedY/N
 Wattles well-developed and symmetrical ..Y/N Trauma to wattles or comb....Y/N (describe)

 Swelling of wattles – unilateral/bilateral....Y/N Wattles shrivelled unilateral/bilateral....Y/N
 Damage to feathers of the tail and wingsY/N
 Fret marks.....Y/N Faecal staining of feathers.....Y/N
 Feather loss, inflammation of skin; faeces and/or urates on skin under the ventY/N
 Rub marks on wing.....Y/N Loss of feathers.....Y/N (describe)

 Pin feathers presentY/N Feather lice presentY/N Mites present.....Y/N
 Fleas presentY/N Microscopic examinationY/N Abnormal scales on legs.....Y/N
 Wet preparationY/N Peck damage to head/wing/tail/vent/otherY/N (describe)

Skin lesions:-

Skin scrapes for: Mycology.....Y/N Parasitology.....Y/N Microbiology.....Y/N

Swellings / abscesses:-

Cytology.....Y/N Needle biopsies.....Y/N Microbiology.....Y/N

Musculoskeletal

Head tiltY/N IncoordinationY/N LamenessY/N
 ‘Snatchy’ gaitY/N Paralysis (unilateral, bilateral, flaccid, wing, leg, tail)Y/N

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Inability to perch.....Y/N Loss of grip reflexY/N Drooping wingsY/N
 TorticollisY/N Balancing using: wingsY/N tailY/N
 Swelling (describe) of: digitsY/N ankleY/N hockY/N
 kneeY/N elbowY/N tendonsY/N

 Loss of muscle mass Y/N (describe)
 Loss of digits Y/N (describe)
 Were radiographs taken.....Y/N Were blood samples takenY/N
 Were needle biopsies takenY/N

Thorax and abdomen

Gentle compression of the trachea elicits a respiratory soundY/N
 Abdominal breathingY/N Lung soundsY/N Air sac sounds.....Y/N
 Breast musculature and keel prominence – normal/obese/thin
 Heart sounds normal.....Y/N Abdominal palpation normalY/N
 Abdomen distended and turgid.....Y/N
 Gap between pelvic bones indicates female is in layY/N
 Egg can be felt.....Y/N Prolapse of the ventY/N Cloacal examinationY/N
 RadiographsY/N EndoscopyY/N
 Cloacal cytologyY/N Microbiology of cloaca.....Y/N
 Faeces colour and consistency (describe)
 Caecal faeces colour and consistency (describe).....
 Urates colour and consistency (describe)
 Urine colour and consistency (describe).....
 Wet preparationY/N Parasitological examination.....Y/N MicrobiologyY/N
 CytologyY/N

Egg abnormalities

Reduction in expected number of eggs.....Y/N Loss of bloom.....Y/N
 Loss of colourY/N Thin shellsY/N Membranous eggsY/N
 Ridging of shellY/N Abnormal yolk colour....Y/N
 Abnormal consistency of albumenY/N SerologyY/N