



AnimalHealthCanada

# Keeping Your Birds Healthy



## OBSERVING AND REPORTING UNUSUAL SIGNS

### 1. Recognizing Normal vs. Abnormal Bird Deaths

#### • Normal Losses

- A few bird deaths in a flock may occur due to natural causes and are typically not cause for concern.

#### • Abnormal Losses

- A sudden increase in bird deaths or a large percentage of your flock dying within a short period is not normal and should be investigated immediately.

### 2. Ruling Out Obvious Causes

#### • Predators and Environmental Factors

- Inspect for signs of predators, extreme weather conditions, or other external factors that may have caused deaths.
- Address these issues promptly to prevent further losses.

#### • When Not to Report

- You don't usually need to report deaths from clear, non-disease causes like predators or weather, but it's important to fix the problem to keep the flock safe.

### 3. Responding to Signs of Illness

#### • Use of PPE

- Wear necessary PPE (e.g., gloves, masks, etc) when attending to sick animals.

#### • Observe and Record

- Take detailed notes about what you observe, including the symptoms and the number of affected birds.

#### • Isolate Sick Birds

- Separate sick birds from the healthy flock to limit potential spread.

### 4. Common Signs of sickness for you to take immediate action:

#### • Behavioral Changes

- Reduced energy or appetite.
- Decreased activity, stumbling, or falling down.
- Tremors or circling.
- Twisting of the head and neck.

#### • Egg Abnormalities

- Lower egg production.
- Soft-shelled or misshapen eggs.

#### • Physical Symptoms

- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles, or shanks.
- Purple discoloration of wattles, comb, or legs.

#### • Respiratory Issues

- Difficulty breathing.
- Nasal discharge or sneezing.

#### • Digestive Problems

- Diarrhea.

#### • Severe Illness

- Birds becoming completely stiff.

### 5. Know Where to Report Signs of Illness or Unexplained Deaths

- If birds show unexplained signs of illness or there are unexplained deaths, report these immediately to a veterinarian or contact your provincial or territorial animal health authority or the local CFIA District office.

- Western Area: 1-866-212-0665
- Ontario: 1-877-814-2342
- Quebec: 1-866-806-4115
- Atlantic provinces: 1-506-381-7683