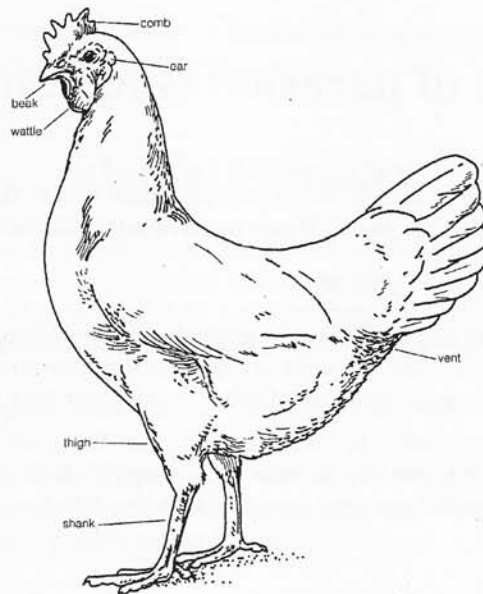


26th Annual
GreenThumb
GrowTogether
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Beyond Basic Chicken Care

Gregory Anderson
Walt L. Shamel Community
Garden



A clean coop is a healthy coop!

- In winter, a wet/damp environment can cause upper respiratory problems. Keep a supply of antibiotics in case of upper respiratory or other bacterial infection symptoms. You can try these two prescription antibiotics:
 - **a) BAYTRIL.** Give one 22.7 mg (milligram) tablet per five pounds of body weight twice a day, morning and evening, for 10 to 14 days. DO NOT STOP GIVING AN ANTIBIOTIC AFTER A FEW DAYS WHEN SYMPTOMS SEEM TO DISAPPEAR. THE WORST THING YOU CAN DO IS TO STOP THE ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENT BEFORE 7 - 10 DAYS. THE INFECTION WILL MOST LIKELY COME BACK STRONGER THAN EVER AND MAY THEN BE UNTREATABLE.
 - **b) METRONIDAZOLE.** Each tablet 250 mg. Give smaller birds ½ tablet by mouth once daily for 5 days for respiratory infections. Give ½ tablet once daily for other infections. If the bird is 8 pounds or heavier, try one whole tablet once a day for 5 days.
- Before you give your birds any prescription medication Please consult a Vet!

Free of parasites (Lice and Mites)

- Check a couple of the chickens now and then under the wings and around the vent area for the pests. If one has lice/mites chances are the whole flock will have them.
- Some remedies are Chemical Insecticides or Diatomaceous Earth (DE). DE is a naturally occurring siliceous sedimentary mineral compound from microscopic skeletal remains of unicellular algae-like plants called diatoms.
- You must wear a dust mask when applying DE as it can irritate the mucous membranes in the nose and mouth. Once the DE dust has settled it won't bother you.
- Give your chickens an area of dry, loose ground to dust in.

Dusting

- **DUSTING POWDER FOR EXTERNAL PARASITES:** If your chickens have leg mites, their legs will have a white, dry, flaky appearance. We use **GARDEN & POULTRY DUST**, an insecticidal dust. Purchase at your local pet store or feed store.
- Be sure to dust the birds underneath their wings and on the inside of their thighs, as well as the vent area and other parts of the body. **DO NOT DUST THE FACE AND EYES.** Fluff the powder gently into the bird's feathers.
- Try placing the recommended amount of powder in a bag large enough to hold a chicken. Place the chicken in the bag up to its neck, and hold the bag around its neck without choking it, and gently shake the bag to ensure that the chicken is well dusted.
- In the case of dry scaly legs, antibiotic ointment, or even Vaseline, is soothing and can kill the leg mites.
- If you have a problem with mites or lice inside of your coop and don't want to use chemicals try chewing tobacco.

Internal Parasites

Roundworms are common in poultry, waterfowl and wild birds. There are numerous species of roundworms and they can cause significant damage to the organ(s) in which they prefer to live. Most roundworms affect the gastrointestinal tract (GI tract), with an occasional parasite affecting the trachea or eye.

Tapeworms or Cestodes are warm weather parasites. The bodies of the worms are flattened like a piece of tape or ribbon. The parasites are found more commonly in warm weather when intermediate hosts are abundant. Some of the larger tapeworms may appear to completely block the intestine of infected birds while other tapeworms cause little problems for birds.

Flukes or Trematodes are flat leaf-like organisms that that requires a molluscan intermediate host, with some species using a second intermediate host. Adult flukes and larval stages invade almost every cavity and tissue in birds. Those invading the oviduct can cause problems if the parasites are shed into the eggs.

Coccidia are found in nearly all poultry. Coccidia multiply in the intestinal tract and cause tissue damage which interrupts feeding and digestive processes such as

nutrient absorption. This can result in dehydration, blood loss, loss of weight, and increased susceptibility to other diseases. Backyard flocks can develop immunity to coccidia if infections are mild. Keeping birds in dry, sunny areas.

Chemical agents

- Chemical agents used for roundworms include: Piperazine, Hygromycin B, Coumaphos, Thiabendazole
- Chemical agents used for tapeworms include: Butynorate
- Chemical agents used for flukes: There are no approved chemical treatments for flukes. Preventing birds' access to ponds and wild birds can prevent infection or "break the cycle".
- Chemical agents used for coccidia: Sulfamethazine, Amprolium, Sulfachloropyrazine monohydrate, Sulfadimethoxine.
- The most important action that you can take is to have a vet identify and treat the parasites. Quarantine the infected bird(s) clean and treat their coop and run.

Resources

Join the Just Food City Chicken Meetup NYC group online
www.meetup.com/Just-Food-City-Chicken-Meetup-NYC

Listen to Bucky Buckaw's Backyard Chicken Broadcast
www.buckybuckaw.org

How to Raise Chickens, by Christine Heinrichs
<http://poultrybookstore.com>

North Carolina State University (search for "chicken care"): www.ncsu.edu

Backyard Chickens: www.backyardchickens.com
Urban Chickens: www.urbanchickens.org

If you are part of a community garden or school garden, apply for the Just Food City Chicken Project by April 9th, 2010.

Contact Owen: owen@justfood.org, 212.645.9880 x229