



# POULTRY DISEASE DIAGNOSIS BASED ON SYMPTOMS

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Poultry diseases and maladies produce a wide variety of symptoms and lesions on various parts of the body. Many of the causes and diseases seen on the following body parts or organs is listed. Clicking on the body part or organ will link to some of the more common causes and ultimately to discussion of many related diseases, causes, and treatments.

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## EXTERNAL SYMPTOMS FOR DIAGNOSING POULTRY DISEASES

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### BODY

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Emaciation...	Off-feed; nutritional deficiencies; <a href="#"><u>lymphoid leukosis</u></a> ; <a href="#"><u>enteritis</u></a> ; gizzard impaction; tuberculosis; unknown
Stunted, uneven growth....	Gizzard impaction; bluecomb disease; <a href="#"><u>alfatoxin poisoning</u></a> ; synovitis; <a href="#"><u>contaminated hatching egg</u></a>
Swellings...	Ruptured air sac; edema
Twitching, muscular spasm...	<a href="#"><u>Botulism</u></a> ; <a href="#"><u>infectious bursal disease</u></a>
Trembling...	Epidemic tremors; encephalitis (brain damage)

Paralysis...	<a href="#">Botulism</a> ; <a href="#">Marek's disease</a> ; arthritis; <a href="#">aflatoxin poisoning</a> ; epidemic tremor
Dehydration...	Acute lack of water; <a href="#">coccidiosis</a> ; <a href="#">infectious bursal disease</a> ; nutritional imbalance-dietary salts
Nervousness...	Hysteria; drug intoxication; <a href="#">Newcastle</a> ; fungus infection
Lying on breast, legs paralyzed...	Algae poisoning; acute lack of water; yellow jasmine poisoning; <a href="#">botulism</a> ; drug toxicity

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## FEATHERS

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Moist under wing...	<a href="#">Infectious coryza</a>
Loss of...	Molting
Deposits at base of shafts...	<a href="#">Lice</a> or <a href="#">mite</a> eggs
Soiled hackle feathers...	<a href="#">Infectious coryza</a> , eye infection
Feathers picked...	<a href="#">Lice</a> ; nutritional deficiency-methionine; birds not debeaked
Depigmented...	Nutritional deficiencies-lysine, iron or folic acid
Broken on upper thigh...	Self picking
Feather eating...	Nutritional deficiency-methionine

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## Skin

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Pigmentation excessive ...	Poor production; high pigment intake
Nodules, mainly legs...	<a href="#">Marek's disease</a>
Nodules over vent...	Flukes (rare)

Moist, necrotic, edematous...	Necrotic dermatitis, exudative diathesis
Darkened, purplish...	<a href="#">Erysipelas</a> ; <a href="#">fowl cholera</a>
Crusted areas...	<a href="#">Erysipelas</a> ; scab; gangrenous dermatitis
Scabby hip...	Self picking, inflicted by other birds
Gangrenous, green...	Hemorrhage; arthritis; gangrenous dermatitis
Vent irritated...	<a href="#">Northern fowl mite</a> ; <a href="#">lice</a> (occasionally)
Pale...	Anemia; nutritional deficiencies-iron, copper, or vitamin B <sub>12</sub>

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## Head

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Swollen, puffy...	Ruptured air sac; <a href="#">infectious coryza</a> ; injury; <a href="#">Newcastle disease</a>

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## Comb

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Mottled, red and white margins...	Frozen
Eruptions, nodules...	<a href="#">Fowl pox</a>
White, scaly, powdery...	Favus

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## Eyes

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Watery...	<a href="#">Infectious coryza</a>
Blindness...	<a href="#">Fowl pox</a> ; <a href="#">aspergillosis</a> ; Arizona paracolon; paratyphoid

Watery, red, inflamed, closed...	Laryngotracheitis; ammonia burn; <a href="#">Newcastle disease</a> ; nutritional deficiency-vitamin A
Cataracts...	Epidemic tremor
Crusts on eye lids...	Nutritional deficiency-vitamin A; <a href="#">fowl pox</a>
Pupil irregular, blindness...	<a href="#">Marek's disease</a>
Blood in eye...	Hemorrhagic anemia
Large, swollen...	<a href="#">Mycoplasma infection</a>

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## Face

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Swollen...	<a href="#">Infectious coryza</a> ; <a href="#">Newcastle disease</a> ; nutritional deficiency-vitamin A; <a href="#">E. coli</a>
Darkened, purplish...	<a href="#">Erysipelas</a> ; <a href="#">fowl cholera</a> ; septicemia; injury
Nodules...	<a href="#">Fowl pox</a>

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## Nostrils

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Discharge...	<a href="#">Infectious coryza</a> ; chronic respiratory disease; <a href="#">infectious bronchitis</a> ; influenza

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## Mouth

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Pustules...	Nutritional deficiency-vitamin A
Crusts at margins...	Nutritional deficiencies-pantothenic acid or biotin

<b>Beak soft, rubbery...</b>	Nutritional deficiencies-vitamin D or calcium-phosphorus imbalances
<b>White coat over tongue and in mouth...</b>	Wet form of <a href="#">fowl pox</a>
<b>Ulcers...</b>	<a href="#">Mycotoxins</a> ; chemical injury

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## Wattles

<u><i>Symptom</i></u>	<u><i>Possible Cause</i></u>
<b>Swollen, bulbous...</b>	<a href="#">Infectious coryza</a> ; <a href="#">fowl cholera</a>
<b>Nodules...</b>	<a href="#">Fowl pox</a>

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## Neck

<u><i>Symptom</i></u>	<u><i>Possible Cause</i></u>
<b>Paralysis (limber neck)...</b>	<a href="#">Botulism</a> ; yellow jasmine poisoning
<b>Twisting...</b>	<a href="#">Newcastle disease</a> ; <a href="#">fowl cholera</a> ; brain infection; improper injection of Marek's vaccine
<b>Retracted over back...</b>	<a href="#">Newcastle disease</a> ; nutritional deficiency-thiamin
<b>Retracted under breast...</b>	Nutritional deficiency-vitamin E; <a href="#">Newcastle disease</a>
<b>Scabby necrotic areas...</b>	Improper injection of drugs; other injury

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## Legs

<u><i>Symptom</i></u>	<u><i>Possible Cause</i></u>
<b>Paralysis...</b>	<a href="#">Marek's disease</a> ; <a href="#">botulism</a> ; heat stroke; epidemic tremor; cage layer fatigue; vitamin E deficiency; algae poisoning; yellow jasmine poisoning; acute lack of water

<b>Rough, scaly...</b>	<a href="#">Fowl pox</a> ; <a href="#">scaly leg mite</a>
<b>Bowed, weak...</b>	Nutritional deficiency-vitamin D; osteodystrophy
<b>Bone bends...</b>	Nutritional deficiency-vitamin D
<b>Joint swelling...</b>	Infectious synovitis; paratyphoid; <a href="#">pullorum</a> ; zinc deficiency; staphylococcosis; tenosynovitis; arthritis
<b>Tendon at hock displaced...</b>	Perosis (nutritional deficiency-manganese or choline)
<b>Stilted gait...</b>	Tenosynovitis
<b>Shank depigmented...</b>	Nutritional deficiency-vitamin A; <a href="#">coccidiosis</a> ; any low grade slow disease (for any length of time)
<b>Toes twisted...</b>	Genetic

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## Feet

<u><i>Symptom</i></u>	<u><i>Possible Cause</i></u>
<b>Joints fixed...</b>	Tenosynovitis
<b>Swollen foot pad...</b>	Infectious synovitis; bumblefoot
<b>Toes curled...</b>	Nutritional deficiency-riboflavin; genetic; management deficiency
<b>Foot pad cracked, dermatitis...</b>	Nutritional deficiency-biotin or pantothenic acid; management deficiency
<b>Bird walks on toes...</b>	Tenosynovitis
<b>Toes twisted...</b>	Genetic

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## Droppings

<u><i>Symptom</i></u>	<u><i>Possible Cause</i></u>
<b>Profuse...</b>	<a href="#">Enteritis</a> ; excess roughage in diet

<b>Bloody...</b>	<a href="#">Cecal coccidiosis</a> ; <a href="#">Newcastle disease</a>
<b>Green...</b>	Feed intake low; bile not diluted
<b>Sulfur yellow...</b>	<a href="#">Blackhead</a>
<b>Light yellow or yellowish-green...</b>	Fowl typhoid; <a href="#">fowl cholera</a>
<b>Foamy...</b>	Intestinal parasites (protozoa)

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## Egg Production

<u><i>Symptom</i></u>	<u><i>Possible Cause</i></u>
<b>Sudden severe drop ...</b>	<a href="#">Newcastle disease</a> ; <a href="#">infectious bronchitis</a> ; laryngotracheitis; influenza-A, <a href="#">mycotoxin</a> , mismanagement (no lights, feed, or water)
<b>Unsatisfactory...</b>	<a href="#">Infectious coryza</a> ; <a href="#">fowl cholera</a> ; chronic respiratory diseases; diet deficiencies; gizzard impaction; <a href="#">fowl pox</a> ; hepatitis; <a href="#">lice</a> ; <a href="#">mites</a> ; <a href="#">ascarids</a> ; <a href="#">capillaria</a> ; <a href="#">lymphoid leukosis</a> ; <a href="#">coccidiosis</a> ; <a href="#">enteritis</a> ; <a href="#">pullorum</a> ; fowl typhoid; <a href="#">aflatoxicosis</a> ; adenovirus infection; toxins
<b>Egg wrinkled, depigmented...</b>	Necrotic enteritis; <a href="#">infectious bronchitis</a>
<b>Production pause...</b>	Epidemic tremor
<b>Poor shell quality...</b>	<a href="#">Newcastle disease</a> ; <a href="#">infectious bronchitis</a> ; adenovirus infection; diet deficiency; <a href="#">T-2 fusariotoxin</a>

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## Death

<u><i>Symptom</i></u>	<u><i>Possible Cause</i></u>
<b>Instant, few or no prior signs...</b>	Aortic rupture; acute lack of water; <a href="#">fowl cholera</a> ; overheated, <a href="#">fatty liver hemorrhagic syndrome</a>
<b>High mortality-producing diseases...</b>	<a href="#">Fowl cholera</a> ; <a href="#">erysipelas</a> ; <a href="#">exotic Newcastle disease</a> ; <a href="#">acute coccidiosis</a> ; <a href="#">aflatoxin</a> ; <a href="#">botulism</a> ; poison; <a href="#">fatty liver hemorrhagic syndrome</a>

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# INTERNAL SYMPTOMS FOR DIAGNOSING POULTRY DISEASES

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## Subcutaneous Tissue

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Small (no.6 shot size) nodules...	<a href="#">Subcutaneous mite (rare)</a>
Excess Fluid...	Salt poisoning; edema; exudative diathesis; anemia
Air under skin...	Ruptured air sac; injury or infection of skin

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## Muscle

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Congested (as though cooked)...	Septicemic disease; improperly bled
Hemorrhages...	Hemorrhagic anemia; <a href="#">erysipelas</a> , crotolaria; <a href="#">mycotoxicosis</a> ; other poisoning; inclusion body hepatitis; <a href="#">infectious bursal disease</a> ; injury
Dehydrated...	Acute lack of water; <a href="#">coccidiosis</a>
Tumors...	<a href="#">Marek's disease</a>

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## Legs

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Bone bends...	Nutritional deficiency-vitamin D
Bone thickened, enlarged...	<a href="#">Lymphoid leukosis</a> (osteopetrosis); tenosynovitis; nutritional deficiency-zinc

Joint swelling...	Infectious synovitis; paratyphoid; <a href="#">pullorum</a> ; Nutritional deficiency-zinc; staphylococcosis; tenosynovitis; arthritis
Tendon at hock displaced...	Perosis (nutritional deficiency-choline or manganese)
Stilted gait...	Tenosynovitis
Cap separated from femur head, femur breaks below hip joint...	Tibial dischondroplasia
Bone marrow pale...	Anemia; hemorrhagic disease; <a href="#">infectious bursal disease</a> ; inclusion body hepatitis
Tendons enlarged, above and below hock...	Tenosynovitis

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## Trachea

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Free blood or cheese-like lining...	Laryngotracheitis; <a href="#">Newcastle disease</a>
Mucus with some blood...	Chronic respiratory disease
Wart-like bodies, upper part...	<a href="#">Fowl pox</a>
Inflamed...	Adeno virus infection

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## Air Sacs

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Foamy, purulent, thickened...	<a href="#">Colibacillosis</a> ; chronic respiratory disease; <a href="#">Newcastle disease</a> ; <a href="#">fowl cholera</a>
Moldy, nodules...	<a href="#">Aspergillosis</a>
Foamy, frothy...	<a href="#">Infectious bronchitis</a>
Small nodules...	<a href="#">Air-sac mite (rare)</a>

Cloudy...

Air-sac disease; [infectious coryza](#); laryngotracheitis; influenza;  
[Newcastle disease](#)

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## Lungs

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Yellow nodules...	<a href="#">Aspergillosis</a>
Consolidated...	Pneumonia

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## Crop

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
White cheese-like growth...	<a href="#">Moniliasis (fungous infection)</a>
Dry or slightly moist feed...	Acute lack of water (dehydration)
Contents sour...	Bluecomb disease
Distended with fluid...	Drop crop; feather eating
Lining thickened...	<a href="#">Capillaria</a>

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## Proventriculus

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Swollen, enlarged...	<a href="#">Necrotic enteritis</a>
Hemorrhagic...	<a href="#">Newcastle disease</a>

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## Gizzard

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
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Excess fiber, grit, litter, etc...	Impaction
Erosion of lining...	Nonspecific enteritis; <a href="#">necrotic enteritis</a> ; hemorrhagic anemia; normal in very young birds; fish meal
Muscle degenerated...	Selenium deficiency
Lining will not peel...	<a href="#">Necrotic enteritis</a>

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## Intestines

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Elongated, white worms...	<a href="#">Ascarids</a>
Thickened wall, mucus...	<a href="#">Capillaria worms</a>
Pin point hemorrhages...	<a href="#">Coccidiosis</a> ; agonal hemorrhages
Blotchy hemorrhages...	Hemorrhagic anemia
Red and white dots...	<a href="#">Necatrix coccidiosis</a>
Ulcers...	<a href="#">Ulcerative Enteritis</a>
Sloughed lining...	<a href="#">Nonspecific enteritis</a>
Paint-brush reddening...	<a href="#">Nonspecific enteritis</a>
Collapsed, glue-like contents...	Heat stroke; acute lack of water
Bloody...	Hemorrhagic enteritis (turkeys); <a href="#">necatrix coccidiosis</a> ; <a href="#">Newcastle disease</a>
Small white bodies, upper wall...	<a href="#">Acervulina or mivati coccidiosis</a>
Green contents...	Low feed intake and bile not diluted
Duodenum red and velvety...	Generally normal
Thick, swollen + hemorrhage...	<a href="#">Coccidiosis</a> ; <a href="#">enteritis</a>

Turkish towel effect, brown... [Necrotic enteritis](#); [coccidiosis](#)

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## Ceca

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Blood or hard cores...	<a href="#">Cecal coccidiosis</a>
Thickened, ulcerated, enlarged cores...	<a href="#">Blackhead</a>
Excess fluid...	Bluecomb disease (poults)
Short, threadlike organism...	<a href="#">Cecal worms</a>
White cores...	<a href="#">Coccidiosis</a> ; <a href="#">blackhead</a>
Ulcers..	<a href="#">Ulcerative enteritis</a>

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## Ovary

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Egg follicles hard shrunken...	<a href="#">Pullorum</a> ; typhoid; unknown
Broken egg yolks...	Bluecomb disease, <a href="#">fowl cholera</a>
Cauliflower-like growth...	<a href="#">Marek's disease</a>

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## Bursa of Fabricius

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Markedly enlarged...	<a href="#">Infectious bursal disease</a>

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## Heart Sac

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Thickened, fibrinous, yellowish...	Chronic respiratory disease; <a href="#">fowl cholera</a> ; <a href="#">colibacillosis</a>
Fluid in heart sac...	Anemia; hemorrhagic anemia; <a href="#">aflatoxin</a> ; chick edema disease; other poisonings
Hemorrhages...	<a href="#">Fowl cholera</a> ; typhoid; <a href="#">erysipelas</a> ; hemorrhagic anemia
Heart enlarged...	Round heart disease; acites

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## Liver

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
Film on surface...	Chronic respiratory disease; <a href="#">fowl cholera</a> ; <a href="#">colibacillosis</a>
Necrosis with mottling...	Vibronic hepatitis; <a href="#">blackhead</a> ; inclusion body hepatitis
White or yellow spots...	<a href="#">Fowl cholera</a> ; hepatitis; <a href="#">pullorum</a> ; <a href="#">ulcerative enteritis</a> ; adenovirus infection
Swollen, darkened...	<a href="#">Fowl cholera</a> ; typhoid; <a href="#">erysipelas</a> ; septicemia; toxemia; inclusion body hepatitis
Yellowish, sandy nodules...	Tuberculosis
Enlarged, plus or minus nodules...	<a href="#">Marek's disease</a> ; <a href="#">lymphoid leukosis</a>
Round, depressed ulcers...	<a href="#">Blackhead</a>
Green...	Staphylococcosis; blockage of bile
Yellow...	<a href="#">Fatty liver hemorrhagic syndrome</a> ; normal fat storage; <a href="#">aflatoxicosis</a>

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## Kidney

<u>Symptom</u>	<u>Possible Cause</u>
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<b>Swollen, urate deposit...</b>	<a href="#">Infectious bronchitis</a> (Holte or Grey strain); <a href="#">infectious bursal disease</a> ; nephrosis
<b>Sacs filled with fluid...</b>	Cysts (not infection)
<b>Mottled...</b>	Nephrosis; <a href="#">infectious bronchitis</a> (Holte or Grey strain)

## Ribs

<b><u>Symptom</u></b>	<b><u>Possible Cause</u></b>
<b>Beaded, crooked, nodular...</b>	Rickets (vitamin D, calcium or phosphorus deficiency)

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## Body Cavity

<b><u>Symptom</u></b>	<b><u>Possible Cause</u></b>
<b>Excess of fat...</b>	<a href="#">Fatty liver hemorrhagic syndrome</a> ; management problems; <a href="#">aflatoxins</a> ; excess dietary energy
<b>Large blood clot...</b>	Aortic rupture; <a href="#">fatty liver hemorrhagic syndrome</a>
<b>Straw colored fluid...</b>	Ascites (not a disease, but often associated with diseases as <a href="#">lymphoid leukosis</a> )
<b>Milky fluid...</b>	Peritonitis

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