

COCCIDIOSIS IN CHICKENS

SYMPTOMS, TREATMENT & PREVENTION

Identify it early. Treat it right. Protect your flock.



Common and highly contagious parasitic disease



Affects the intestines and causes damage



Spreads through contaminated feces (droppings)



Young birds (3–18 weeks) are most at risk



Treatable and largely preventable



Good management keeps your flock healthy and strong

WHAT IS COCCIDIOSIS?

Coccidiosis is a disease caused by microscopic protozoan parasites of the genus *Eimeria*.

These parasites invade the intestinal tract, damage the lining, and interfere with nutrient absorption.



HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

Chickens ingest infective oocysts from contaminated:

- ✓ Dirty litter or bedding
- ✓ Contaminated soil
- ✓ Feed & water
- ✓ Dirty feeders & drinkers
- ✓ Wet or muddy areas
- ✓ Through pecking, scratching and preening



SYMPTOMS TO WATCH FOR

- ✓ Bloody droppings
- ✓ Diarrhea (watery or mucousy)
- ✓ Ruffled feathers
- ✓ Fluffed up appearance
- ✓ Depression & weakness
- ✓ Poor appetite
- ✓ Weight loss
- ✓ Pale comb & wattles
- ✓ Hunched posture
- ✓ Dehydration
- ✓ Reduced growth
- ✓ Sudden death (severe cases)



TYPES OF FECAL MATTER SEEN WITH COCCIDIOSIS

Not every case has blood. Droppings can vary depending on the type and severity of infection.



Fresh blood
Bright red, often liquid or semi-liquid.



Dark red/bloody
May be darker as blood digests.



Chocolate brown
Often soft, loose and foul-smelling.



Watery diarrhea
Yellowish or brownish watery droppings.



Mucus-covered
Slimy, may be clear, yellow or brown.



Normal cecal dropping
Dark, formed, and pasty with white urates. This is NOT coccidiosis.

DIAGNOSIS

A veterinarian may diagnose by:



Clinical signs



Fecal examination (microscope)



Post-mortem examination



Flock history and age

TREATMENT

Early treatment is key!

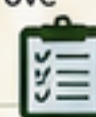
- ✓ Use anticoccidial medication (e.g., Amprolium) as directed by your veterinarian.
- ✓ Provide plenty of clean, fresh water.
- ✓ Offer quality feed & nutrients.
- ✓ Keep birds warm, dry, and comfortable.
- ✓ Remove wet or soiled bedding.
- ✓ Clean feeders and drinkers daily.



Always follow product labels and withdrawal times for eggs and meat.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR FLOCK IS EXPOSED

- 1 Isolate severely sick birds.
- 2 Treat the entire flock (when appropriate).
- 3 Clean and disinfect feeders, drinkers, and equipment.
- 4 Remove wet bedding and reduce moisture.
- 5 Monitor all birds closely for symptoms.
- 6 Reduce stress and improve hygiene immediately.



PREVENTION IS THE BEST PROTECTION



Keep bedding dry and clean.



Clean feeders and drinkers regularly.



Avoid overcrowding and ensure good ventilation.



Practice good biosecurity.



Use medicated chick starter or vaccination (where appropriate) to build immunity.



Quarantine new birds for at least 30 days.



Remove droppings and clean areas frequently.

CAN HUMANS CATCH COCCIDIOSIS?

No. The *Eimeria* species that infect chicken are species-specific and do not infect humans. Always wash your hands after handling birds or cleaning the coop.



CAN CHICKENS RECOVER?

Yes! Most chickens recover fully with prompt treatment and good care. Survivors develop immunity to the specific type of *Eimeria* that infected them but can still get other types.



REMEMBER

Clean coop. Dry bedding. Healthy birds. A strong, thriving flock!