

WHY IS MY CHICKEN Limping?

COMMON CAUSES, TREATMENT & PREVENTION

A healthy flock starts with knowing what to look for and how to help.

★ TOP 10 CAUSES OF LIMPING IN CHICKENS ★

1 BUMBLEFOOT



Bacterial infection of the foot pad. Look for swelling, black scab, and warmth.

2 SPRAINS & STRAINS



Injuries from jumping, slipping, fighting, or awkward landings.

3 LEG INJURIES OR FRACTURES



Caused by falls, predators, or accidents. Leg may be swollen or at an odd angle.

4 MAREK'S DISEASE



Nerve damage causing paralysis. One leg forward, one leg back is common.

5 ARTHRITIS



More common in older birds and heavy breeds. Causes stiffness and pain.

6 SCALY LEG MITES



Mites burrow under leg scales causing irritation, crusting, and limping.

7 VITAMIN OR MINERAL DEFICIENCIES



Lack of essential nutrients can cause weak legs, curled toes, and poor development.

8 JOINT INFECTIONS



Bacterial infections can cause hot, swollen, and painful joints.

9 OVERGROWN TOENAILS



Long nails can change the way your chicken walks and cause discomfort.

10 FOREIGN OBJECTS



Thorns, splinters, glass or sharp objects can injure the foot.

WHAT TO CHECK FIRST

- ✓ Examine both feet for cuts, swelling, bumblefoot, splinters or broken nails.



- ✓ Feel the legs for heat, swelling, or broken bones. Compare both legs.



- ✓ Observe walking. Is one leg affected? Is it being dragged? Is balance affected?



- ✓ Check the coop for hazards like sharp wire, nails, broken boards or slippery surfaces.



⚠ SIGNS THAT NEED IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

- ✓ Cannot stand or bear weight
- ✓ Leg appears broken or at an odd angle
- ✓ Severe swelling or heat
- ✓ Open wounds or infected areas
- ✓ Loss of appetite or lethargy
- ✓ Paralysis or loss of balance
- ✓ Multiple birds limping

➕ Seek veterinary care as soon as possible.



TREATMENT OPTIONS (BY CAUSE)



Bumblefoot: Soak, clean, treat with antiseptic, bandage, and use antibiotics if needed.



Sprains & Strains: Rest, restrict activity, soft bedding, time.



Injuries/Fractures: Keep still and seek vet care.



Marek's Disease: No cure. Supportive care and biosecurity.



Arthritis: Provide comfort, warmth, good nutrition, and joint support.



Scaly Leg Mites: Treat with an approved mite treatment and clean the coop.



Deficiencies: Feed a complete balanced diet with proper vitamins and minerals.



Infections: Require veterinary treatment and antibiotics.



Overgrown Nails: Trim carefully using poultry nail clippers.



Foreign Objects: Remove gently, clean, and disinfect.



WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IMMEDIATELY?

- ✓ Isolate if bullied or if illness is suspected.
- ✓ Provide soft, dry bedding.
- ✓ Reduce walking and jumping.
- ✓ Keep food and water within easy reach.
- ✓ Monitor closely for 24–48 hours.

♥ Early care can mean a full recovery!

HOW TO PREVENT LEG PROBLEMS



KEEP PERCHES SAFE

Roosts shouldn't be too high. Provide ramps for heavy breeds.



KEEP THE COOP CLEAN & DRY

Dry bedding helps prevent bumblefoot, infections, and injuries.



FEED A BALANCED DIET

Use a complete feed for the right life stage.



INSPECT FEET REGULARLY

Check your flock every few weeks. Catch problems early.



CONTROL PARASITES

Treat mites quickly and keep the coop clean.



A LITTLE CARE GOES A LONG WAY

Happy feet mean happy chickens!

