

CANKER IN CHICKENS

SYMPTOMS, TREATMENT & PREVENTION

Understand the causes, recognize the signs,
and take action to protect your flock.

Yellow, cheese-like
plaques in the mouth
and throat are the
key sign of canker.



WHAT IS CANKER?

Canker is an infectious disease caused by the protozoan parasite *Trichomonas gallinae*.

It is a protozoal (parasitic) disease that affects the mouth, throat, crop, and upper digestive tract.



WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

- Drinking contaminated water
- Eating contaminated feed
- Sharing feeders and drinkers
- Direct beak-to-beak contact
- Parents feeding chicks
- Contact with infected wild birds



IS IT CONTAGIOUS?

Yes. Canker is highly contagious, especially in crowded flocks.
It spreads through saliva, shared feeders, drinkers, and direct contact.



Birds may spread the parasite before showing signs.

SYMPTOMS TO WATCH FOR



Difficulty swallowing



Drooling & wet feathers around the beak



Reduced appetite & weight loss



Bad breath, puffy face & head shaking



Yellow or white plaques in the mouth/throat



Difficulty breathing or gaping



Crop problems



Lethargy & depression

⚠ Do not remove the yellow plaques! They can cause bleeding and more damage.



HOW TO TREAT CANKER



- ✓ Use antiprotozoal medication as prescribed by your veterinarian (e.g., Ronidazole, Metronidazole – follow local regulations).
- ✓ Isolate sick birds immediately.
- ✓ Provide clean water and soft, easy-to-swallow feed.
- ✓ Keep birds warm and reduce stress.
- ✓ Clean and disinfect feeders, drinkers, and housing daily.



Early treatment gives the best chance of full recovery!



WHAT TO DO IF HEALTHY BIRDS ARE EXPOSED

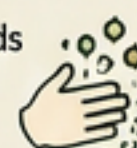
- 1 Separate sick birds right away.
- 2 Monitor the rest of the flock for 2–3 weeks. Check daily for early signs.
- 3 Clean and disinfect all equipment and housing.
- 4 Provide fresh water daily and prevent wild bird access.
- 5 Consult your veterinarian for advice on treatment.



CAN HUMANS CATCH CANKER?

No. *Trichomonas gallinae* does not infect humans.

However, always wash your hands after handling sick birds and clean all equipment.



PREVENT CANKER – PROTECT YOUR FLOCK



Keep feeders and drinkers clean.



Prevent wild bird access to feed and water.



Quarantine new birds for at least 30 days.



Reduce stress: avoid overcrowding and poor ventilation.



Provide good nutrition and clean, fresh water.



Observe your flock daily and act fast at first signs.



Good hygiene, early detection, and proper treatment are the keys to a healthy flock!

