

# LARYNGOTRACHEITIS

## VLT BASICS:



vLT, also known as vaccinal laryngotracheitis because vaccinated birds are a major source for new infections, is caused by a herpes virus that infects mostly chickens but pheasants and peafowl can be affected, too. Spread can be airborne or by contact with sick birds or contaminated equipment, clothing, and vehicles. Recovered and vaccinated birds and their litter are also sources of virus. Given vLT's long incubation period (6-12 days), the virus may be shed by apparently healthy birds before clinical signs are visible.

## CLINICAL SIGNS OF VLT:

- Characteristic "squawking" sound
- Bloody mucus dangling from mouth (can stain walls)
- Extended neck and open mouth breathing
- Puffy eyelids with foamy secretions

## IF YOU THINK YOUR BIRDS HAVE VLT...

- You will need laboratory confirmation.
- Double bag five fresh dead or euthanized birds to submit to the lab. Do not bring live birds to the lab to reduce airborne spread.
- Spray outside of bag with Lysol disinfectant.

## IF YOUR BIRDS ARE POSITIVE FOR VLT...

- Vaccination may be recommended
  - These birds will be protected from severe infections, but they can still have a reaction to the vaccine, which means they can still shed the vaccine virus to other birds. Therefore, you must consider vaccinated birds as vLT positive and use proper biosecurity!

## IF YOU WANT TO BE PROACTIVE AGAINST VLT...

- Vaccinate all birds over 2 weeks of age via eye drop method. It is important to contact a veterinarian for the proper vaccine to use as some can be very problematic.
- Quarantine new birds for 30 days before you add them to your flock and practice proper biosecurity.

