

MAREK'S DISEASE

MD BASICS:



Marek's Disease (MD) is a viral infection caused by a Herpes virus common in poultry rearing environments. MD primarily affects chickens. While MD most commonly occurs in young, sexually immature chickens, but it can also be found later in life. It is easily spread through feather dander, and infected birds may not show clinical signs. These carrier birds can shed virus sporadically throughout their life, and be a source of virus for other birds.

CLINICAL SIGNS OF MD:

- Lameness
- Curled Toes
- Emaciation
- Twisted neck; up-side-down head
- White areas in eyes

IF YOU THINK YOUR BIRDS HAVE MD...

- Clinical signs, if present, can be highly suspicious, but since other diseases may display similarly, you will need laboratory confirmation.
- Bring the affected bird alive, or double bag fresh dead or euthanized birds to submit to the lab
- Spray outside of bag with Lysol / disinfectant

IF YOUR BIRDS ARE POSITIVE FOR MD...

- Eliminate any possible stressors as stress may induce MD signs in infected birds
 - Keep feed and water available and fresh
 - Feed a quality commercial chicken feed
 - Prevent them from getting too cold or too hot
 - Provide proper ventilation with fresh air
 - Feed a balanced diet

IF YOU WANT TO PROTECT AGAINST MD...

- Buy chicks that have been vaccinated against MD at the hatchery (best protection).
- Use the vaccine available at animal supply stores to vaccinate 1-day-old chicks

