

COCCIDIOSIS

COCCIDIOSIS BASICS:



Coccidiosis is a parasitic disease of the intestinal tract caused by a microscopic protozoan parasite. It is a very common disease in flocks, and it mostly affects young birds. Prevention includes feeding a medicated feed or vaccination. There are 5 species of coccidia which can infect chickens. Two of them (*Eimeria necatrix* and *Eimeria tenella*) can be severe and cause death. The others can cause diarrhea and failure to thrive.

CLINICAL SIGNS OF COCCIDIOSIS:

- Diarrhea (orange or reddish in color)
- Blood in stool
- Feed passage in stool
- Poor weight gain
- Dehydration caused by diarrhea

IF YOU THINK YOUR BIRDS HAVE COCCIDIOSIS...

- Submit fresh feces as soon as possible to a laboratory or your local veterinarian for confirmation of Coccidial infection so treatment can be started
- If you see blood in the stool, use Amprolium (Corid) which can be purchased at feed stores. Always use medications as directed on the label.

IF YOUR BIRDS HAVE CONFIRMED COCCIDIOSIS...

- You can treat them with Amprolium (see above)
- Get your birds on feed which contains a medication to prevent coccidiosis
- If possible, change the litter or move the birds to a different location on your premise to prevent re-infection from the coccidial oocysts (eggs) present in the soil or litter.

TO PROTECT YOUR BIRDS FROM COCCIDIOSIS...

- Start them on medicated feed until an age specified by your vet or according to directions on the medicated feed bag (usually 16-18 weeks or when it is no longer needed).

