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Chickens

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Chicken Diseases

There are many different breeds and species of chickens, and with animals always comes some kind of disease. Chickens can get all sorts of diseases, some lethal. Through science and discovery, we can learn about these diseases, and learn how to stop them.

Some of these diseases consist of Marek's disease, Salmonella, and Newcastle disease, or NCD for short. While some of these diseases are extremely lethal, others are not. One of the most devastating diseases is NCD. NCD is extremely lethal, and there is no found cure for it. One of the most popular diseases is Salmonella, which lives in the intestinal tract of chickens, and humans may get it from uncooked poultry meat, raw eggs, or even flour. The third one is Marek's disease, which attacks the nerves and visceral organs of chickens and is extremely contagious. Some of the ways you may be able to tell your chickens have diseases are sneezing or coughing, lameness, depression, feather deterioration, loss of appetite, not wanting to move, bumps on skin, and many more. The easiest way to treat these diseases are simply by antibiotics for some diseases, or vaccines for others.

Marek's disease was discovered in 1907 by a Hungarian Physicist who kept chickens and noticed this disease. However the cause of this disease was not established until 1967. Marek's disease is extremely fatal and attacks the nerves and visceral organs of chickens. Signs may include lameness in one or both legs, (this could lead to paralysis), depression, drooping of wings, bumps

under the skin, or loss of appetite. This disease is spread through dust or dander from infected chickens, and transmits through exposure to it. Many chickens don't make it, and after a study of a dead infected bird, scientists discovered that the bird had lymphoid tumors on its organs, and its nerves had swelled up to three times their normal thickness. Prevention is as simple as checking your chickens regularly, and an antiviral vaccine is recommended for the chickens.

While Marek's disease is fatal, another disease that's not as fatal, but more popular in many chickens is salmonella. Salmonella lives in the intestinal tract of chickens, and is spread through chicken-related products. It is a bad disease, but very common, and can affect humans. While many humans think that salmonella is spread through chickens, which is correct, it is also spread through many other animals. Some of these animals may include turtles, lizards, snakes, frogs, toads, chicks, geese, ducks, turkeys, chickens, parakeets, parrots, wild birds, mice, rats, hamsters, guinea pigs, hedgehogs, goats, calves, cows, sheep, pigs, dogs, cats, and even horses. These animals get the salmonella from eating contaminated food or from their mothers before being born. The animals can then spread salmonella to humans through their habitat, or from just humans touching them. It is extremely vital to clean an animal's habitat, because you may get salmonella from cleaning or coming into contact with the animal's habitat, you don't have to touch the animal. An animal with salmonella may appear to be healthy, so it is important to do regular check-ups on the animal.

You don't have to come into contact with the animal to get salmonella, you may also contract it from cleaning their habitat or touching their food, such as dry cat or dog food, dog biscuits, pig ears, beef hooves, rodents used to feed reptiles, and many more. It is *vital* to wash your hands thoroughly after coming into contact with any of these things. Another way to get salmonella is by ingesting or eating raw foods, such as flour, eggs, and raw meat. Make sure to cook your meat

thoroughly, because salmonella may be fatal. People most susceptible to contracting salmonellosis may include children five years or younger, adults 65 and older, people with weakened immune systems, people with HIV/AIDS, organ transplant patients, and people receiving chemotherapy. To know you have salmonellosis, symptoms include fever, headache, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. Salmonellosis is extremely dangerous, and in some cases may cause death. If you experience any of these symptoms, and have ingested any raw meat, eggs or flour, you may need to see a doctor.

Another very fatal disease to chickens is NCD, or Newcastle disease. This disease, formerly known as Exotic Newcastle Disease, or also known as Avian Pneumoencephalitis, mainly targets the respiratory, nervous, and digestive systems of chickens. While this disease is very fatal to chickens, scientists have discovered that NCD is variable in turkeys, and almost absent in ducks. This disease is so bad, that many birds die without even showing signs. Many chickens die from this disease, but the most vulnerable to it are young chickens, who barely survive. However, many adults die, but aren't as vulnerable to it. Mortality rates are higher in tropical and subtropical regions, due to the fact that NCD can stay alive easier. While this disease is very dangerous to chickens, it hardly affects humans. No human cases have ever occurred from eating chicken products, and the worst you can get from it is conjunctivitis, or pinkeye for a temporary amount of time. However, this can easily be prevented by wearing protective equipment around chickens, changing clothing upon entering and exiting buildings with chickens, washing hands before and after care with birds, and clean and disinfect tools used on or around birds. NCD is extremely dangerous to chickens, and there is no known cure for it, however the best thing you can do is give your chickens an antibiotic treatment to help prevent NCD, or weaken it if they get it. NCD is extremely hard to kill, and may stay alive for up to 2 months in manure, and up to 12

months, or one year in dead carcasses. This can be easily prevented with disinfectants, fumigant, and direct sunlight. If you find that your chickens are dying, and you can't treat them because they may have NCD, call **1-866-536-7593**.

All of these diseases are very bad, no matter how fatal they are, and through science we can defeat them and save thousands of chickens' lives from these terrible diseases. Diseases like NCD and Marek's disease, that are very fatal to chickens, and Salmonella, which is very fatal to humans, must have a weak spot, and we can find them and destroy them.

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