

4. Newcastle Disease

Overview

Newcastle Disease is a highly contagious viral disease affecting many species of birds. It can cause severe respiratory, nervous, and digestive signs in chickens.

Causes

- Caused by the Newcastle Disease Virus (NDV), which belongs to the Paramyxoviridae family.
- Spread through aerosol droplets, contaminated feed, water, equipment, and direct contact between birds.

Symptoms

- Respiratory distress (gasping, coughing, nasal discharge).
- Nervous system signs such as twisting of the neck, tremors, and paralysis.
- Drop in egg production.
- Diarrhea and digestive problems.

Prevention and Control

- **Vaccination:** Routine vaccination is the most effective preventive measure. Both live and inactivated vaccines are available.
- **Biosecurity:** Strict measures to prevent contact with wild birds and contamination.
- **Quarantine:** Isolation of new birds and those suspected of infection.

Treatment

- **Supportive Care:** No specific antiviral treatment is available; management is supportive.
- **Prevention:** Emphasis is on vaccination and strict biosecurity practices to prevent outbreaks.

Image Suggestions

- Photos of healthy versus affected birds.
- Illustrations of the virus lifecycle and spread.