

Vaccinal Laryngotracheitis in Broilers

SIGNS:

- Doubling mortality, less eating and drinking
- Wet/dirty foamy eyes, heavy breathing
- Open mouth breathing with neck extended
- High pitch noise, sometimes blood on beak



CAUSE AND SPREAD:

- Caused by a virus; No risk to human health
- Back yard flocks and sick flocks may have the virus.
- Vaccinated flocks and their litter may also be a source of virus.
- The virus contaminates litter, equipment, and live haul trucks.
- If you are in contact with contaminated poultry or equipment, you may bring the virus back to your farm.
- The virus can also be airborne, so the disease is harder to control in high density areas.
- It takes 10 days for the birds to show signs, so birds may appear healthy but carry the virus
- Birds may recover, but then shed the virus for life.
- The virus is sensitive to heat and disinfectants.



Avoiding the disease:

1. Limit visitors to your farm to the absolutely necessary (serviceman, emergency repairs)
2. Practice biosecurity (dedicated farm footwear, vehicles and equipment; use foot baths)
3. Demand that your visitors practice biosecurity (boots, coveralls, using the foot bath)
4. Do not share equipment, Do not spend time on any farm that has been diagnosed with VLT for any reason, or that has vaccinated birds.
5. Avoid all contact with ANY non commercial poultry
6. Avoid contact with vaccinated poultry: vaccinated broilers, breeders, layers and pullets, or ANY poultry other than your own.
7. No animals inside the chicken house, except chickens. Do not let any dog, cat or any wild animal have access to the live or dead chickens
8. Do NOT visit other farms. If you absolutely have to visit other growers, or places frequented by growers, shower before going back into the chicken house

If you have VLT:

1. Report the signs immediately to your serviceman
2. Limit visitors to the very essential (feed truck only)
3. Either stay home, or shower after working with your birds before getting out in public; Disinfect your farm vehicle.
4. Promptly dispose of all mortality by acceptable methods, including the birds left behind by the live haul crews.
5. Follow your company's recommendations because they know what other companies and growers around you are doing to control the disease. It has to be a TEAM effort to be successful!
6. You WILL be asked, for example, to treat the litter and to restrict its movement to avoid spreading the disease to other growers. It is EXTREMELY important that you comply with those recommendations for disease control.

PROTECT YOUR POULTRY: PRACTICE BIOSECURITY!