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<th>Common Diseases</th>
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<td><strong>Aspergillosis</strong> (Brooder Pneumonia)</td>
<td>Chronic form - Gasping, sleepiness, loss of appetite, emaciation, bluish and dark color of skin, central-nerve disorders such as twisted neck. Infected birds usually die with 2 to 4 weeks.</td>
<td>None. Cull infected birds. Control the spreading of the disease by adding 1/2 teaspoon copper sulfate to drinking waters (do not use metal containers) for 5 days. Oxine can also be added to the drinking water. Prevent reinfection by cleaning facilities, disinfecting with Nystatin or 1/2 teaspoon copper sulfate per gallon of water, and replacing the litter.</td>
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<td><strong>Chronic Respiratory Disease caused by Mycoplasma gallisepticum</strong></td>
<td>In growing and adult birds - coughing, sneezing, ratting, gurgling, swollen face, nasal discharge, ruffled feathers, frothy eyes, squeaky crow, drop in egg laying, sometimes a darkened head, loss of appetite, weight loss, yellowish droppings. Resembles other respiratory diseases, but spreads more slowly. Lasts longer in cold weather.</td>
<td>Tylan and Spec-Linx-50 (LS-50) will reduce the death rate, but survivors are carriers. This is a reportable disease in most states since <em>Mycoplasma gallisepticum</em> is carried through hatching eggs.</td>
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<td><strong>Infectious Bronchitis</strong></td>
<td>In all ages of birds - gasping, coughing, sneezing, ratting, wet eyes, nasal discharge. In young &amp; growing birds - watery nasal discharge, huddling near heat. In adult birds - wattles swollen sometimes. In layers - drastic reduction in egg laying; eggs can be soft shelled, misshapen, rough or with ridge shells and watery whites. (Egg production usually resumes in 6 to 8 weeks, but the quality and quantity will be less.) Starts suddenly, spreads through flock in 24 to 48 hours, birds recover in 2 to 3 weeks. Mortality is higher in chicks especially during cold weather.</td>
<td>Add electrolyes to drinking water, keep birds warm, well-fed, and dry; avoid crowding. To avoid secondary bacterial infection, add Penicillin or to the drinking water. Survivors are permanently immune, but are carriers. Chicks can be vaccinated with strains of bronchitis found in the specific area.</td>
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<td><strong>Infectious Coryza</strong></td>
<td>In chicks 4 weeks and older - nasal discharge, facial swelling, one or both eyes closed. In growing and adult birds - swollen face, eyes, and sinuses; watery eyes with eyelids stuck together; foul-smelling discharge from nose; drop in feed and water consumption as well as egg production; diarrhea sometimes; wheezing. Progresses through flock varies from a few days to up to 3 months. Recovered birds are carriers.</td>
<td>Gallimycin is the best medication. If not available, use Sulmet or Albon (Di-Methox). Sulfa drugs are not FDA approved for pullets over 14 weeks of age. Birds can be vaccinated with Cocyza-Vac following a multi-vaccination schedule</td>
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<td><strong>Newcastle Disease (Exotic)</strong></td>
<td>Sudden, high rate of death without or with symptoms: in chicks - gasping, coughing, &quot;chirping&quot;; drooping wings, dragging legs, sometimes with twisted head and neck, circling, somersaulting, walking backward, paralysis. Birds may recover from respiratory symptoms but nervous disorders remain. In mature birds - listlessness, rapid or difficult breathing, egg laying totally stops within 3 days; loss of coordination, muscular tremors; sometimes, watery, greenish, blood-stained diarrhea; swollen, blackish eyes; bleeding through nose, death within 2 to 3 days of onset of disease.</td>
<td>No effective treatment. This is a reportable disease. Infected flocks are quarantined and destroyed so avoid contact with illegally imported birds and contact with people and birds were outbreaks of Exotic Newcastle Disease have been reported.</td>
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## Respiratory Disease

### Symptoms

**Cholora**
- Sudden death, fever, loss of appetite, increased thirst, depression, drowsiness, ruffled feathers, head pale and drawn back, increased respiratory rate, mucous discharge from mouth and nose, watery white diarrhea later becoming thick and greenish yellow, bluish comb and wattles, death within hour of noticing symptoms.

**Coccidiosis**
- In young birds - droopiness, huddling with ruffled feathers, loss of appetite and desire to drink, weight loss, watery, mucous, or pasty, tan or blood-tinged diarrhea. In adult birds - thin breast weak legs, reduced egg production, and diarrhea. Yellow-skinned birds pale comb, skin, and shanks.

**Marek’s Disease**
- Birds 6 to 9 months old - enlarged, red feather follicles or white bumps on skin that form a brown crusty scab; lack of coordination, pale skin, wing or leg paralysis (one leg points forward & the other points back under the body), rapid weight loss, coma, death due to trampling or inability to get to feed and water; in breeds having reddish bay eyes - cloudy, grayish dilated pupil.

**Bumblefoot**
- In mature males, especially heavy breeds - lameness, reluctance to walk, rests on hocks with sores on hocks and/or bottoms of toes, inflamed foot, hard, swollen, or pus-filled abscess on bottom of foot.

**Capillary Worms**
- Pale head, poor appetite, droopiness, weakness, emaciation, and occasionally diarrhea. Birds may sit with the head drawn in.

**Botulism (Limberneck)**
- Sudden death or leg weaknesses, drowsiness and flaccid paralysis of legs, wings, and neck. Has difficulty swallowing, ruffled, loose feathers; lies on side with outstretched neck and closed eyes; trembling sometimes, diarrhea; coma and death due to heart and/or respiratory paralysis.

**Gape Worm**
- Infected birds yawn, grunt, gasp, sneeze, cough, choke; have loss of energy, little appetite, are weak and emaciated, have closed eyes, and will frequently shake the head to dislodge worms from windpipe.

**Scaly Leg Mites**
- Raised scales on shanks and feet. Legs thicken and crust over. Can attack combs and wattles.

**Blackhead**
- Mostly affects birds 4 to 6 weeks of age which may display no symptoms or any of these: droopiness, drowsiness, weakness, ruffled feathers, increased thirst, loss of appetite and weight loss, darkened face, watery sulfur-colored droppings.

### Treatment

**Cholora**
- Control rodents, wild birds, and predators. Medicate with sulfa drugs or vaccinate to stop mortality. Prolonged use of sulfa drugs decreases egg production and can be toxic. It also leaves a residue in eggs and meat so do not use on birds intended for human consumption. Tetracycline may be used but it is not as effective.

**Coccidiosis**
- Choice of drug depends on the identification of the coccidia involved. Sulmet, Corid, Di-Methox, and Amprol 128 are used to treat Coccidiosis.

**Marek’s Disease**
- None, cull unless you’re breeding for resistance. Day-old birds can be vaccinated. Check with state poultry specialist for advice on vaccines.

**Bumblefoot**
- Inject swollen area with 1/2 cc penicillin. If abscess is large, wash foot, open abscess and remove cheesy core. Clean with hydrogen peroxide, pack with Neosporin, and tape bandage over area. Confine bird to deep litter. Dress abscess 2 or 3 days.

**Capillary Worms**
- No approved wormer is available, but Levamisol is often used.

**Botulism (Limberneck)**
- Remove source of poisoning (decaying vegetable and animal matter) and contaminated litter. Use molasses or Epsom salts (1 tsp. Epsom salts dissolved in 1/2 c. water*) to flush toxins from system. *Squirt down bird’s throat twice daily for 2 or 3 days.

**Gape Worm**
- Treat with thiabenazazole or levamisole. Reworm in 10 days.

**Scaly Leg Mites**
- Use Ivermect to control scaly-leg mites in birds not kept for meat and eggs. Spray with Scalex.

**Blackhead**
- The best treatment is prevention of cecal and earthworms. These drugs are FDA approved for blackhead: Carosep, Acidified Copper Sulfate, and Histostat-50. Flagyl (Metronidazole) is not FDA approved for poultry, but is widely used with peafowl and ornamental game birds.