



Non Ruminant Research Institute  
P.O. Box 25-20117,  
Tel :(+254)708620095/7, NAIVASHA  
E-mail: kalropoultry@gmail.com

## Poultry Diseases

Disease can be defined as any change or impairment of normal body function that affects the chickens' ability to survive, grow or reproduce.

### Causes of diseases

#### Viral

Cannot be cured BUT maybe prevented or controlled if vaccinated

**NOTE**-Never vaccinate sick birds  
E.g. New castle diseases, Gumboro (IBD), Fowl pox

#### Bacterial

Many can be treated using antibiotics  
Important to diagnose the disease in order to choose the right antibiotic  
E.g. Fowl typhoid, Infectious coryza

#### Parasites

This include external and internal parasites  
Most parasites can be treated with traditional and conventional medicine. Good flock management and hygiene helps in control of parasites

**Coccidiosis** is a common disease associated with internal parasites

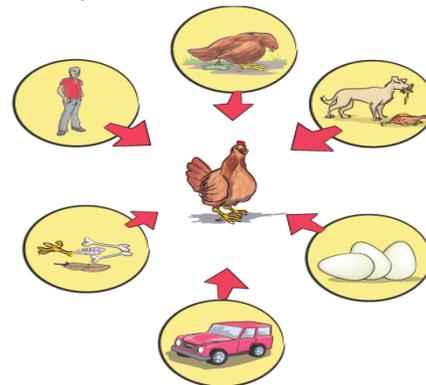
#### Nutritional diseases/ disorders

Caused by wrong feed composition

Maybe prevented by mixing the right feed with minerals and vitamins

### Disease spread

A disease can spread rapidly among chicken because they are usually Kept together in a chicken house. They also share the same food and water troughs, which can spread disease and infections from sick to healthy chicken.



### Rules of Disease prevention

- Give access to the right feed and clean water.
- Build shelters against adverse environmental condition
- Clean houses regularly and disinfect the floor and walls
- Provide dry litter regularly
- Provide correct spacing
- Different species of poultry should be kept separate.
- Separate chicks from adult birds except from the mother hen
- Vaccinate chicks against the most important diseases and revaccinate if necessary
- Isolate and treat sick birds and Burn or burry dead birds.

## Characteristics of Healthy birds



- Alert and on guard
- Bright eyes and comb
- Walk, run, stand and scratch
- Continuously Eat and drink
- Normal production e.g. eggs production
- Smooth and neat feathers
- Soft compact droppings
- Breathe quietly

## Characteristics of Unhealthy birds/sick birds



- Tired and lifeless
- Dull eyes and comb
- Sit or lie down
- Eat and drink less
- Low egg production or stop lay
- Ruffled and loose feathers
- Wet droppings with blood or worms, diarrhea
- Cough, sneeze and breathe noisily.

## Costs Associated with Disease

### Control

- Mortality and morbidity
- Reduced productivity- weight gain/egg production
- Downgrading at processing
- Treatment and Vaccination
- Surveillance and monitoring
- Loss of market
- Public health control and Welfare perceptions