
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ANIMAL HEALTH
Mexico-United States Commission for Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease
and other Animal Exotic Diseases

VELOGENIC NEWCASTLE DISEASE

Velogenic Newcastle disease, also known as “pseudo-avian flu” is a highly contagious viral disease that affects farmyard poultry such as turkeys, roosters, hens, chickens and quails, among others; it is characterized for causing a purple or purplish coloring in the crest and chin on the affected birds.

What is its geographical distribution?

This disease is located in some Central and South American, European, Asian and African countries.

Who or what causes it?

It is caused by an *Avulavirus* genus virus of the Paramyxoviridae family.

How is the virus transmitted?

The virus is found in secretions and excreta of infected birds (exhalations, saliva, nasal fluids and feces.) It can be transmitted by direct contact or by fomites, like individuals, vehicles, materials or equipment.

Wild birds, especially aquatic birds, can act as reservoirs for the lentogenic and mesogenic viruses, which can turn velogenic when establishing on farmyard poultry.

What are the clinical signs?

Birds present fever, depression, loss of appetite, sneezing, blood-stained nasal discharge, conjunctivitis, white or green diarrhea, purple or purplish colored inflammation of crest and chin, raised plumage, trembling, weakness loss of coordination and huddling, stiff neck and paralysis of wings and/or legs; there is a decrease in egg production, and laid eggs are decolored, soft, deform and have aqueous albumin.

The sudden death of all the flock is common, with or without clinical signs.

How is the disease diagnosed?

It is difficult to clinically distinguish velogenic Newcastle disease from high pathogenicity avian influenza, infectious bronchitis, laryngotracheitis, avian cholera, mycoplasma infection, psittacosis, aspergillosis and egg drop syndrome, since the signs are similar; therefore, it is necessary to diagnose in an official laboratory.

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How can it be prevented?

Mexico has been free of Velogenic Newcastle disease since 2015; therefore, it is necessary to control the mobilization of birds and their products and byproducts, and bolster biosafety measures in Avian Production Units (APU), for example:

- Establish sanitary protocols for all individuals entering the APU.
- Wash and disinfect all vehicles entering the APU.
- Use sanitary mats at the main entrance and each and every section.
- Check the flock daily to detect birds with suggestive clinical signs.
- Do not mobilize diseased or dead birds outside the APU. Those animals must be isolated or disposed of in sanitary conditions, as the case may be.
- Subject excreta to a thermal treatment process higher than 56°C degrees.
- Periodically wash and disinfect facilities, materials and equipment.
- Consider establishing a sanitary vacuum period between each productive cycle.
- Implement procedures to control wildlife and eliminate noxious fauna.

SENASICA carries out a permanent epidemiological surveillance aimed to timely detect animal diseases endangering livestock assets and the public health of our country.

Report immediately to the official veterinarian services about any suspicious case; an official veterinarian will visit the production unit, obtain the samples for laboratory diagnosis and give the appropriate instructions.

Contact us for more information or to report any suspicious cases:

Emergency phone: 01 (800) 751 2100
(24 hours/day - 365 days/year)

Phone: 01 (55) 5905 1000
(Extension 51235)

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