Pullorum-Typhoid (P-T)

SMALL FLOCKS COLLABORATIVE

Pullorum Disease and **Fowl Typhoid** are caused by two related bacteria: *Salmonella pullorum* and *Salmonella gallinarum,* together called **Pullorum-Typhoid (P-T)**. These were once among the most devastating poultry diseases in the U.S., leading to the creation of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP). Pullorum mainly affects young birds. Fowl Typhoid can infect birds of any age. P-T has no cure and infected birds must be removed. NPIP testing and control programs have eradicated P-T in U.S. commercial flocks, but P-T still appears in some backyard flocks. All states require negative P-T testing for moving or selling poultry across state lines.

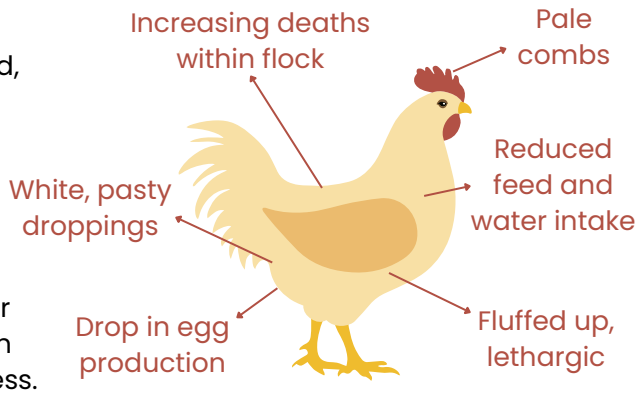
Signs to Look For

Pullorum

- Chicks/poults: droopy, huddled, white pasty diarrhea, poor growth, high mortality.
- Older birds: often no signs, drop in egg production.

Fowl Typhoid

- Sudden death in any age, poor appetite, pale combs, greenish diarrhea, drooping wings, listless.



Quick Facts

- Caused by Salmonella bacteria (*S. pullorum* and *S. gallinarum*)
- **Often deadly;** Pullorum affects birds <4 weeks, Typhoid any age
- Does not spread to or infect humans
- There is no cure for P-T and positive birds must be reported to a state animal health official
- All states require negative P-T tests for selling or moving birds across state lines. Some shows may also require it

How P-T Spreads

- Infected hens can spread it to chicks via the egg.
- Direct contact with sick birds or droppings.
- Contaminated feeders, water, clothing, or equipment.
- Wild birds or rodents can carry the bacteria.
- Carrier birds can shed bacteria without looking sick.

Pullorum-Typhoid is very rare, but occasionally is detected in backyard flocks.

Prevention

1. Practice Biosecurity

- Limit contact with birds from other flocks.
- Wear coop-dedicated shoes to keep out germs.
- Wash hands and keep coop/equipment clean.
- Limit visitors and require boot covers.

2. Buy from Clean Sources

- Only buy birds from flocks that are P-T Clean (NPIP-certified) to keep this disease out.
- Do not buy birds from swaps, auctions, or unknown sources.

3. Separate New Birds

- Isolate new or returning birds away from your flock for at least 3 weeks and monitor for signs of illness.
- Disease can spread before birds show signs.

4. Handle Healthy Birds First

- Care for birds in this order: young → adults → sick, to avoid spreading germs.
- Wash or sanitize hands and equipment between different bird groups.

When Birds Get Sick

1. Report it Immediately

- P-T is highly contagious and reportable, contact your veterinarian if you suspect P-T in your flock.
- State animal health officials should be contacted immediately of any P-T cases.

2. Isolate Sick Birds

- Separate sick birds from the flock to limit spread of the bacteria.

3. Stop Movement

- Don't move birds, eggs, or equipment on or off of your property, and avoid visiting other farms to prevent spreading disease.

4. Disease Control Steps

- Controlling the disease may require depopulation.
- Work with your state animal health official to clean, review biosecurity, and prevent more outbreaks.

Find out more at
www.healthybirds.info