



FOWL POX VACCINATION FOR SHOW POULTRY

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Fowl pox is not transmissible to humans. Fowl Pox affects chickens, turkeys and other fowl. Fowl pox (dry form) forms small pustules on the combs or wattles, or maybe on around the mouth and face. Pustules can also occur on the legs. There is a wet form that can occur inside the mouth. The dry form pustules can be brownish or scabs. Most areas of Texas have wild bird populations that are infected. These infections easily spread from the wild into your flock from mosquitoes most times of the year. Vaccination for fowl pox is a good practice for show birds.

Fowl pox is a slow moving disease that is transmitted by mosquitoes or scratches, etc. You can vaccinate a flock that is infected with the disease and prevent it in the birds that are not yet infected. However, the birds that are infected cannot be cured and the disease will run its course. You can only try to prevent secondary infections. The birds that are infected will not get the disease again.

Broiler chicks hatched from August through November should be vaccinated for fowl pox by 14 days of age. In areas with high mosquito populations turkeys should be vaccinated initially between 3 to 4 weeks of age followed by a second vaccination at 12 weeks of age to assure lasting immunity.

You can obtain a Fowl Pox vaccine from your veterinary supply catalogue at a very reasonable price. The vaccine comes as a freeze dried product that is mixed with another liquid immediately before use. **THE VACCINE IS A LIVE VIRUS AND IS VERY LABILE. THE VACCINE MUST BE USED IMMEDIATELY. IF ALLOWED TO BECOME WARM OR IF THE VACCINE IS STORED FOR ANY TIME IT WILL NOT BE EFFECTIVE.** Be careful to keep the vaccine on ice all the time, do not hold it in your hand or it will become warm and be ineffective.

The vaccine comes with a two needle applicator. Dip the needles into the vaccine. A drop of solution will be held between the needles. Press the needles into the wing web (avoid the bone and thick tissues). Two vaccinations are needed for lasting immunity. You can vaccinate at one day of age but this is not recommended since severe reactions can occur if the birds are stressed.