

### Construct your electronic library on poultry health

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## Clinical signs

The clinical signs seen in Newcastle disease are influenced by the viral strain involved. Factors such as the species of bird infected, age, immune status, co-infection with other diseases (mycoplasmosis, infectious bronchitis, avian influenza or colisepticaemia) and stress influence the manifestation of the disease.

In the very virulent form of Newcastle disease onset can be sudden with high mortality and an absence of other clinical signs or the signs can be listlessness, rapid breathing, prostration and death.

Clinical signs are strain dependent. For example, pneumotropic strains cause respiratory signs, viscerotropic strains often cause diarrhoea, while neurotropic strains cause nervous signs such as tremors, twisted necks (torticollis) and leg and wing paralysis. Egg drops are also often seen.

The mildest (lentogenic) strains of Newcastle disease virus rarely cause clinical signs in adult birds but in young birds respiratory problems are often seen.

In general, turkeys are as susceptible to infection with Newcastle disease as chickens but the clinical signs are less severe. Ducks and geese are generally regarded as clinically resistant to Newcastle disease virus infection. A similar situation often occurs in ostriches and, although young birds may show depression and nervous signs, adults are unaffected.

Newcastle disease has been seen in most species of game birds.