

Chicken Swollen Eye & Facial Triage Tree

Clinical differentiation between environmental trauma and infectious respiratory coryza

DIFFERENTIATE ONE EYE (TRAUMA) FROM BOTH EYES (SYSTEMIC)

Foreign bodies and dust require gentle flushing; infectious coryza requires immediate flock isolation.

1. Single Eye Swelling + Clear Watery Tears

FOREIGN BODY / DUST

SYMPTOMS: One eye closed or watery. Third eyelid visible. Clear discharge, no foul odor.

PRIMARY CAUSE: Feed dust, scratch from foraging, bedding splinter, or minor pecking injury.

TRIAGE ACTION: Flush eye with sterile saline solution (0.9%) or Vetericyn eye wash. Recheck in 12h.

2. Frothy Bubbles in Corner of Eye

MYCOPLASMA SUSPECT

SYMPTOMS: Tiny foamy bubbles at inner eye corner. Mild sneeze or head shaking present.

PRIMARY CAUSE: Early Mycoplasma Gallisepticum (MG) or infectious bronchitis irritating ocular conjunctiva.

TRIAGE ACTION: Isolate bird from flock immediately. Prevent shared waterer transmission. Consult avian vet.

3. Bulging Sinus Swelling + Pungent Odor

INFECTIOUS CORYZA

SYMPTOMS: Massive facial swelling below eye. Thick yellowish cheesy discharge. Distinct foul smell.

PRIMARY CAUSE: Avibacterium paragallinarum (Coryza) or advanced sinus abscess. Highly contagious to flock.

TRIAGE ACTION: **Complete bio-isolation. Do not lance abscess at home. Prescription antibiotics required.**

4. Crusted Scabs on Eyelids & Beak Margins

AVIAN FOWL POX

SYMPTOMS: Dark brown or yellow warts/scabs along eyelid edges, comb, and corner of mouth.

PRIMARY CAUSE: Dry Fowl Pox virus transmitted by mosquitoes. Restricts vision if scabs bridge eyelids.

TRIAGE ACTION: **Apply ophthalmic lubricant ointment to prevent eyelid fusing. Control coop mosquitoes.**

URGENT VETERINARY RED FLAGS — EYE INFECTIONS

- Cheesy yellow pus completely sealing both eyes shut, preventing the bird from eating or drinking
- Facial swelling paired with loud rattling, whistling breathing, or gasping for air
- Grayish-white diphtheritic plaques visible inside the mouth or throat (Wet Pox suffocation risk)
- Rapid spread of eye swelling and facial discharge across 3 or more birds within 48 hours