

VACCINATING FOR FOWL POX (For the beginner)



We have several articles and photos of birds that suffer from a fowl pox infestation located in our (poultry disease worksheets). This can be such a painful, devastating virus we recommend anyone that has a problem with flies and mosquitoes in the area where you live vaccinate their birds with the fowl pox vaccine.

There is an old saying “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” and of course there is “no cure” for fowl pox but there is that “ounce of prevention”. Treatment, once a bird is infected can go on for weeks and the expense and the time you have to spend outweighs a few minutes it takes to vaccinate.

All it takes to prevent a “bad year of fowl pox”, losing birds, birds that you aren’t able to show because you can infect a whole showroom and birds that are too ill to lay those eggs you need so badly..... is vaccinate!

The fowl pox vaccine is available in almost all poultry supply distributors. You just need to make that call and don’t forget to order the wing stab equipment if it’s not included with the vaccine. The cost is only about \$8.00 and worth every penny whether it’s for one, twenty or 1000 birds. The vaccine comes in a very small bottle and will actually do up to 1000 birds.

When you plan to vaccinate your birds, plan on doing so all at one time. Have your birds gathered in one area and when you release them have a separate area for the release.

Once the vaccine is open, it has to be used within a short period of time as it’s a live type vaccine. You can’t save it for another time once it is opened. So organize a few hours in your day, get some help lined up and let the work begin.

Below is a picture of where you inject the vaccine in the wing web of your birds. The wing web on bird is very strong and it does take a little strength to poke the stabber through the web. Stab it once, take firm action, use a little strength and it can be a very quick process. This is not a terribly painful process, it’s about the same as getting a shot in the arm at your doctors and birds forget it immediately when they are released.

Open the wing. On the underside of the wing, feel and locate the web. (You will have to have someone hold the bird in such a position so we can work under the wing). This area is normally covered with some fine feathering and sometimes you might have to pull just a few feathers so you can have a clear area. Once you can see the web clearly, dip the stabber in the vaccine and push all the way through the web. Just a slight jab that does not pierce the web will not introduce enough vaccine to prevent an infestation of fowl pox.

Good luck and thank you for taking steps to keep your birds healthy and happy! Don't forget to dispose of any left over vaccine.

