

Conditions for Rejection of Poultry at Post Mortem

Food PAD Dermatitis (FPD)

Post Mortem Disposition

Healthy food – Score 0



Area affected:

- None or very small.
- Lesion description:
- very small superficial lesions (1-2mm)
 - slight discoloration in a limited area
 - mild hyperkeratosis SCORE 0
 - completely healed scar

Mild Lesion – Score 1



Area affected:

- Does not extend over entire plantar pad.

Lesion description:

Severe Lesion – Score 2



Area affected:

- Greater surface of plantar pad usually affected, sometimes with lesions on toes.

Lesion description:

- deeper lesions with ulceration, sometimes hemorrhage
- scabs of significant size
- severely swollen foot pad

FSS Responsibilities

Post Mortem Disposition

This condition appears in all poultry rearing systems with higher prevalence when outdoor access is supplied.

When a high prevalence of severe lesions are detected within a flock the OV should inform the FBO, but also APHA so they can investigate the rearing conditions further.

The decision on post mortem inspection will be based on the severity of the lesions and the amount of ulceration. Further treatment at the abattoir may render them fit if the dermis is not affected. Any feet that show severe ulceration after the treatment process should be treated as Category 3 Animal By Product

Recording of the condition

The condition must be recorded on the Food Pad Dermatitis section on the Post Mortem Inspection section of OWS.

- substantial discoloration of the foot pad
- superficial lesion, no ulceration
- dark papillae with no ulceration

Further Information

Surveillance

The interaction of the two following areas is to be taken into account when assessing FPD.

Prevalence: Percentage of birds in the flock that show evidence of FPD

Severity: Focuses on the seriousness of the FPD lesions.

Causes

A number of factors have been shown to influence the occurrence of FPD such as litter type and quality, litter depth, water drinker type, bird age, ventilation and drinker management, feed source and its quality, rearing system, and breed (genotype) used among others. Enteric disease may be a predisposing factor.

All poultry species are affected by FPD although the scoring system above relates specifically to meat chickens.

Scoring is broadly based on the size of the lesion but any lesions with deep ulceration will be scored 2 regardless of the size. Feet from a minimum of 100 birds should be scored and the number of feet in each category 0, 1 and 2 should be recorded.

Impact

FPD is one of the measures to assess whether welfare standards are being met during rearing¹, alongside post- mortem rejections and on -farm mortality.

Current published data² for conventionally reared meat chickens shows that average prevalence (percentage of birds showing lesions) of FPD in the UK varies between 14.5% to 18.1%, and the severity of the lesion (percentage of birds with gross lesions falling under score 2) varies between 4% to 9.5%. Corn fed, free range and organic rearing systems show different prevalence and severity³.



Sources and useful information:

¹Berg, C. (2004) Pododermatitis and Hock Burn in Broiler Chickens. Measuring and Auditing Broiler Welfare (eds C Weeks and A Butterworth):37-49

²Pagazaurtundua, A. & Warriss, P.D. (2006) Measurement of foot pad dermatitis in broiler chickens at processing plants. Veterinary Record, 158: 679-682

³Pagazaurtunda, A & Warriss, P.D. (2006) Levels of foot pad dermatitis in broiler chickens reared in 5 different systems British Poultry Science, 47: 529-532

Meat chicken welfare directive 2007/43/EC <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ%3AL%3A2007%3A182%3A0019%3A0028%3AEN%3APDF?>

Photos reprinted with permission. Dr Lotta Berg, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden; Welfare Quality (2009) Welfare Quality® assessment for poultry (broilers, laying hens). Editors: Butterworth A, Arnould C, Fiks van Niekerk T, Veissier I, Keeling L, van Overbeke G and Bedaux V. Welfare Quality® consortium, Lelystad, Netherlands. ISBN/EAN 978-90-78240-06-8

This scorecard has been agreed between Defra, Scottish Government, Food Standards Agency, Food Standards Scotland and Industry,