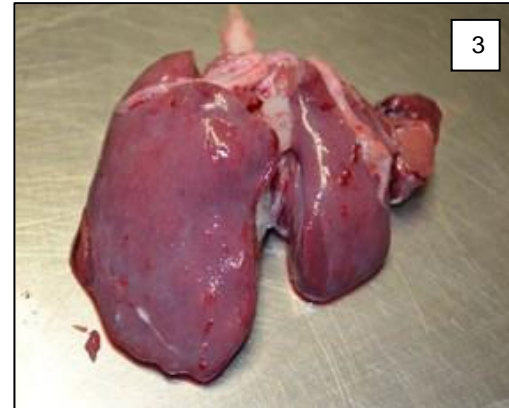


# Conditions for Rejection of Poultry at Post Mortem

## Ascites/Oedema

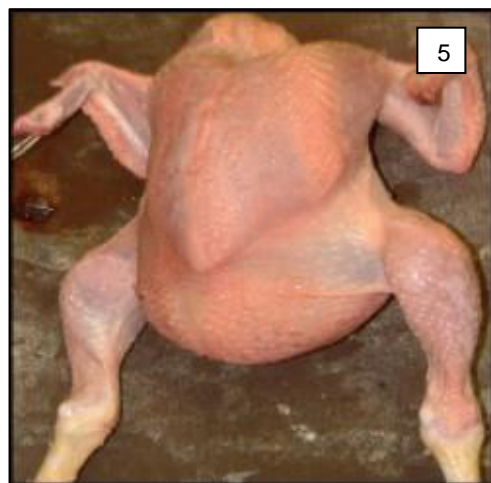
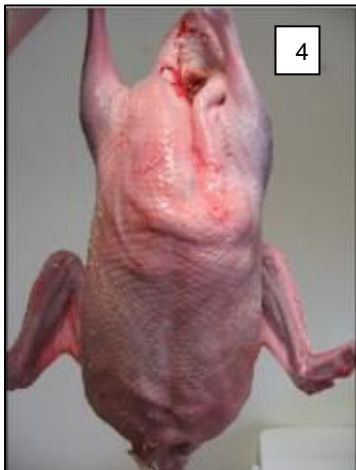
### Post Mortem Disposition



### FSS Responsibilities

**Post Mortem Disposition**  
Total rejection of carcase and offal.

**Recording of the condition**  
The condition must be recorded on the "Ascites/Oedema" entry under Post-Mortem Inspection in OWS.



**Figure 1 & 2:** Increase of fluid in one or more of the abdominal spaces. The liquid tends to be a gelatinous fluid filled with floating clots of fibrin.

**Figure 3:** Note the rounded liver associated with ascites.

**Figure 4 & 5:** Unopened carcasses showing accumulation of liquid in the abdomen (duck & broiler).

**Figure 6 & 7:** Unopened and opened carcass showing accumulation of liquid in the abdomen.

## Further Information

### Definition

Abnormal accumulation of fluid in the abdomen.

### Remarks

Sometimes in larger birds, fat in the abdomen can make the bird appear to have ascites. Open the carcass if unsure and if FBO facilities are available.

Similarly, sometimes during killing the liver can rupture to create blood in the abdomen which can again appear as ascites. Such birds should not be rejected if FBO has facilities to check these.

In plants where the offal is displayed in trays sometimes the water from the carcass wash gets into the trays. Provided that the bird and the offal are normal then rejection is not necessary.

### Causes

The fluid is collected in the abdominal cavity by moving from the major blood vessels in the abdominal cavity due to increased blood pressure in the veins returning to the heart.

- The blood pressure in these veins is raised due to failure of the right side of the heart.
- The right sided heart failure may be due to several factors; high growth rate of birds being the most important one.
- Inadequate ventilation in the housing or incubation process.
- The gelatinous nature of the fluid is due to movement of plasma proteins from the blood and liver into the abdominal cavity in the later stages of the condition.

### What is the data on rejects used for?

- A low incidence of the condition in smaller birds is normally found within the population.
- High incidence in larger birds can indicate problems due to high growth rate or ventilation.
- Some respiratory diseases can also aggravate the incidence of the disease.
- The information allows the veterinarian and production teams to identify the issues and rectify them quickly.

### Acknowledgements to:

Asier Pagazaurtundua (VM), Peter Cargill from Wyatt Poultry Veterinary Practice, and British Veterinary Poultry Association for the development of this condition card.

**Pictures:** Asier Pagazaurtundua (VM), Tomasz Niemcyk (OV), Carla Novau (OV) and BVPA