

Summer Loving

ENSURE YOUR CHICKENS ARE HAPPY AND HEALTHY THIS SUMMER

The key to ensuring your chickens remain happy and healthy this summer is to examine them regularly so that any changes in your birds' condition are noticed and acted upon promptly

The health check should include an assessment of each bird's weight, an examination of plumage - checking for pecking, evidence of mites or lice and a check of the eyes, nostrils, mouth, beak, vent and leg inspection. For more details on the health check visit nettexpoultry.com

In addition to the regular health check, you should also be aware of other threats to your chicken's health during the summer and take action to minimise them. These threats include both internal and external parasites and stress.

Internal parasites - worms

Advice on worming should be sought from a vet or suitably qualified person (SQP). However, as a guide you should undertake a worm egg count regularly, and if needed worm your flock using a licensed wormer or a medicated wormer premix. Worming is stressful for your birds and using [Nettex Herbal Gut Conditioner](#) at this time, helps to support healthy gut flora and the digestive system. Intestinal worm eggs are always present in the environment, therefore it is important to treat the ground as well as the birds to minimise reinfestation. Once you have treated your birds, clear the run of litter and sprinkle the base with [Nettex Ground Sanitising Powder](#). This disinfectant will help clear the ground of worm eggs and bacteria before you lay clean litter, and helps maintain a low risk environment for poultry. Ground Sanitising Powder also helps absorb moisture and odour. For best poultry hygiene practice, drinkers and feeders should be cleaned weekly with [Nettex Poultry 4 in 1](#) this helps minimise the risk of poultry bacteria and viruses.

External parasites - Pesky Pests

There are a number of Pesky Pests (Red Mites, Lice, Northern Fowl Mites and Scaly Leg Mites) which can live on your chickens or in their housing. Red Mites live in the housing emerging after dark to feed off the chickens. A heavy

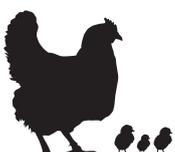
infestation will severely affect the health of your flock; it can stop them laying, cause anaemia and even kill birds. A regular weekly inspection and prevention routine is essential to get rid of them and keep them at bay. To remove the constant threat of red mites, a weekly 3-step programme is advised:

1. Clean out the coop, remove all faeces, dry matter and bedding.
2. Spray the entire coop with [Nettex Total Mite Kill Ready to Use](#) spray - this will disinfect as well as eradicate mites.
3. Apply [Nettex Total Hygiene Powder](#) liberally over the surface of the coop interior, perches and nest boxes, and refill with fresh bedding. It's also important to include the [Nettex Total Hygiene Powder](#) in dust baths.

How to use	Total Mite Kill Ready to Use Spray and Concentrate	Total Mite Kill Spray	Total Hygiene Powder
Infestation	Apply initially, then repeat 3 days later, then weekly for a month		Use as part of your regular weekly cleaning routine
Prevention	Use as part of your regular weekly cleaning routine	Use as part of your regular monthly cleaning routine	Use as part of your regular weekly cleaning routine

Additionally, you should use [Nettex Total Mite Kill](#) aerosol monthly to treat hard to reach areas, its high-pressure spray reaches into all the cracks. Should you have an infestation these products will need to be used more regularly.

Unlike Red Mites, Poultry Lice and Northern Fowl Mites live on your birds and are transmitted from wild birds. If there is an infestation you will see lice or eggs, on the skin at the base of the feathers around the vent area. Lice are small brown critters; Northern Fowl Mites are smaller and black. Both Lice



NET TEX

01283 524222 sales@net-tex.co.uk
www.nettexpoultry.com



and Northern Fowl Mites feed off your birds' blood, which makes them irritable and grumpy. It is relatively easy to treat these Pesky Pests, it is essential to treat the housing as well as the birds to help prevent any re-infestation:

1. Clean out the coop, remove all faeces, dry matter and bedding.
2. Spray the coop with **Nettex Total Mite Kill Ready to Use spray** - this will disinfect and kill any mites and lice.
3. Once this has dried powder thoroughly inside the coop with **Nettex Buz Busters Louse Powder** before replacing the bedding and roosting bars.

Scaly Leg Mites spend their entire life cycle on the bird and are spread by direct contact with other birds. Scaly Leg Mites burrow under the scales of a bird's legs causing irritation, which the birds try to relieve by pecking, creating painful sores on their legs. The scales will look raised, with a crusty exudate under them. Scaly Leg Mites can be easily managed with the following 2-step programme:

1. Spray the legs of affected birds with **Nettex Scaly Leg Remover**, this suffocates the mites, eases the discomfort and provides a barrier to deter mites and protect from further infestation. Apply to the legs with a soft toothbrush, in an upward motion, gently working it under the scales.
2. Repeat every 5-6 days (to break the egg cycle) until the infestation has gone and the crusts have gone from under the scales. Note that the scales will remain raised when the mites have gone. It is important not to pick at any raised or loose scales.

Stress

Birds are very susceptible to stress, this may be triggered by parasites, heat or bullying. This stress has an adverse effect on the immune system and can cause birds to lose condition.

Stressed birds may appear depressed and may be off their food or drink.

Heat stress

Chickens are very susceptible to overheating as their body temperature is much higher than ours and they are unable to sweat. In hot weather, ensure your birds have access to shade and provide plenty of fresh, cool water. You can also pop a frozen bottle of water into their drinker to keep the water cool.

Overcrowding and bullying

Overcrowding and bullying can cause stress. It is really important to make sure that your birds have more than enough room in their run and plenty of feeders and drinkers to avoid bullying. If you have a bully, consider popping them in a broody cage (with food and water) inside the run for a couple of days to reset the pecking order.

New arrivals

Introducing new birds has the potential to be a major cause of stress, so needs to be undertaken slowly with consideration. Ensure that you check any new birds you introduce to your flock to ensure they are free from lice and mites and quarantine them initially near to your original flock and introduced gradually.

Throughout the summer, it is essential to support your birds with appropriate nutrition and supplementation to maintain optimum health, support the immune system and help prevent stress. **Nettex Vitamin Boost +**, added to the birds' water, contains essential vitamins and minerals to support health and vitality, plus biotin which helps support feather growth. **Nettex Mineral Boost Powder** is a dry supplement, which can be added to the birds' feed, it contains the key minerals to aid vitality and support optimal health plus calcium to support egg shell strength.

Show your birds some Summer Lovin' for stress free, pest free, healthy chickens.



For further information and advice visit www.nettexpoultry.com or on Facebook @NettexPoultry.



NET TEX

01283 524222 sales@net-tex.co.uk
www.nettexpoultry.com

