

Onderwerp: Sterfte onder de Afrikaanse parelhoenen.

Problem: Guinea fowls which die, within 3 days of infection.

Summary:

Symptoms: wing dropping, respiratory difficulties, filled crops with malodorous food and in the cloaca they've observed worms. The respiratory problems might be secondary to the parasitological infections, as the chick gets weaker from the parasitic infection.

Therapy/Advice:

- Further identification of the parasites by microscopic examination of the faeces.
- The use of anti-parasitic drugs. For further information contact the V.I.S. service.
- General measurements against parasites:
 - o Good hygiene: removal of faeces from the houses and pens.
 - o No overstocking of animals.
 - o Keeping the floor as dry as possible. Parasitic eggs have difficulties surviving in a dry environment.
 - o Disinfection of the poultry-houses.
 - o Slaughter hens that are too thin and do not grow or produce eggs anymore. These hens are more susceptible to diseases and easily spread the disease among the flock.
 - o Vaccination against most common diseases (e.g. Newcastle Disease and Fowl Pox).
Vaccination should be done in young birds and before they start laying eggs.
Vaccinations should only be given to healthy animals. Anthelmintics against internal parasites should be given 2 weeks before the vaccination to improve the effect of the vaccination.

Contact the V.I.S.-service of the DIO foundation for more detailed information.

Trefwoorden: Parasites, Guinea Fowls.