



Poultry Handling and health check

Chicken

Behaviour

- Good: Active foraging, alert and bright, with rest of the flock.
- Poor: Isolated, poor appetite, huddled in corner/out of sight.

General Body Condition:

- Good: Well feathered, well fleshed and good coverage of Keel bone.
- Poor: Damaged or missing feathers, underweight, can feel significant bone structure.

Head (Comb, wattles, ear lobes, beak and mouth)

- Good: red comb and wattles, no discharge from ear lobes, mouth free from white deposits (canker), beak free from damage.
- Poor: Discoloured combs and wattles, discharge from ear, white deposits in mouth (Canker), damaged or cracked beak.

Wings:

- Good: Good range of movement, fully feathered, no obvious signs of damage.
- Poor: Poor feathering, damage, limited range of movement.

Legs:

- Good: Smooth shanks, no raised scales, 4 toes and soft pad on foot, all claws intact.
- Poor: Missing toes, damaged claws, raised scales (Scaley Mite)

Vent:

- Good: Well feathered (Fluff) Clean and free from debris (Faeces)
- Poor: Missing feathers, build up of faeces.

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Duck

Behaviour

- Good: Active foraging, alert and bright, with rest of the raft.
- Poor: Isolated, poor appetite, huddled in corner/out of sight.

General Body Condition:

- Good: Well feathered, well fleshed and good coverage of Keel bone.
- Poor: Damaged or missing feathers, underweight, can feel significant bone structure.

Head (Bill, Nares and mouth)

- Good: No discharge from Nares, mouth free from white deposits (canker), bill free from damage.
- Poor: Discharge from nares or blocked, white deposits in mouth (Canker), damaged or cracked bill.

Wings:

- Good: Good range of movement, fully feathered, no obvious signs of damage.
- Poor: Poor feathering, damage, limited range of movement.

Legs:

- Good: Smooth shanks, no raised scales, 4 toes and soft pad on foot, all claws intact, webbing between toes intact.
- Poor: Missing toes, damaged claws, raised scales (Scaley Mite), damage to webbing between toes

Vent:

- Good: Well feathered (Fluff) Clean and free from debris (Faeces)

Soil pH testing:

1. Add 10mm of soil to a test tube.
2. Add 30mm of deionised water to the test tube.
3. Add 5mm of universal indicator
4. Place bung on end of test tube and shake to ensure content is mixed evenly and soil mixed with mixture.
5. Leave for 20 seconds and judge against pH chart.

Soil Texture testing:

1. Take sample and add a small amount of water.
2. Roll into a ball to determine structure of soil (Unable to roll in a ball = sandy soil, rolls well = loamy soil, sticks together easily = clay soil.
3. Rub soil ball between finger and thumb (Easily crumbles (Sandy loam), Sticks together (clay)