



Biosecurity St Helena

VACCINATION TO PROTECT CHICKENS AGAINST NEWCASTLE DISEASE

Five outbreaks of Newcastle Disease have now been confirmed. To try and stop the spread of this deadly poultry disease ANRD will be running an **Island-wide chicken vaccination programme** to protect the Island's birds, including the endemic Wirebird.

The vaccination programme will start the week beginning **Monday 6 October** and is for **everyone with chickens**, even if they have just 1 or 2. The vaccine is **free** and very **simple** to administer by adding it to the chickens' drinking water. ANRD will prepare batches of fresh vaccine and bring it to a **distribution point in each district**. Details of where and when this will happen for each district will be announced next week.

Here's what YOU have to do:

1. **Tell us how many chickens you have** - call Andy Timm or Ken Henry at ANRD on 24724 by **Friday 3 October 2014**. This helps us work out how much vaccine to prepare.
2. **Take away the drinking water from your chickens for at least 2 hours** before you collect the vaccine, once you know the day your district will get it. This means they will drink the vaccinated water very quickly.
3. **Wash all the drinking water bowls in untreated water (not chlorinated)**. Treated or chlorinated water will kill the vaccine.
4. **Wash out a bottle with untreated water (not chlorinated)** ready to collect the vaccine. **Treated or chlorinated water will kill the vaccine**. A used drinking water bottle is ideal. Allow 45ml for each chicken you have. If you don't have a bottle call ANRD on 24724 for one.
5. **Collect your vaccine** from the distribution point in your district.
6. **Take it home and use it immediately**: put it in the cleaned drinking water bowls and offer it to the thirsty chickens. The vaccine will only work when it is fresh.
7. **Protect** the area in your pen or coop where you feed the chickens from wild birds with fine mesh, so they don't get in to spread the disease.
8. **Not sure what to do in your own case?** Call Andy Timm or Ken Henry at ANRD on 24724 for advice.

The vaccine doesn't guarantee 100% protection to your chickens as they may already be affected and incubating the virus.

Please report any unusual poultry deaths or symptoms to the Veterinary Service at ANRD on 24724, or out of hours call Andy Timm on 24473 or Ken Henry on 24335.

FAQs

What if I only have 1 or 2 chickens – do I have to do the same thing?

- ✓ Yes, all chickens must be vaccinated to help stop the spread of this deadly disease.

Where can I get untreated water?

- ✓ Stand pipes will be available from 6 October 2014 at the following locations:
 - Woody Ridge
 - Scotland (by the fire tank)
 - Casons Car Park
 - Castle Gardens

If I lose my chickens, can I re-use the pen or coop for more birds in the future?

- ✓ Yes you can but you need to wait 4 months for the virus to clear.

Can I eat the eggs from my vaccinated chickens?

- ✓ Yes you can, **there is no danger to humans** but you should wait for 21 days before slaughter.

What about other birds, such as Ducks, Geese and Turkeys?

- ✓ They should be vaccinated at the same time as the chickens.

Will the vaccine affect me?

- ✓ No, although if your eyes get splashed it can cause temporary conjunctivitis (swelling and redness of eyes). **Protective eyewear is advisable.**

To help stop the spread follow these simple measures:

- Set up a footbath such as a bucket or washing up bowl filled with disinfectant or bleach at the entrance to the coop. Dip your feet on the way in and on the way out to create a barrier to germs.
- Wherever practical, keep your chickens inside the coop. Even if your set-up means you are unable to do this, keep all feed and water inside the coop.
- Do your best to exclude wild birds by blocking holes and using netting, and remove any spilled feed that could attract wild birds.
- Have a dedicated set of boots and overalls for your chicken coop which never leaves your property.
- Wash your hands after visiting the chickens.
- Discourage visitors to your coop and avoid visiting chickens at other premises.

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