



GAME BIRD NEWSLETTER No 2

Chick Rearing

As I write this many rearers will have partridge and pheasant chicks already on the ground and some may even be in the runs. Your handling of them now is fundamental for a successful shooting season in only a few months time!



As you know, the first few days of a chick's life is critical for it to grow into a healthy fast growing bird. The main objective of the first two weeks of a bird's life is to give it optimum heat, ventilation, light, top quality food, and **clean water**.

Chicks are born with a sterile gut which is rapidly colonised by environmental bacteria; if water contains high levels of harmful bacteria, this could result in high mortalities. Water in the chicks hut tends to heat up very quickly so it is very important that water is changed and drinkers cleaned daily.

Call me on 07725 039093 to discuss testing your water for pH and bacteria. Remember: a clean environment - free from viruses eg rotavirus, protozoas and fungi - will ensure a healthy rearing period.

Additionally,

it is very important that rearing huts and equipment are thoroughly disinfected.



Three major problems chicks can encounter in the first week:

- yolk sac infection
- naval ill
- 'starve outs'.

Naval ill and yolk sac infections come from the hatchery caused by a delay in yolk re-absorption. Both can be controlled by antibiotics to reduce mortality but you will still notice unthrifty birds.

'Starve outs' are caused by management issues ie feed availability, long journeys, poor chicks, heating and water supply. If mortality is significant ie >4% for the first 5-7 days please contact the practice so I can carry out post mortems to gain a diagnosis and curb further losses.

Baycox 2.5% WITH Baycox-verdunner
Get the most out of your **Baycox 2.5%** by combining it with **Baycox 2.5%-verdunner**



Baycox- verdunner is an additive to add to water prior to mixing in Baycox 2.5%. Baycox-verdunner will bring the birds drinking water's pH back to 7 which will aid in dissolving Baycox 2.5%.

Many of the incidences of poor performance of Baycox2.5% may be down to hard water. This product is used extensively in Europe but is fast becoming recognised as an important additive in the UK.

Dose Rates:

Baycox 2.5% 2ml /1L Water
Baycox 2.5%-verdunner 25ml /1L Baycox

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SolviTec Solulyte

NorCal Vets will be supplying SolviTec Solulyte which is a specific blend of electrolytes designed for strategic use to optimise water consumption and to supply essential body salts.

We recommend using **Solulyte** for the first 3 days after birds have arrived from the hatchery or from rearers. It will optimise water intakes to reduce 'starve outs'.

Dose Rate:

Dilute **1000ml (1 litre) of Solulyte in 500ml** of drinking water.

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Spectrum Multivitamins

We advise using this after the first three days of arrival to days 3-8 to boost vitamin levels which are required for healthy liver function and also to boost vitamin levels during periods of environmental stress. Helps maintain rapid growth and aids in disease recovery whilst ensuring maintenance of peak production.

Dose Rates:

40ml spectrum / 100ml of water

Medication Dose Rates for Game Birds:

- Amoxinol 100 75g - 16g per 100 litres of drinking water
- Aivlosin 625mg/g – 40g per 1000kg bodyweight in drinking water over 5 days
- Baycox 2.5% oral – 2ml per litre of drinking water or as advised
- Baytril 10% oral – 50ml per 100 litres of drinking water
- Denagard 12.5% - 2ml per litres of drinking water
- Densol – 1 tub per 1000 litres of drinking water
- Solubenol 100g – 10g per 100 litres of drinking water
- Solulyte – 200ml per 100 litres of drinking water
- Tetsol 2kg – 55g per 100 litres of drinking water

Medicine records

To aid you with your recording of medicine usage, you'll find a useful record sheet attached to this newsletter. On the reverse is medicine plan for rearing pheasants and partridges.

Successful March 'Game Bird Meeting'

I was pleased to see so many of you attend our first meeting with some interesting topics covered off. Good to hear your feedback - all positive – we'll plan another when you all have some spare time!

Reminder: Opening Hours

Mon – Fri 08.30 – 5.00pm

Sat 09.00 – 12.00 noon

Telephone: 01844 212034

Mobile: 07725 039093