

Aviguard® for gamebirds

Aviguard should be used whenever there is a need for establishment or re-establishment of the normal intestinal bacteria. In stress situations, the normal intestinal bacteria may be disturbed, which can result in pathogenic bacteria taking hold.

Assuming that the basics (stocking density, temperature, ventilation and air quality, feed and water quality and supply) are right, and good biosecurity principles are being followed, the following can be stressful to game birds:

- Feed changes
- Capture and penning of breeding birds
- Peak lay
- Handling e.g. for biting
- Transport of poults and adult birds

If birds are treated with antibiotics (under the direction of a veterinary surgeon), the balance of beneficial bacteria in the intestine may be disrupted. Aviguard can help to restore a normal intestinal flora.

Please consult your veterinary surgeon regarding disease prevention and control, and for biosecurity best practice.



20 steps to promoting good health in your pheasants

1. At the end of the current season dismantle, clean and disinfect huts, partitions, nest boxes, shelters and equipment preferably on a concrete pad. Avoid recontamination from the current year. Apply wood preservatives and store.
2. Breeding stock – catch up and over winter as a group. Do not mix birds from different sources. Avoid the stress of catching up close to the start of the laying period and mixing birds at this time.
3. Put out covered foot dips and hand sanitiser. Do not contaminate the ground or equipment before you start. Ensure that they are used. Regularly check that they are usable throughout the season. The aim is to help prevent spread of infection between flocks and spread of zoonotic infections to keepers.
4. Prior to use, disinfect all housing, partitions and equipment to remove any contamination from wild birds, rodents and insects. Treat the buildings for mites. Sanitise all water tanks, drinker lines and drinkers. Reassemble on clean ground.
5. Check all breeding stock as they are placed into the laying pens. Remove any under weight, poorly feathered and sickly birds. Worm and vaccinate the flock as recommended by your veterinary surgeon.
6. Ensure that good quality feed and clean drinking water are readily available.
7. Ensure that a source of grit is always available to aid in avoiding intestinal impactions.
8. Collect eggs regularly and keep clean eggs separate from dirty eggs. Do not set clean and washed eggs on the same tray. If it is essential to use washed eggs, then set these at the bottom of the incubator or in a separate incubator.
9. Brooder huts / night shelters – disinfect all housing, partitions and equipment to remove any contamination from wild birds, rodents and insects. Treat the buildings for mites, sanitise all water tanks, drinker lines and drinkers and reassemble on clean ground. Ensure that heat sources are clean and functional and gas brooders have been checked for carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide emissions. Check that drinkers are working and food and water are readily available. Take precautions to ensure that the brooder and night shelter areas will not be flooded.
10. Ensure that the housing is sited to minimise the effects of the wind and to allow good ventilation without drafts. Be prepared with light baffles for pecking control. Do not reduce light by reducing ventilation.
11. Remove damp litter promptly. As an aid to keeping good dry litter, use a disinfectant powder. Add as necessary during rear but as a minimum top up weekly.
12. Institute regular health checks throughout the season for early identification of disease.
13. Always go from the youngest to the oldest stock.
14. Ensure that there are enough staff to manage the flocks.
15. Do not over stock.
16. Ensure that heat is available throughout the rearing period.
17. Consult your veterinary surgeon for advice on the use of multivitamins, water sanitisers and medication during rear.
18. Remember that water sanitisers inactivate multivitamins and medication.
19. Aviguard used at day old gets gamebirds off to a good start.
20. Aviguard can be given following times of stress such as biting and transport, as well as following antibiotic therapy, to restore a healthy, balanced intestinal flora.

Acknowledgements

With thanks to David G Parsons MRCVS, The Poultry Health Centre, for his contribution to the information provided in this leaflet.

Aviguard contains live commensal bacteria. Aviguard is a trademark of Schering-Plough Animal Health.

Further information is available from: Schering-Plough Animal Health, Division of Schering-Plough Ltd, Breakspear Road South, Harefield, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB9 6LS.