

De-worming your Chicks

There are lots of different worms that can make chickens sick. These are known as parasites. They are different to the earthworms in your garden, and are much smaller (usually you need a microscope to spot them!). These worms live inside your chicken in the intestines and can make your bird very sick and give them diarrhoea.

There are special medications you can give your chicken that will treat these parasites, known as dewormers.

We can begin deworming chicks from 8 weeks of age, however if we overuse deworming products when we don't need to, we are promoting parasite resistance. Because of this, we recommend only deworming your chickens when necessary. To find this out, you can send us a fresh sample of their droppings (the brown part, not the white part). The lab will test this and tell us if there are any parasites in the droppings. If you are raising your chicks indoors, cleaning out their enclosure regularly, and they have healthy droppings with no diarrhoea, you may not need to deworm them right away.

There are several different deworming products you can use in chickens. Aviverm and Flubenol are two of the most common products that are registered for use in chickens. As a rough guide, chicks below one year of age are usually dewormed every two to three months, and adult chickens are usually dewormed every six months. However, this is very dependent on the individual situation, and your birds may need to be dewormed more or less regularly than this, so it pays to send in faecal samples for us to monitor.

As well as deworming, there are lots of other ways you can manage worms. Parasites are spread via the poo, so regular cleaning of the bedding, feed and water areas is important for managing parasites.

If any of your chicks develop diarrhoea, stop eating or drinking, or look lethargic or unhappy, it's important to call your local bird-friendly vet asap.

You can call us on 0278385433 to send us a faecal sample or book a consultation if you are concerned about your chickens, or just want some advice.

Kindest regards,

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