

Reject Condition Card Working Group

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Background

- Joint meeting of FSA & BPC to discuss any issues
- Reject condition cards were mentioned
- Working group formed:
 - Andrew Gibson (2SFG)
 - Keith Warner (Avara)
 - Greg Koulianos (MP)
 - Henri Kodyline-Sims (Surrey Vet School)
 - Alex Shock (VLA)
 - Emma Youngs (Slate Hall)
 - Sara Perez (PHS)
 - Richard Jackson (St David's)
 - David Vasiloiu (North West Vets).

Scope

- Minor changes to be made especially photos
- We reviewed 6 cards and met with the FSA to review the changes.

Conditions for rejection of poultry at post-mortem

Hepatitis (cholangiohepatitis / necrotic foci)

Post-mortem disposition

Offal rejection if no secondary conditions

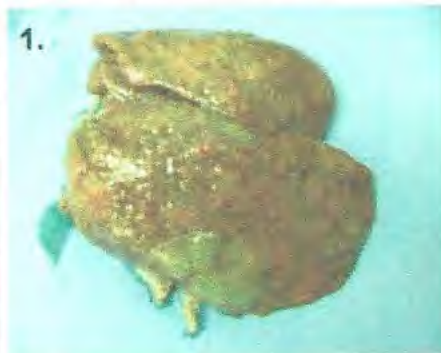


Fig 1: Liver with hepatitis



Fig 2:
Liver with hepatic
necrosis

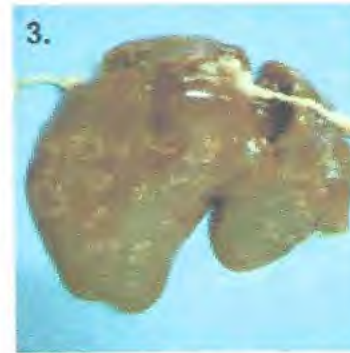


Fig 3: Liver affected with
necrotic foci



Fig 5: Necrotic foci with
associated pericarditis

FSA Responsibilities

Post-mortem disposition

Partial rejection: when only the liver is affected and there are no signs of further conditions on the carcass / or other offal, only the liver should be rejected and declared unfit for human consumption.

Total rejection: if other organs and / or the carcass are affected

Average rejection levels in GB

Poultry: 0.13%

Recording of the condition

The condition must be recorded under the hepatitis entry on the INNOVA system, stating clearly whether there has been total condemnation of the carcass and offal, or partial condemnation where only liver / offal has been rejected.

Further Information

Definition

Hepatitis: inflammation of the liver which may be toxic or infectious in origin; characterised by signs due to diffuse injury to the liver

Cholangiohepatitis: inflammation of the biliary system and, by extension, of the periportal hepatic parenchyma

Necrotic foci: death of cells or tissues through injury or disease, especially in a localised area of the body

Remarks

- Enlarged, round edged, smooth surface often with necrotic foci or a reticular pattern apparent. Colour may vary from cherry red to pale brown / bronze colour.
- As the condition arises from ascending bacterial infection from the gut, the condition is not associated with a bacteraemia and therefore the carcase is salvageable.
- Depending on the stage of progression of the condition, the liver may appear cherry red in the acute phase, pale brown / bronze in later stages.
- Necrotic foci or a reticular pattern of scar tissue may become apparent in longstanding examples of the condition or associated with bacterial toxins.

Causes

- Bacterial or viral infection ascends from the gut via the bile duct and gall bladder, this leads to obstruction of the biliary system, possibly associated with bacterial toxins.
- *Clostridium perfringens* may be involved.

Comments from inspection teams

As the rejection of carcases affected with Cholangiohepatitis / necrotic foci is judged in whether or not further conditions affect the carcase, it is important to consider the line speed under the Inspection Teams are working. Any further indication of conditions will mean that the disease status is generalised.

What is the data on rejects used for?

- High levels of cholangiohepatitis may indicate a feed related problem that is favouring proliferation of bacteria (such as clostridia) in the gut.
- Viral infections may also be involved.
- Incidence of this condition allows the company and vet support to review nutritional and disease control measures.

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Peter Cargill from Wyatt Poultry Veterinary Services

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Hepatitis

- Clarification that even with severe hepatitis as long as the rest of the carcass is ok partial rejection is needed



Perihepatitis

- Clarification if liver lesions can be partial rejects



Ascites

- Cat 2 vs Cat 3
- Ensure birds aren't fat or have blood in their abdomen
- If offal trays have fluid in them ensure the issue isn't wash water



Ascites

- Its effect is greater in faster growing breeds. Slower growing breeds used for organic, free range and freedom foods types of production will have significantly lower incidence levels.
- Birds are often smaller than the average of the flock, but in some instances there can be large numbers of large birds affected due to the many factors that contribute to the condition.
- The fluid in the abdomen is usually sterile and the liver changes tend not to be bacterial in cause.
- The carcase may be congested in some cases.

Abnormal Colour

- DFD/PSE- Cat 3
- Use abnormal coloured birds as a last resort term.



Next Steps

- Complete the review of the cards
- Once the FSA have approved the changes run a training day.



Questions

Thank You.