

Ranikhet Disease

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Ranikhet Disease Latest News

Suspected highly virulent Ranikhet disease is said to have caused the death of nearly 1.5 lakh chickens in Eluru, Guntur, Prakasam, and the twin Godavari districts in Andhra Pradesh recently.

About Ranikhet Disease

- It is a **highly contagious viral disease** that **affects birds**, particularly **poultry** such as chickens, turkeys, and ducks.
- It is caused by infections with virulent avian avulavirus 1, commonly known as **Newcastle disease virus (NDV)** and designated as **avian paramyxovirus-1 (APMV-1)**.
- It attacks the **respiratory, nervous, and digestive systems** of birds.
- It causes **production drops/fertility problems**.
- Morbidity is usually high, and **mortality varies from 50 to 100 percent**.
- It is a **minor zoonosis** (disease of animals that can also infect humans) and can cause conjunctivitis in humans, but the condition is generally **very mild and self-limiting**.

Ranikhet Disease Transmission

- **Direct contact with secretions**, especially faeces, from infected birds
- **Contaminated feed, water**, implements, premises, human clothing, etc.
- **ND viruses can survive for several weeks in the environment**, especially in cool weather.

Ranikhet Disease Symptoms

- The symptoms vary according to the age of the affected birds.
- The first symptoms usually observed in young birds are **sneezing, gasping, and often droopiness**. It is in this stage of the disease that the manifestations rather closely resemble those of infections bronchitis.
- Within a short time after the appearance of respiratory symptoms, **deaths occur in a flock in quick succession** and in increasing numbers from day to day.

Ranikhet Disease Treatment

- At present there is **no effective treatment of any value**.
- Proper housing and general good care are indicated in an effort to shorten the duration and severity of the infection.

Ranikhet Disease FAQs

Q1. Which animal is affected by Ranikhet?

Ans. Ranikhet disease primarily affects poultry, especially chickens, causing respiratory, digestive, and nervous system issues.

Q2. What causes Ranikhet disease?

Ans. It is caused by infections with virulent avian avulavirus 1, commonly known as Newcastle disease virus (NDV).

Q3. Is Ranikhet disease curable?

Ans. Ranikhet disease is not curable once an animal is infected.

Source: **TOI**

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