

Ve8 Powder to Control Digestive Disorders in Backyard Chickens

Carlingford Animal Hospital

The backyard foraging experience is highly beneficial for the happiness and wellbeing of urban chickens. This activity should be encouraged but there must be protection from known food and water sources of contamination such as decomposing vegetable matter, potting mix, organic fertilisers, heavy metal, mouldy leaf litter or stagnant water. Even with a high level of protection there will still be times, especially after wet spells, when your chickens will become exposed to some form of contamination in the backyard environment. Ve8 Powder has been developed to treat and control gastrointestinal infections associated with these potential dangers.

Healthy Digestion in Chickens

The digestive process in chickens begins when food enters the crop. The crop acts as a storage organ where food is softened. The food then passes into the stomach where it is mixed and further softened with acidic digestive juices. After a suitable time in the stomach, the partially digested food moves into the gizzard where it is pulverised into small particles. The pulverised food then passes into the intestine where digestive enzymes chemically extract nutrients so they can be absorbed and assimilated into the body.

Healthy digestion is defined as the fastest possible rate of complete digestion. This means the food passes through the gut very quickly. Unhealthy digestion occurs when there is a slowdown of the passage of food through the gut. This sluggish digestion causes rapid fermentation and toxic bi-products that may suddenly cause a life-threatening illness.

Susceptibility to Gas Forming Intestinal Infections

Birds at most risk to the toxic effects of sluggish digestion are actively laying eggs and young chickens as their health is already under immune challenge. The dangers are compounded when laying hens ingest contaminated material as they seek additional minerals in the backyard. The inquisitive nature of young chickens means they are far more likely to ingest hazardous materials and succumb to their digestive consequences because their immune system is still developing. These birds are most susceptible to gas forming digestive disorders when there is a proliferation of potentially harmful bacteria and moulds in the soil and backyard environment following wet spells. This type of gas forming infection may also appear in birds with impacted gizzards, heavy metal poisoning, egg laying problems, ovarian dysfunction, worms, coccidiosis and any other intestinal infections.

Immediate Treatment Plan

The aim of treatment is to control gas forming bacterial infections as quickly as possible. Treatment often begins with crop flushing using a lubricating nutritional formula to purge the accumulated contaminated matter (food or foreign material) from the stomach or gizzard. Antibiotics are added to this flushing formula to treat the gas forming bacterial infection. Quik Gel and Inca Honey are also incorporated to restore digestive function. The crop flushing process is repeated until purged droppings appear which indicates a return of normal digestive function.

Ve8 Home Care

Home care focuses on controlling the gas forming bacterial infection whilst healthy digestion is being restored. A 5 day course of antibiotics is given and Ve8 Powder is added to the food daily for 4 weeks. The combined effect of the prebiotics and herbal remedies in Ve8 Powder help to restore healthy digestion. Please see Ve8 treatment programmes (over page) for detailed instructions. A recheck culture after 7 days of treatment is recommended to check that the infection is no longer present and a prevention plan will also be implemented at this time.

Ve8 Prevention Plan

Ve8 Powder is a major part of a prevention plan for birds susceptible to digestive disturbance. The function of Ve8 Powder is to restore healthy digestion and stimulate immunity which protects the birds from the digestive consequences of unavoidable contamination hazards of the backyard.

Ve8 Powder is given on the food using Turbobooster as a binding oil. Please see instructions over page for exact dose and detailed instructions on the Ve8 Digestive Support Treatment Programme.

Ve8 Loading Treatment (7 days)

The Ve8 loading treatment is followed for seven days after the diagnosis and immediate treatment of gas forming bacterial infection associated with digestive disorders in backyard chickens. Quik Gel and Hi-Cal are provided in the drinking water to provide a sustained source of energy and calcium. Antibiotic treatments are also given for 5 days according to the results of dropping analysis and cultures. Dietary changes may be recommended to aid gizzard function and restore healthy digestion. Ve8 Powder is given on the food daily to as digestive aid to promote a rapid recovery.

	Optional Medication	In Drinking Water	On Grain	Dietary Recommendations
Day 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Flagyl (Cank R Tabs) Give 1 tablet/400gm bodyweight twice daily for 3 days.	Quik Gel & Hi-Cal ¹	Turbobooster, E-Powder & Ve8 Powder ²	The morning meal consists of a small seed mix enriched with supplements.
Day 2		Quik Gel & Hi-Cal ¹	Turbobooster, E-Powder & Ve8 Powder ²	
Day 3		Quik Gel & Hi-Cal ¹	Turbobooster, E-Powder & Ve8 Powder ²	
Day 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Clavulox Tablets Give 1 tablet/3kg bodyweight twice daily for 5 days.	Quik Gel & Hi-Cal ¹	Turbobooster, E-Powder & Ve8 Powder ²	Provide F-Vite daily in a side dish, ensuring it remains fresh and dry.
Day 5		Quik Gel & Hi-Cal ¹	Turbobooster, E-Powder & Ve8 Powder ²	
Day 6	Disinfect the feed and water containers with KD Powder ³	Quik Gel & Hi-Cal ¹	Turbobooster, E-Powder & Ve8 Powder ²	In order to maintain strong gizzard function, add 10% hard wheat to the daytime pellet mix.
Day 7		Quik Gel & Hi-Cal ¹	Turbobooster, E-Powder & Ve8 Powder ²	

¹ Mix 1 drop Quik Gel and 1ml Hi-Cal thoroughly into 100ml drinking water. May also be mixed with rice and cooked vegetables.

² Mix 1ml of Turbobooster thoroughly into 1 cup of grain. Then add 1/4 tspn (white spoon) of E-Powder & Ve8 powder and mix again so that these powders stick to the Turbobooster oil impregnated grain. F-Vite should be made available in a dish fresh each day.

³ Mix 1gm KD Powder (white spoon) into 1 litre of water and use this to disinfect the feeding utensils.

Ve8 Digestive Support Treatment (4 weeks)

The Ve8 Digestive Support Programme continues for 4 weeks to restore healthy digestion and stimulate immunity. Ve8 Powder is also used as part of a prevention plan for birds susceptible to digestive disturbance and this programme should begin at the first sign of diarrhoea to prevent the establishment of gas forming bacterial infections.

	In Drinking Water	On Grain	Ongoing Dietary Recommendations
Day 1	KD Powder ¹	Turbobooster, E-Powder & Ve8 Powder ⁴	Continue the daily morning meal of a small seed mix enriched with supplements.
Day 2	Ioford, Dufoplus, Hi-Cal & Megamix ²	Turbobooster, E-Powder & Ve8 Powder ⁴	
Day 3	Fresh water	Turbobooster, E-Powder & Ve8 Powder ⁴	Provide F-Vite daily in a side dish, ensuring it remains fresh and dry.
Day 4	Quik Gel & Hi-Cal ³	Turbobooster, E-Powder & Ve8 Powder ⁴	
Day 5	KD Powder ¹	Turbobooster, E-Powder & Ve8 Powder ⁴	Continue to incorporate 10% hard wheat to the daytime pellet mix.
Day 6	Fresh water	Turbobooster, E-Powder & Ve8 Powder ⁴	
Day 7	Quik Gel & Hi-Cal ³	Turbobooster, E-Powder & Ve8 Powder ⁴	

¹ Mix 1gm KD Powder (white spoon) into 1 litre of drinking water. Fill the water vessel and use the remainder to clean the cage.

² Mix 10 drops Ioford, 5 drops Dufoplus, 1ml Hi-Cal and 10 drops Megamix thoroughly into 100ml of drinking water.

³ Mix 1 drop Quik Gel and 1ml Hi-Cal thoroughly into 100ml drinking water. May also be mixed with rice and cooked vegetables.

⁴ Mix 1ml of Turbobooster thoroughly into 1 cup of grain. Then add 1/4 tspn (white spoon) of E-Powder & Ve8 powder and mix again so that these powders stick to the Turbobooster oil impregnated grain. F-Vite should be made available in a dish fresh each day.