AVIAN CHLAMYDIOSIS (PSITTACOSIS, ORNITHOSIS)-BOOK CHAPTER FOR DISEASES OF POULTRY

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Submitted to: Diseases of Poultry
Publication Type: Book / Chapter
Publication Date: 4/20/2003

Interpretive Summary:
Avian chlamydiosis is a disease caused by the bacterium Chlamydophila psittaci. There are at least 6 known serotypes, each having a predilection for different species of birds. It affects all types of wild and domestic birds, but mostly ducks, turkeys, pigeons, and pet birds. Many cases are mild, resulting in persistent infections, but death rates of 40-60% are common in flocks not treated. It is a serious public health problem because humans often become infected following exposure to infected birds. The most common sources of human exposure are ducks and turkeys in slaughter houses, pigeons on the farm, and pet birds. In humans, the disease will vary from asymptomatic to fatal if treatment is delayed. The chapter covers the classification, structure, host range, and transmission of the organism. It also covers the clinical and pathological signs, diagnosis, and control in poultry.
Overview of Avian Chlamydiosis. (Psittacosis, Ornithosis, Parrot fever). By. Amaud J. Van Wettere. , DVM, MS, PhD, DACVP, Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, School of Veterinary Medicine, Utah State University. Topic Resources. Avian chlamydiosis can be an inapparent subclinical infection or acute, subacute, or chronic disease of wild and domestic birds characterized by respiratory, digestive, or systemic infection. Infections occur worldwide and have been identified in at least 460 avian species, particularly caged birds (primarily psittacines), colonial nesting birds (eg, egrets, herons Chlamydiosis is a disease caused by the bacteria-like organism Chlamydia psittaci. This is a similar bacteria to Chlamydia trachomatis, a cause of venereal disease in people, but behaves much differently. Other names for the disease include psittacosis, parrot fever, and ornithosis. Chlamydiosis can be spread to people. Usually, the very young and very old, people on immunosuppressive medications or with immunosuppressive diseases are most at risk. Avian Chlamydiosis. Other Names: Psittacosis, ornithosis, parrot fever. Cause. Avian chlamydiosis is an infectious disease of birds that is caused by the bacteria Chlamyphilia psittaci. There are several strains of C. psittaci that cause varying degrees of disease severity in different avian species. The disease was originally called psittacosis because humans contracted it from psittacine birds (parrots, parakeets, macaws, and cockatiels). It is currently understood that many other species of domestic and wild birds can be infected with this disease and can transmit it to humans, so the disease is now known as avian chlamydiosis. Significance.