

Conditions for Rejection of Poultry at Post Mortem

Hepatitis (Cholangiohepatitis/necrotic foci)

Post Mortem Disposition

Offal rejection if no secondary conditions – irrespective of the severity of the hepatitis.



Figure 1: Liver with hepatitis.



Figure 2: Liver with hepatic necrosis.

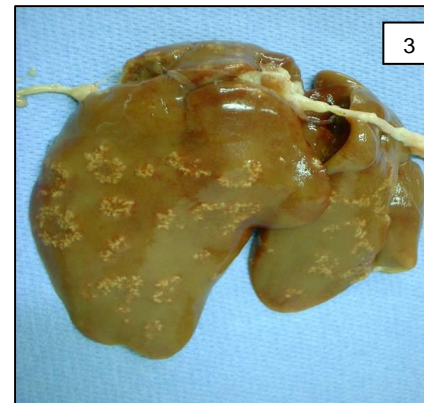


Figure 3: Liver affected with necrotic foci.

Total rejection if secondary conditions are found.



Figure 4: Necrotic foci with associated pericarditis (on the left).

FSS 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 is affected.

Average rejection levels in GB

Poultry: 0.04%

Recording of the condition

The condition must be recorded on the "Hepatitis" entry in the Post Mortem Inspection section of OWS. It must be stated clearly whether there has been a total condemnation of the carcass and offal or partial condemnation where only the 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 peri-portal 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 long standing examples of the condition or associated with bacterial toxins.

Causes

- Bacterial or viral infection ascends from the gut via the bile duct and the 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 carcasses affected with cholangiohepatitis/ necrotic foci is judged on whether or not further conditions affect the carcase, it is important to consider the line speed under which 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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