



Causes of Poor Poultry Well-Being

The following situations or conditions can compromise poultry well-being:

- Neglect: failing to care for poultry such as:
 - Not providing adequate food or water
 - Restraining poultry in a way that causes pain or endangers animal health
- Cruelty or abuse: causing physical harm and/or pain to poultry, such as
 - Prolonged periods of thirst or hunger
 - Prolonged periods of restraint and immobility
- Abandonment: deserting poultry without providing means for long term care
- Ignoring illness, injury or disease and not providing veterinary care
- Crowding
- Not providing shelter

Signs of Poor Poultry Well-Being

- Poultry that are sick or in pain may display some of the following sickness behaviors or signs:
 - Prolonged crouched posture and closed eyes
 - Inactivity
 - Having fewer than normal social interactions
 - Eating and drinking less than normal
 - Sudden drop in egg production
 - Weight loss
 - Dustbathing less than normal
 - Increased huddling, shivering, sleeping or resting
 - Dull, dirty feathers
 - Open-mouth breathing or panting
 - Difficulty walking
 - Discharge from the eyes or nares (nostrils)

Do You Have an Animal Well-Being Concern?

- Call your local police department.
- For livestock and poultry concerns, contact the Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) <http://www.in.gov/boah/>.

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Poultry Well-Being



Quick Poultry Facts

- Poultry include chickens, ducks, turkeys, geese, quail and guinea fowl
- Poultry can see in color and ultraviolet (UV) light
- Poultry can recognize and distinguish between individuals of their own species



What is Poultry Well-Being?

Poultry well-being is more than simply being healthy; poultry well-being includes:

1. Feelings or emotions, such as contentment
2. Being able to behave naturally, such as grooming, stretching and turning around fully
3. being healthy; having no injuries or disease

Important Poultry Behavior

- **Feeding and drinking:** necessary for health and proper biological functioning
- **Nesting:** safe nesting area is needed to lay eggs
- **Perching (roosting):** anti-predator behavior and is important for maintaining leg health and leg strength
 - Some poultry, such as broad-breasted white turkeys, may be too large for perches
- **Dustbathing and preening:** keep feathers in good condition



Behaviors of Concern

- **Aggression** is part of forming the pecking order
 - When introducing new birds to the flock:
 1. Quarantine new birds for 4 weeks.
 2. Familiarize birds before they are all placed in the same area by separating new birds from the flock with a fence.
- **Severe feather pecking:** birds peck at and remove feathers from other birds
 - Severe feather pecking causes bald spots, pain and can lead to injuries and cannibalism.

Caring for Poultry

- Provide fresh, clean water
 - Water should never be frozen
- Poultry are social animals
 - Provide opportunities for poultry to interact with others of the same species
- Provide high quality feed
 - Do not give poultry moldy feed
 - Keep feed in an area away from rodents, moisture, direct sunlight and wild birds
- Provide housing or shelter that:
 - Has adequate ventilation
 - Protects poultry from bad weather
 - Has nesting areas for birds producing eggs
 - Has perches (roosts)
 - Has material to dustbathe in, such as wood shavings
 - Keeps wild animals and wild birds out
- Check animals daily for diseases, parasites and injuries.
 - Contact your local veterinarian if you detect these problems.

