

S149 Efficacy of a single bolus administration of gamithromycin against *Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale* infection in turkeys.

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Ornithobacterium rhinotracheale (ORT) is a common avian respiratory pathogen and often affects turkeys during the rearing period, resulting in important economic losses. The objective of this study was to evaluate the clinical efficacy of a single parenteral or oral bolus of the macrolide gamithromycin at a dose of 6 mg/kg BW against ORT in turkeys. Sixty-four 3-week-old turkeys were divided in 4 groups of 16 animals. One group was not infected (negative control group), whereas the other three groups were oculonasally infected with ORT at a dose of 8.5 log₁₀ cfu, preceded by infection with Avian Pneumovirus (APV, at a dose of 4.4 log₁₀ CD50). From these infected groups, one was the positive control (no treatment) and two groups received a bolus gamithromycin either subcutaneously or orally, one day post bacterial infection (pbi). Daily, from the APV infection till the end of the experiment, the animals were clinically examined and scored. Additionally, tracheal swabs were collected at different days. At day 4 and day 10 pbi, necropsy was performed to evaluate the presence of gross lesions, and to collect trachea and lung samples for ORT quantification. Results and conclusions will be presented at the congress.

S150 Influence of environmental enrichment on the prevalence of injurious pecking in non-debeaked turkeys

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Turkeys are predisposed to injurious pecking. In order to reduce this undesirable behaviour their upper beaks are usually trimmed for commercial fattening in Germany. One discussed reason for the occurrence is the lack of enrichment material. Aim of the study was to investigate the impact of environmental enrichment on injurious pecking behaviour of non-debeaked fattening turkeys. A total of 204 male and 328 female turkeys (BUT 6) were allocated to eight floor pens (each 18 m², 2.8 toms/m² or 5 hens/m²) and kept until slaughter at the age of 16 weeks (hens) and 20 weeks (toms). Two pens per sex served as control groups and two were equipped with weekly rotating materials such as pecking block, wheat grain feeder, extruded wheat grain and crisp bread. Video recordings were used to evaluate pecking behaviour and the attractiveness of the enrichment. Performance and health data were determined. Skin injuries were recorded twice a day. The materials were well used without negative influence on performance or health of turkeys. A maximum of 118.8 g extruded wheat grain, 46.4 g wheat grain, 49.8 g crisp bread and 5.3 g pecking block was consumed per bird and day. The results show that in spite of the good acceptance of the enrichment materials, injurious pecking could not completely be avoided. This fact leads to the conclusion that a lack of enrichment is not the only trigger for the occurrence of injurious pecking in fattening turkeys. Thus further investigation is needed.



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