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Viral infections

Viruses do not often cause disease in waterfowl but carrier wild waterfowl play an important part in the epidemiology of certain diseases. A particularly important example of this has been seen in recent years with avian influenza.

Most of the relevant viruses are shown in the table below.

Avian paramyxoviruses

Avian paramyxoviruses 1, 4, 6, 8 and 9 have all been associated with infections in waterfowl by either virology or virus isolation. These paramyxoviruses tend to be apathogenic in waterfowl, although paramyxovirus 1 has been associated with high mortality in geese in China and on a separate occasion in Muscovy and Pekin ducks.

Avian metapneumoviruses

Type C avian metapneumoviruses have been isolated from ducks in France but these differ genetically from European and American type C isolates from chickens/turkeys. A pneumovirus was considered to be the possible cause of coughing followed by an egg drop that was seen 25 years ago in France.

Avian influenza

Ducks typically do not show clinical disease even though influenza virus is frequently demonstrated to be present. This changed with the advent of H5N1 HPAI in late 2002 when the disease picture and post mortem findings were similar to those seen in chickens.

RNA viruses		DNA viruses	
Picornaviridae	Duck hepatitis A Duck picornavirus	Herpesviridae	DVE, Goose herpes virus
Astroviridae	DHV I and II	Adenoviridae	Duck adenovirus
Paramyxoviridae	Metapneumovirus PMVs 1, 4, 6, 8 & 9	Circoviridae	Circovirus infection of ducks and geese
Orthomyxoviridae	Avian influenza	Hepadnaviridae	Duck hepatitis B
Flaviviridae	West Nile virus	Polyomaviridae	GHPV
Reoviridae	Duck reovirus, goose reovirus	Parvoviridae	MDVP GPV

See also: Duck hepatitis (DHV I and DHV II) PoultryBYTES No. 7; Duck viral enteritis PoultryBYTES No. 118; Haemorrhagic enteritis nephritis of geese PoultryBYTES No. 119.