

WHY SOME BROILER CHICKENS DIE IN DIFFERENT POSTURES?

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Summary. In this work it was stated that rapid growth of broiler chickens puts an enormous strain on the cardiovascular system, inflicts dystrophy of the heart muscle and the liver tissues. Broiler chickens are fed rich diets and growth promoting drugs to accelerate their growth rates. The mortality rates were 5,4 %. In many cases the birds got congestive hearth failure, which causes ascites. 60,4 % birds died in prone posture (face downwards) and 39,4 % – laid flat on their backs. In the latter case ascitis – a pooling of body fluids (from 145 to 190 ml) in the abdomen was determined.

Keywords: broiler, haemostasis, ascitis, dystrophy, clinical ethology.