Staphylococcal infections appear in three forms: septicemia, arthritis, and bumblefoot.

- **Staph septicemia** appears to be similar to fowl cholera in that affected birds are listless, have little appetite, and show pain during movement. Infected birds typically have foul-smelling, watery diarrhea. Many infected birds get swollen joints and/or experience a drop in egg production. Because the bacteria is passed into the egg from infected hens, black rot might appear in eggs.

- **Staph arthritis** follows the acute septicemia. Birds become lame and develop breast blisters. Infected birds are reluctant to walk, preferring to sit rather than stand.

- **Bumblefoot** is a localized staphylococcus infection of the foot. It is thought to be caused by puncture injuries. Affected birds become lame from swollen foot pads.

**Treatment**

Staphylococcus infection can be treated with antibiotics.

**Prevention and Control**

Remove objects that could injure birds from shelters and areas where the birds range. Isolate chronically affected birds.

**Resources:**

Bumblefoot. Tina Savage, University of New Hampshire, and Michael Darre, University of Connecticut.