### What is Marek’s Disease?

Marek’s is a highly contagious viral disease that affects poultry worldwide. It is the most common cause of mortality (i.e. death) in backyard poultry in California.

### When Should I Vaccinate?

Because the virus is ubiquitous in the environment chicks should be vaccinated at day one of age by your hatchery, feed store or by you if necessary.

### What are the Signs?

Marek’s disease can manifest in several different ways, including:

- Tumors
- Paralysis
- Weight loss
- Death

The liver, spleen, kidney, ovary, lungs, hearts, proventriculus, and adrenals are organs that are commonly affected.

### Can I Treat Marek’s?

**NO!**

Marek’s is an untreatable disease. The only way to combat it is through prevention.

Vaccinating your flock and removing feather dander (where the virus may be present) is key to prevention.

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**Marek’s Disease**

**UC Davis Pastured Poultry Farm**

Our facility is an innovation, research and innovation hub for poultry, consisting of an interdisciplinary team of faculty members, staff, graduate and undergraduate students.

You can **support our farm** by donating to our crowdfunding page: http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/phr/crowdfunding.cfm

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Davis, CA
### Vaccinating Against Marek’s

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<tr>
<th>About the Vaccine</th>
<th>Subcutaneous Vaccine</th>
<th>When to Vaccinate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The most common Marek’s vaccine for backyard chickens is the turkey herpesvirus or (HVT). Marek’s vaccine costs around $20/1,000 doses. It can be easily purchased online. Discard after 2-3 hours.</td>
<td>![Image of vaccine being administered]</td>
<td>Make sure your birds are vaccinated within 24 hours of hatch.</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>What You Need</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 ml syringe and 20 gauge needle</td>
<td>1. Follow instructions that come with the vaccine to <strong>dilute</strong> it.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reconstituted vaccine</td>
<td>2. Tent the skin on the chickens back</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gloves</td>
<td>3. <strong>Pierce</strong> through the skin. Make sure to <strong>avoid</strong> any bones.</td>
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### Other info
Vaccines do not work 100% of the time. Vaccination is only part of the equation for disease control. Practice good husbandry and biosecurity (i.e. prevent your birds from interacting with wildlife and other birds).

### And Don’t Worry...
Marek’s disease is not zoonotic (in other words, you can’t catch it!)