

## 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.

## 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

## 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

## 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.



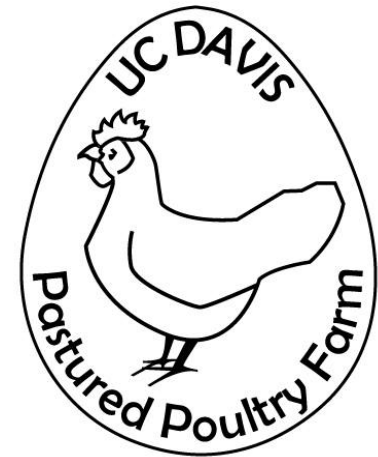
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# Marek's Disease

## UC Davis Pastured Poultry Farm



Davis, CA

# Vaccinating Against Marek's

## About the Vaccine

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.

## What You Need

1 ml syringe and 20 gauge needle  
Reconstituted vaccine  
Gloves



## Subcutaneous Vaccine



1. Follow instructions that come with the vaccine to **dilute** it.
2. Tent the skin on the chickens back
3. **Pierce** through the skin. Make sure to **avoid** any bones.

## When to Vaccinate

Make sure your birds are vaccinated within 24 hours of hatch.

## 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!)

