Avian Leukosis Virus – Subgroup J (ALV-J)

ABOUT: Avian Leukosis Virus Subgroup J (ALV-J) is a strain of ALV that primarily affects meat-type chickens. It is associated with tumors, immunosuppression, and poor flock performance.

SYMPTOMS: Clinical signs include enlarged livers and spleens, tumor development, reduced growth rates, and increased mortality. Some infections may be subclinical but reduce productivity over time.

PREVENTION: Prevention relies on breeding from ALV-J-free flocks, implementing strong biosecurity, and removing positive birds from breeding populations. No vaccines exist, so routine surveillance is the main control method.

GETTING TESTED: Blood samples from poultry can be tested for ALV-J antibodies. Collect at least 0.5 mL of blood in a red- or yellow-top tube. Samples should be refrigerated after collection and shipped with an ice pack.

Tests are processed on Monday, and results are reported the same day.

