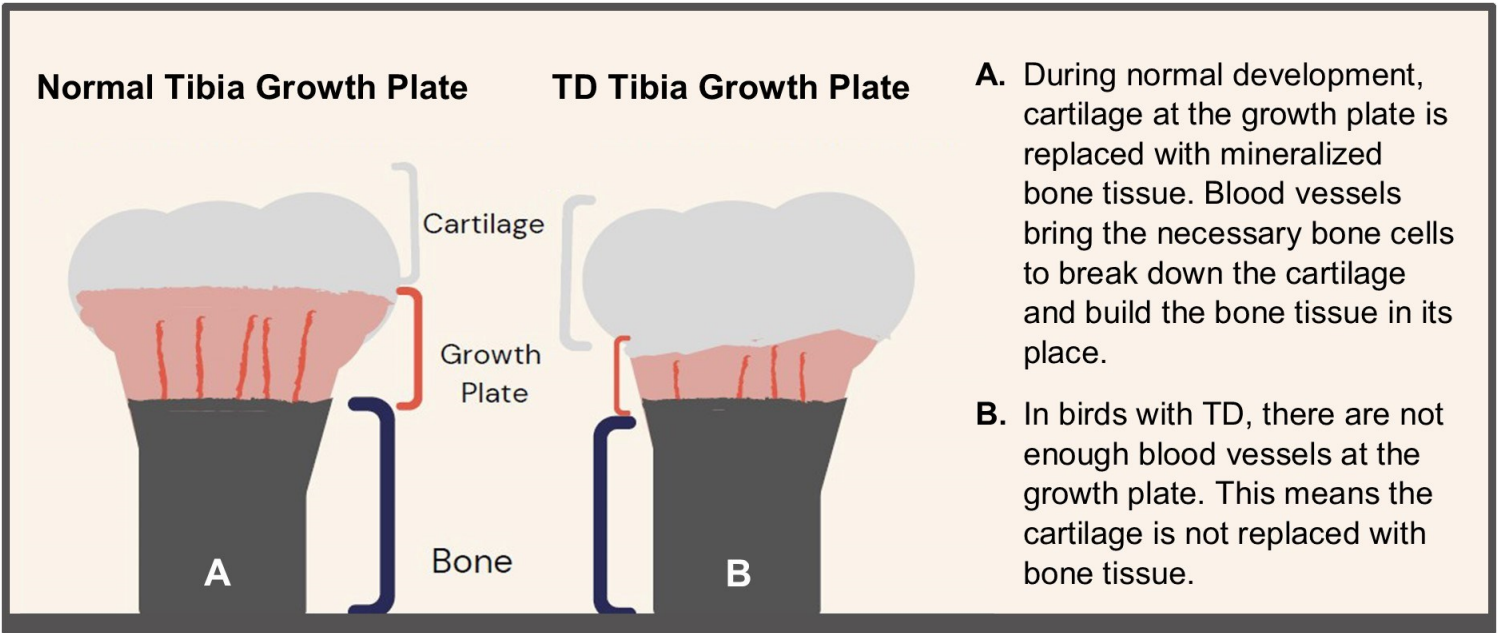




What is TD?

Tibial Dyschondroplasia (TD) is a skeletal disease of the tibia bone at the proximal growth plate characterized by large regions of cartilage at the growth plate in poultry. TD is most common in broiler chickens.



Source: A. Magnaterra

- A. During normal development, cartilage at the growth plate is replaced with mineralized bone tissue. Blood vessels bring the necessary bone cells to break down the cartilage and build the bone tissue in its place.
- B. In birds with TD, there are not enough blood vessels at the growth plate. This means the cartilage is not replaced with bone tissue.

How Do You Prevent TD in Your Flock?

- ▶ Feed a well-balanced diet that contains minerals such as calcium and phosphorous.
- ▶ Keep breeds without a history of leg issues. TD is more common in broiler breeds.

For more information on the role of blood vessels in TD, this link (<https://doi.org/10.3382/ps/pez497>) to review paper is a great place to start!

Why Does TD Matter?

- ▶ Severe cases of TD can prevent birds from accessing food and water because they cannot or will not walk.
- ▶ TD is likely painful for the bird.

What Does TD Look Like On-farm?

- ▶ TD will look like other leg health issues. You will likely see birds walking abnormally or unable to walk.
- ▶ To confirm TD, scoring is done to the bird's tibia bone after death.

There is no treatment for TD. Monitoring and prevention is key. These can be done with proper nutrition and choosing breeds with good leg health.