



## How to use Predator Mites in poultry houses

### **- Directions for use –**

#### **Introduction**

The use of **Predator Mites** against red fowl mites represents an innovative, effective and sustainable method of biological parasite control. To ensure efficacy of the treatment the following instructions must be strictly adhered to. If you need further help and advice prior to application then please do not hesitate to contact us.

#### **Preparation of the houses**

Just like the red fowl mite, the **Predator Mite** is sensitive to parasites (these are products designed to kill/remove mites). For this reason, it is advisable not to use any of these products for 4 weeks prior to the release/distribution of the Predator mites. Furthermore, the houses should not contain areas with open water (following floor washing or leaking drinkers etc), as the **Predator mites** will not easily survive contact with water. Room temperature should be around 20°C, and humidity should be around 65 – 75%. **Predator Mites** like it warm and humid, but not wet.

#### **Arrival of the Predator mites**

After receiving the shipment of **Predator Mites**, please examine the parcel for any damage. The plastic container must not be torn, and the parcel should not appear unduly squashed. After opening the plastic bags the substrate should still contain some residual moisture and not be clumped.

Please also ensure you have received the parcel within a four day period from dispatch. After 7 days, **Predator Mites** begin to starve. So in the case of a delivery taking longer than 4 days, please inform us immediately.

**Predator Mites** cannot usually be seen by the naked eye. **Predator mites** hide in the substrate within the parcel and many of the Predator mites are still in the egg and are therefore not yet mobile and visible.

#### **Application of Predator mites**

The red fowl mite is a bloodsucking parasite of gallinaceous birds (pet birds and poultry). The parasite attacks birds during the night, harming the birds by sucking their blood; this can also cause transmission of disease from one bird to the other. During the day, the red fowl mite leaves the bird and hides in cracks, crevices, holes, around perches and other inaccessible areas in the house, it does not move very far away from the birds.

This behaviour determines the optimal strategy for the application of **Predator Mites**:



- The **Predator mites** should be distributed in the chicken house immediately upon arrival or delivery at the home or farm premises.
- The substrate should be evenly distributed within the house, taking in to consideration places where the red fowl mite tends to stay during the day: around the bird's perches, areas where faeces/droppings collect, nests boxes, the bottom of feed troughs, but also crevices and cracks in the walls.
- The substrate should not be incorporated into the litter, as **Predator Mites** do not survive if they are covered with too much litter. They will survive only in the uppermost 2 cm of the litter.
- Removing the litter and faeces during the first two weeks after application of the Predator mites should be avoided. It takes several weeks for the **Predator mites** to adapt to the house environment and to find their biological niches.
- For an initial treatment of red fowl mites, a total of 100 – 150 **Predator mites** per hen is necessary, based on the intensity of infestation with the blood parasite. It has to be stated that in many cases less is more. In the case of applying too many **Predator Mites**, they can prey so heavily on the red fowl mite, that they eliminate their prey and starve before the next generation of red fowl mites are hatched.

### **Follow-ups**

Success of the treatment is usually visible after two to three weeks. The birds are less restless, the blood loss is reduced and any workers or owners responsible for the care of the birds will no longer be irritated by the red fowl mites.

There is also the possibility to measure success of treatment with **Predator Mites** by imposing mite traps. Please contact us if you have interest in such traps.

### **Please note:**

**Predator Mites** are living beings. Please do not freeze them (and do not store them in the refrigerator) Ideal storage should be +8°C to +25°C. Do not allow them to be stored in temperatures above +30°C.

Do not use insecticides or pesticides in the house, as they will kill Predator mites, thus preventing any success of the treatment

Please do not apply **Predator Mites** in empty houses – they will starve.

### **Contact**

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