



Newsletter

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Midway through the Breeding Season and into the Moults

By now everyone, especially with the racing season completed, will be able to concentrate more on the well-being of the breeders and their youngsters.

Before the birds were mated they were hopefully:

- Vaccinated against Paramyxo using **Nobilis Paramyxo**.
- Given a 10 -day course of **Mediprim/Medicox** for prevention and treatment of Paratyphoid.
This treatment:
Corrects any infertility in both hens and cocks that has perhaps been caused by Paratyphoid.
Improves hatchability of eggs. Less "dead in shell" cases will be seen.
- Given preventative/treatment doses of Canker, Coccidiosis and worm medication.

If some sort of pre-season program was not followed this year it would be advisable to remember to do it next year.

The last thing you want to be doing while the breeding season is in full swing is to be medicating or vaccinating against any of the above.

If any of the conditions listed above need to be treated when the birds are actively laying and feeding youngsters seek professional advice. Some products should not be given to breeding birds and growing youngsters.

Any medication given in the breeding season should preferably only be in the form of vitamins and minerals and probiotics.

The breeding season medication program can be found on our website or on page 42 of our 16 th edition catalogue.

The most important products in our program that need highlighting are:

- Probiotics (**Entero-Plus and Intestum**). These are invaluable in improving feed conversion and boosting immunity.
- **Calcibird**. It improves egg quality. It becomes even more valuable in the latter part of the season when the hen's Calcium reserves are being depleted.
- **Medimune Forte** added to the food of the parents boosts their general immunity and the immunity of their young.

Additionally, **Medimune tablets** given to the youngsters from 10 days of age has the same immune boosting effect. Handling them every day makes them tame. Later in life they do not become stressed every time you need to catch them.

- If wet nest syndrome becomes a problem in hot weather when the parents feed too much water, **Medilyte** can be used with good results.
- The youngsters must receive their first Paramyxo vaccine at 3 weeks of age.

The ideal is to have the last round of youngsters weaned by the end of December.

AND INTO THE MOULT.....

Achieving a good moult in your birds is the first step towards having a good race season next year.

Remember that the body moult will start when the daylight lengths get shorter. In the Southern hemisphere this will be about 21 December.

It places a lot of stress on birds that are breeding and moulting at the same time. Try to complete breeding by the end of the year where possible.

There is a trend to breed deep into the New Year when rings become available in the New Year.

This allows the fancier to race it in the year of it's birth.

In the next year it can be raced as a yearling. It has had race experience from the previous year. This does place it at an advantage.

The problems associated with this:

- It does not complete the moult before it is raced.
- Most of the road training losses reported early in the season are generally in these birds. They can also lead other birds astray.
- More cases of Young Bird Disease are found in these younger birds. In the training baskets they are the main source of infection to other birds. The younger the bird the more virus they excrete. The more virus other birds become exposed to, the greater the chances of them becoming ill. Remember too that we are finding viruses like Herpes and Adeno 2 in old birds as well.

Our medication program advised during the moult can be found on our website and on page 43 in our 16 th edition catalogue.

Management during the moulting season revolves around providing nutrition and vitamin supplements formulated for optimal feather development.

Nutritional supplements that can be used...

- **Premolt 100**
- **Plume Plus**
- **Vitaton 34**

Of the products listed above **Premolt 100** is more specifically formulated for feather development but Plume plus and Vitaton can be added as additional supplements where necessary. One of the three can be used daily. These products would be used throughout the moulting season.

The birds must be kept free of external parasites by using **Avian Insect Liquidator**.

External parasites cause unneeded irritation and the appearance of the pin holes seen as a result of pigeon fly bites.

Provide regular baths. Adding **Bath Salts** improves feather quality.

Avoid using medication against...

Bacteria
Viruses
Canker
Worms
Coccidiosis

Use this period to allow birds to, hopefully develop a natural immunity against these pathogens (disease causing organisms)

Have your birds tested against these conditions as soon as possible to ensure that there is no need for treatment when they are at the peak of a heavy moult.

For fanciers outside Gauteng we have a **free faecal testing service**.

We test for Coccidiosis and Worms and for an additional fee we can also test for Salmonella.

Immunity against these diseases (especially the viruses) listed above, and general health can be boosted by using:

- Probiotics in the form of **Entero-Plus and Intestum**
- **Medimine Forte**.

In summary then...

- Use vitamin supplements in the form of Premolt 100, Plume Plus and Vitaton.
- Control external parasites with Avian Insect Liquidator.
- Use as few medications against bacteria, Canker, worms and Coccidiosis as possible.
- Boost immunity with Entero-Plus or Intestum and Medimine Forte.