

Newsletter

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COMMON MISTAKES MADE IN 2024

- **There is a growing trend among pigeon fanciers using powdered Metronidazole tablets sprinkled over the food.**

This practice is not advised because:

The tablet is made of a binding agent and the active ingredient. When this powder is sprinkled over the food, it is added to food covered in some oil, lemon juice etc. You can appreciate that it is impossible to spread this powder evenly over the food regardless of how well it is mixed.

To make matters worse, more powder for example would cling to a grain of maize as opposed to a grain of sorghum.

Some birds would be getting too much of the active ingredient and others too little. Getting too much would lead to toxicity but a bigger problem would arise if the birds were to get too little. The Trichomonas would develop a resistance to Metronidazole.

We have already encountered this in some lofts that have used this method of treatment.

These lofts are then forced to use Canker remedies not containing Metronidazole. These pigeons carrying Metronidazole resistant Trichomonas could pass them on to other pigeons in the race baskets.

Remember too, that the same could happen with any other Canker remedy. Canker treatment given individually in tablet or liquid form or in the drinking water works far better.

- **Using human Nystatin syrups for Candida is now being used more frequently.**

These syrups contain 100,000IU/ml.

The internationally recognized dosage for Nystatin in pigeons is approx. 500,000 IU +per pigeon.

One 20ml bottle of the syrup would be enough for 40 pigeons (0,5ml per bird). We are finding many fanciers using this syrup far below this recommended dose.

Medistatin, when used as recommended, delivers approx. 600,000IU per bird. Medistatin powder contains 400,000IU per gram as opposed to the Nystatin syrup containing 100,000IU per ml.

Medistatin is 4X stronger

- **Doxycycline is being used at the wrong concentrations.**

When the powder is mixed with water at recommended levels, we should achieve a dosage range of 375 to 500mg per litre water.

Doxybiotic Plus (375mg per liter) and Tylodox (500mg per litre) do achieve this.

Many of the products available give levels of anything between 100 to 250mg per litre.

These levels are not high enough. Increasing the dosages per litre results in increased levels of the additives like glucose, dextrose etc. and vitamins.

Digestive disturbances often result from this.

- **Doxycycline is used for human Malaria.**

Some fanciers are using it for pigeon Malaria.

These are two different parasites. In humans it is a Plasmodium and in pigeons it is a Haemoproteus.

Doxycycline should therefore not be used to treat malaria.

See our newsletter on Malaria for more info.