

PRE-RACING SEASON: TREATMENT GUIDE FOR PIGEONS

(This would cover the period from April to the date of the first race)

Paramyxo vaccination:

- By April all the young birds bred the previous year should have had a vaccination when they turned 3 weeks old with a booster vaccination given 4 weeks later.
- Now all the race birds, young and old AND the breeding birds must be vaccinated with Nobilis Paramyxo vaccine again.

Pox vaccination:

- Vaccinate with Medipox.
- ALL birds (young and old race birds and breeding birds) should be done.
- Medipox is updated regularly to give protection against new strains.
- It is for this reason that it is best to do old birds as well, in order for them to be protected from new strains of Pox that have emerged.
- Medimune powder, Entero-Plus or Intestum is added to the food for 2-3 days before and 2-3 days after vaccination for Pox and Paramyxo to ensure that the birds receive maximum immunity from the vaccinations.
- Pox and Paramyxo are given 2-4 weeks apart.

Malaria:

- Primaquin is used at 1ml per litre for 10 days plus Lewerstim at 1ml per litre is given at the same time.
- Thereafter, Primaquin at 2ml per litre is given once weekly - preferably on a Sunday – throughout the race season (See Medpet race program for more details).
- Ensure that the pigeon fly, the vector (carrier) is strictly controlled, particularly at the time of Primaquin treatment. Use Avian Insect Liquidator.

Roundworm, Hairworm and Tapeworm:

- In the pre-race season, give Mediworm tablets followed by Tri-Cure tablets two weeks later. Thereafter every 8 weeks.
- For deworming we now have Mediworm, Factor 5 and Tri-Cure with three different actives. Alternate between these three where possible
- Remember to flame the loft at the time of treatment to ensure the worm eggs are killed at the same time.

Coccidiosis:

- During the pre-racing season, Medicox, Coximed or Tri-Cure tablets can be used. Treat Coccidiosis every 4 weeks. Alternate these three products where possible
- After the hot, wet summers that we usually have, the coccidia levels will be high. This treatment is therefore very important.
- Coximed, Tri-Cure or Medicox tablets can be used once monthly during the race season.

Canker:

- In the pre-racing season you can use Emtryl soluble, Canker Combo, Cankerex-Plus or Ronamp (also for Coccidiosis)
- Canker Tonic, Meditrich, Tri-Cure, Medizole and Factor 5 used during the race season give good results even when used on the week of the race
- Ronsec is used for resistant cases of Canker and can be used during the race season
- Canker products can be alternated according to your preference.
- Please note: Canker products containing Dimetridazole should not be used when pigeons are feeding their young or when water intake is excessive (i.e. hot weather)
- Our two newest products, Factor 5 and Tri-Cure treat all three of the above conditions at the same time. This makes the treatment of these conditions cost effective.

Chlamydia (Ornithosis):

- A 10 day course of Doxybiotic Plus should be given during the pre-racing season, especially if a diagnosis has been made by doing laboratory testing.
- Lewerstim is added to the Doxybiotic Plus for 2-3 days.

Salmonella:

- Give a Mediprim / Medicox mixture preventatively for 10-14 days. This is done to remove the carrier state in both breeders and race birds.

SUPPORTIVE TREATMENTS:**Vitamins:**

- Vitaton 34 can be used 2-3 times a week.
- It would not be used at the time of Primaquin / Lewerstim treatment.
- Any of our other vitamins can be used if preferred.

Probiotics and immunostimulants:

- Medimune powder is given at the time of vaccinations as discussed earlier and also as and when deemed necessary.
- Entero-Plus, Intestum or Protein boost (which contains a useful combination of probiotics, herbs, vitamins and grape extracts can be given where necessary, especially:
 - At times of stress
 - When there are digestive disturbances.
 - While treating birds with antibiotics.
- Do not use Calcibird at the same time as the Intestum.

After all the above treatments (Malaria, worms, Coccidiosis and Canker) have been done, it is advisable that tests for these problems are done by a vet to ensure that the treatment has been effective. This is best done before road training begins and also during the race season.

**This program acts as a guide only.