



Newsletter

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PREPARING YOUR BIRDS FOR ENTRY INTO ONE LOFT RACES

One loft racing is becoming more popular all over the world.

We thought that it would hopefully help entrants if we were to give a few guidelines on the preparation of these birds for these races.

The biggest problem encountered at these One - Loft races is Young Bird Disease.

The only virus in this syndrome that we can vaccinate against is **Paramyxo**.

It is true that the management at these lofts will vaccinate your birds on arrival at the lofts but it is best that you do it yourself in such a way that they have maximum immunity on arrival at the loft. The vaccine given at the loft will boost their immunity.

The internationally recognized vaccination program is:

- The first vaccination is given at 3 weeks of age.
Nobilis Paramyxo would be the best one to use.
- The second vaccination is given four weeks later.
Nobilis can be used again. An alternative would be Avipro 105.

For the rest of the viruses that cause YBD we can only boost immunity of the bird as best possible.

These products are given to the stock birds while they are feeding the youngsters. The immune boosting must start at a young age.

The Medpet products that can be used either alone or in different combinations are:

- Probiotics: **Entero-Plus or Intestum**.
Apart from the immune boosting effect they also improve food conversion which results in healthy robust youngsters. These are two “go-to” products in any breeding loft whether the youngsters are going to a One Loft race or not.
- Medimune given in tablet or powder form.
The tablets are given to the youngsters from the age of 3 weeks. The daily handling makes them tame as well. A wild pigeon sent to a one loft race is going to be placed under more stress when handled by the new trainer. Stressed birds are more prone to become ill.
- Liquorice powder. Well known for its immune boosting and anti-viral properties.
- Viroban
- Medibrew

Canker should be treated at least once before the birds leave. You do not want flare ups of Canker when they are placed under stress at the new loft. Management at the loft would treat preventatively for Canker but it helps them if they do not have to deal with clinical Canker on the arrival of your birds at the loft. **Meditrich or Canker Tonic** would be recommended here. You will only be treating a small number of pigeons.

If your loft has a history of worms and Coccidiosis the birds must also be treated for these. The most convenient product to use here would be **Tri-Cure** which covers both worms and Coccidiosis.

Mediworm and Coximed can also be used.

If your birds do not have a history of these conditions, treatment can perhaps be left to the management of the One Loft race.

Ensure the birds are free of pigeon flies and lice by spraying them with **Avian Insect Liquidator**.

Before transporting them to the One Loft ensure that they are fed and watered well. If the trip is going to be long, dose 20 to 30mls Medilyte into the crop before basketing them.