



Newsletter

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THE MOULT/OFF SEASON

The moult is now upon us, with the main body moult starting at the time of the Summer solstice (21/22 December) and reaching a peak about one month after this, when the shortening of daylight lengths start having major effect.

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

Management at this time of the year 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 34 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 which is coming up in a month or so.

Normal diagnostic testing is still available for fanciers in Gauteng. This will just be on appointment only done in West Rand.

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 the use of:-

- Probiotics in the form of **Entero-Plus** and **Intestum**
- **Medimune Forte**
- **Optigut**

In summary then -

- Use vitamin supplements in the form of Premolt 100, Plume Plus and Vitaton 34.
- Control external parasites with Avian Insect Liquidator.
- Use as few medications against bacteria, Canker, worms and Coccidiosis during this time as possible.
- Boost immunity with Entero-Plus / Intestum and Medimune Forte.