



PRE RACING SEASON CHECK LIST

The racing season is now less than a month away.

Let us check on what has been done and what is still to be done.

Vaccinations

Paramyxo

Any youngsters older than 7 weeks should have had two Paramyxo vaccinations by now.

One at 3 weeks and the other a month later at 7 weeks of age.

It is vitally important that when using dead vaccines that a booster is given.

In accordance with SANPO rules Nobilis Paramyxo and a Newcastle disease vaccine should have been given.

If you have not already done so, **ALL** the birds in the loft should have their annual Paramyxo vaccine now.

This would mean that the youngsters ideally would be receiving a third vaccination.

Pox

If you have not done this it should be done soon.

Using the well-known feather follicle method on the side of the thigh is recommended for best results.

This vaccination is generally done after the Paramyxo vaccinations.

Malaria

You still have time to do the 10-day treatment if you have not done so already.

Primaquin and Chloroquin used together will give the best results because they treat both stages of the life cycle.

Primaquin treats the cycle in the *blood vessel wall* and the Chloroquin treats the part of the life cycle in the *blood*.

Don't forget to use the combination or one of the two one day a week throughout the season.

Most of the Malaria found in the race season are in birds that have not been given this one-day-a-week treatment.

Salmonella/Paratyphoid

Levels of Salmonella appear to be increasing every year.

The 10-day treatment of Mediprim and Medicox before breeding and racing has become increasingly important.

Ornithosis

If a positive laboratory diagnosis of Ornithosis was found last year or you found improved results whenever a Doxycycline treatment was used, it obviously meant that there was probably an underlying Ornithosis problem in the loft.

Now would be a good time to give a 10-day treatment of Doxybiotic Plus or Tylocox.

Worms and Coccidiosis

Ideally a faecal sample should be checked for worm and Coccidia eggs.

This can be done at one of our testing venues in Gauteng or samples posted to Postnet Feather Square.

Samples sent by post are tested free of charge.

It is important to know if the loft and environment is free of worms and what the level of infection of Coccidia is.

(We are probably going to find Coccidia eggs).

Failing this, treat blindly with two treatments of Mediworm given 2 to 3 weeks apart.

Coccidiosis can be treated with Coximed, Medicox, Trimethoprim/Sulpha.

Worms will be discussed in more detail in our next newsletter.

Canker

This condition needs to be treated so regularly that we need not discuss it as a preseason treatment.

Hopefully as little treatment as possible though, was given in the off season.

This allows the birds to develop a certain level of natural immunity.

We are already finding outbreaks of Young Bird Disease and we are going to be experiencing many more cases as the birds start mixing in the training and race baskets and are placed under stress especially in the first few races.

Virus infections are prevented using products that boost immunity.

NOW is the time to treat YBD preventatively.

Some level of preventative treatment will need to be given throughout the year.

Many products are available:

- Entero-Plus
- Intestum
- Medimune Forte
- Liquorice powder
- Optigut
- Viroban

These products can be used however the fancier wishes to use them.

There is no hard and fast rule.

Whenever we give a vaccination the vaccine stimulates antibody production against that virus - in most cases it would be Paramyxo.

It also though, stimulates production of a chemical called Interferon, that has a non-specific action against all viruses.

Timing of the third vaccination that the young birds get (it would have had first and second vaccine at 3 and 7 weeks) will help the bird with this non-specific immunity.

The highest number of YBD cases are found at about the time of the first race.

The level of non-specific immunity produced due to Interferon would be at its highest when the third vaccination is given within a month of the first race.

Dead Paramyxo vaccines are often used in the treatment of YBD even though Paramyxo is not involved in this case.

This too would be due to the Interferon released.

Tests we have done at the different venues up to now has shown the importance of this pre-season treatment.

All the levels of the above conditions were very high. Only two lofts so far have been found to be completely free of all these conditions.

For more information on pre-season treatments and on the prevention and treatment of YBD please visit our website <https://medpet.co.za/wp/>