



Press Release – 31 October 2017

To: The Management Committees of all Racing Pigeon Federations, Combine Entities, Country Clubs, One-Loft Races, Fancy Pigeon Associations and Subscribers to ANRPB Inc.

Re: Update 7: Rota-virus update PLUS

Dear All,

1. Rota virus update:

What's happening with the vaccine?

Since August contractual arrangements have been frustratingly slow for all involved. In part the non-availability of the 2:1 government linkage grant for stage one of the vaccine development has led to protracted contract negotiations with Latrobe University. In August, the ANRPB learned that it was being required to meet the full cost for stage one of the vaccine development (\$169,185 not \$60,000) prior to releasing the trial vaccine to Treidlia Biovet Pty Ltd (Dr Mark White) for commercial production. Additionally, Latrobe were proposing further research and development in stage two (a 3-year \$450k project). However, this also required a significant forward looking financial contribution by the ANRPB.

The ANRPB was not able to take on the significant contractual and financial liability and was required to enter negotiations with Dr Colin Walker and Dr Mark White and Latrobe University.

The outcome from those negotiations is that Latrobe University will contract directly with Treidlia (Dr Mark White) for the commercial production of the rota vaccine. These contractual arrangements are currently being finalized.

The ANRPB will enter a side agreement with Treidlia to make the \$60,000 payment from the ANRPB Inc. Disease Management Fund to Latrobe. It is envisaged that over a period of some years the ANRPB Disease Management Fund will be reimbursed and these funds can be utilized for further disease management research; as advised by Dr Colin Walker that may be required.

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When will the Rota vaccine be available?

Now Treidlia (Dr Mark White) is the only point of contact who can provide an estimate of when the vaccine will be available. Currently there are many possibilities that may adversely impact the availability of the vaccine, these Dr White and his team are working through. Be assured that the development and production of the rota vaccine has been the priority throughout these past 10-painstaking months.

How much will the vaccine cost?

The benchmark maximum cost is preferably the PMV vaccine cost per bird. The issue here is there will be several levies/royalties required to be paid (development costs, supplier component costs). Also, it is likely the vaccine will only be approved for sale through vets; their profit margins will also add to the cost of the vaccine. Again, how much the vaccine costs sit with Treidlia.

Export of Australian pigeons overseas

It has come to the attention of the ANRPB that a number of fanciers are making plans to send pigeons overseas. ***Given the potential for Rotavirus to spread worldwide the ANRPB strongly recommends that no Australian pigeons are exported overseas until a rota vaccine is available and proven to be effective.***

The below email dated 11 October 2017 has been distributed world-wide advising that Federation Colombophile Internationale (FCI) members impose a ban on Australian pigeons participating in all FCI Exhibitions and One Loft Races of the FCI Grand Prix. Also reference to recent article from Dr Lydia Teske et al.

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Dear Sirs..... Federations or OLR

Australia is now facing an epidemic of a new strain of rotavirus that causes a mortality in racing pigeons up to 40% including adults. The epidemic started in May 2016 in West Australia and already spread to the whole country and Tasmania.

The Australian government did not declare a ban to export pigeons to other countries. So for containment of the distribution of this new rotavirus the FCI has a duty of information to the member federations and imposes a ban of participation of Australian pigeons in all FCI Exhibitions and OLR of the FCI Grand Prix. This measure to be lifted when the disease is eradicated or an effective vaccine is available.

In annex an article about this new epidemic by Dr Lydia Teske et al.

The President of the Veterinary Commission of the FCI

Dr David Barros Madeira

2. National Code of Practice (NCOP)

The Australian National Racing Pigeon Board (ANRPB) was established in response to the Australian Federal Government's decision to update animal welfare codes and convert them into the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines.

Quote: The new documents will incorporate both national welfare standards and industry guidelines for each species or enterprise. Animal welfare standards endorsed by all state and territory primary industry ministers will be implemented in state and territory legislation.

Grant Paterson of Canberra represented Australian pigeon fanciers on the Animal Health Australia (AHA) working party responsible for preparing standards (must do) and guidelines (recommended). These Standards and Guidelines form an annexure to the National Code of Practice drafted by the Australian National Racing Pigeon Board.

Both the AHA Standards and Guidelines and the ANRPB National Code of Practice may be viewed on the ANRPB website: www.anrpb.org

This Code of Practice should be treated as the base standard to which all pigeon fanciers are obliged to meet.

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Due to the diverse nature of pigeon racing across Australia; namely geographic and climatic conditions, customized elements (for some Associations, Federations and Clubs) such as;

- Liberation Protocols
- Vaccination requirements, and
- Long Distance Racing,

Will be deemed as supplementary to this base National Code of Practice.

The National Code of Practice has been forwarded to all clubs, association and federations on the ANRPB mailing list.

To date the ANRPB has received constructive feedback from SAHPA Chair Gavin Harris with the recommendations for review of (4.5) Race Controls and (4.8.1) Race Panniers when transport is via thermostatically controlled forced ventilation. The ANRPB welcomes further feedback from other federations and associations.

3. Queensland Representative

After extensive consultation, Mr. Joe Jackson of Rockhampton has accepted an invitation to join the National Board to fill the vacancy left behind by Len Vanderlinde.

Joe is well known to the QLD pigeon fraternity and his nomination was endorsed by the Queensland Racing Pigeon Federation plus several clubs. Welcome Joe!

4. Thank you, Dr Walker

The ANRPB would like to again publicly thank Dr Colin Walker for his diligence, tenacity and professional dexterity as regard the pursuit of a rota vaccine for the Australian Pigeon fraternity. Thank you, Colin.

Yours sincerely

For and on behalf of the Australian National Racing Pigeon Board Incorporated.

Stephen Eggleton
Chair - ANRPB Inc.

This update drafted by Stephen Eggleton, Greg Kakoschke and approved by ANRPB Inc.

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