

New Pigeon Virus Confirmed in Sydney.

Dear Stan

I would like you to be involved in this challenge if CCF take charge. If not NCF could take a leadership role – Please pass this email to all federations up the coast and to Central Coast as well please.

This is the latest information from Dr White regarding the virus. It is very good information. This is my approach to

The current situation in Sydney. I would appreciate your views.

I suggest CCF meet with Dr White and myself to develop a plan for Sydney.

I suggest CCF take a role as leader as it is the biggest Racing Pigeon Federation in Australia so that uninfected areas of NSW and other states – ACT and Queensland - can know what Sydney is planning not only to prevent the spread to these areas in order to contain the virus in Sydney but also have a sensible approach when it reaches them.

I suggest Southern Fed, Newcastle Federation, Central Coast Federation, South Coast Federation, Canberra Combine and affiliated federations and especially Sydney based Fancy Show Pigeon representatives and High Flyer fanciers be at the meeting – telephone conference or skype or in person – and closely involved with any decision making. Results of these discussions should be forwarded to Queensland and other uninfected states for their input based on these conversations then to involve the National Body for their views.

These are my ideas as an approach forward.

Rob Marshall

Information from Dr Mark White

New Pigeon Virus Confirmed in Sydney.

The new pigeon virus which has been causing problems interstate has now been definitely confirmed as being present in Sydney. Over the last week or 10 days we have had several people telling us they know of other people with sick pigeons with symptoms suggestive of the new virus. We received good quality suspect birds for testing late last week. Samples from these were sent to the Agribio lab in Melbourne as they have the most experience with this particular disease. The results came back positive for the new virus this afternoon. Since then we have received more birds for testing and it is very likely from their histories that these

samples will also come back positive. Both fancy and racing lofts have been affected. Informal feedback from pigeon owners is that the virus is already widespread in Sydney.

Furthermore the identification work on the virus has now been completed and it is being called a Rotavirus, which is a somewhat distant cousin of the Reovirus family. This type of virus is tough and can survive in the environment for long periods of time. It can spread on anything that comes into contact with the sick pigeons. Some of the birds we have looked at have had secondary E.coli infection in the main body organs as well.

The best pigeon owners can do in the meantime is lock down their lofts and if the birds start to get sick: a) treat with Sulprim ("AVS Sulphur") or another brand of trimethoprim/sulphadiazine ); b) possibly vaccinate with NDV4 live vaccine; and c) maintain good general care re hygiene, diet, stocking density, control of other diseases etc.

From the experience interstate its likely the viirus will infect many lofts, but that after 5-7 days or so the birds in each loft that haven't died will start to recover and return pretty much to normal.