

Racing Pigeons: Flock Treatment Plan for Infected Lofts

The 7 day Flock Treatment Plan is initiated at the first signs of the disease. The aim is to start treatment before any deaths occur. The first sign of the disease is a fluffed up pigeon either on the perch or floor. This same look occurs with circovirus, coccidiosis and other debilitating diseases. The vomiting and dark green droppings appear within a few hours as a result of the disease and the bird not eating. The best outcomes occur when we start the Flock Treatment Plan at the first sign of a fluffed up pigeon. Good outcomes are also experienced when treatment is given before deaths occur. Heavier losses are expected when treatment is delayed and the heaviest losses occur when no treatment is given.

Disinfection & Bio-Security Plan for Infected Lofts

Strict hygiene is required to control the spread of the disease both within and between lofts. By the time symptoms appear the loft is highly contaminated with the germ. Efforts are directed towards eliminating the germ and preventing as far as possible the build up of further germs over the next 7 days as the disease runs its course. This is achieved by the following:

DISINFECTING INSTRUCTIONS

- Scrape clean the loft floor and perches daily of all droppings
- Remove all dust, dander and other debris daily by sweeping or vacuuming
- Clean the entire loft, perches, food trays and drinking water containers twice daily with hot water (above 59C).
- Once cleaned, disinfect the loft, food trays and drinking water containers with KD Powder & Protector twice daily. Flame cleaning will also disinfect the loft of this germ.
- Disinfect drinking water containers prior to replenishing the medicated water twice daily.
- Bathe or dip birds in a warm KD (1 teaspoon/L) bath to reduce the spread of the germ by de- contaminating the feathers and dander.

BIOSECURITY INSTRUCTIONS

- Inform your club secretary of the disease. Contact your regular veterinarian for advice.
- All birds are locked down for 2 weeks following the start of antibiotic treatment or for longer according to instruction from the national body.
- No bird movement in or out of the loft until instructed by the national body.
- Follow strict personal hygiene practices. Wash clothes using a hot water cycle above 59C with Pine O Clean or Protector as a disinfectant.
- Do not visit other lofts or have others visit your loft. Do not congregate with other pigeon fanciers. Utilise technologies such as Skype to communicate.

FOOD HYGIENE: To lessen the possibility of the spread of the disease via contaminants in the environment, it is important to have food delivered or pickup food from merchants that offer strict bio-security measures (eg. foot baths). Disinfect the food shed with KD spray (1 teaspoon/L) daily. Vacuum clean or sweep any accumulated dust as often as possible. It is essential that any food given is free of any contaminants which will hinder recovery.

Flock Treatment Plan

The function of this plan during this critical period is to limit the damage to the protective lining of the intestines. A 7 day treatment with Sulfa AVS and Megamix is given in the drinking water. Ve8 Powder is given on the food daily. By the 4th day of treatment normal behaviour and droppings should start to return and by the 7th day, wing flapping, perfectly formed droppings and powder down feather drop show a return to full health. The Immune Stimulating Plan follows this Flock Treatment Plan and is continued until there is a return to full fitness which may take 4-6 weeks.

The function of Sulfa AVS and Ve8 Powder during this critical period is to halt the toxic effects of the disease and to re-establish healthy gut microflora as quickly as possible. In doing so, the flock may fully recover from the disease in as little as 5 days with minimal losses. This level of recovery will not be seen in flocks without strong immunity or with underlying disease problems. In order to limit stock losses, treatment must start before deaths occur. Deaths are an indication of liver destruction and the disease is firmly established. Birds may fail to respond to this treatment in lofts with other underlying resident disease problems. These lofts will experience greater losses irrespective of the treatment and require further treatment under veterinary instruction.

Flock Treatment Plan

Day	In Drinking Water	On Food
Day 1	Sulfa AVS & Megamix	Turbobooster, Ve8 Powder, E Powder & Bloomford
Day 2	Sulfa AVS & Megamix	Turbobooster, Ve8 Powder, E Powder & Bloomford
Day 3	Sulfa AVS & Megamix	Turbobooster, Ve8 Powder, E Powder & Bloomford
Day 4	Sulfa AVS & Megamix	Turbobooster, Ve8 Powder, E Powder & Bloomford
Day 5	Sulfa AVS & Megamix	Turbobooster, Ve8 Powder, E Powder & Bloomford
Day 6	Sulfa AVS & Megamix	Turbobooster, Ve8 Powder, E Powder & Bloomford
Day 7	Sulfa AVS & Megamix	Turbobooster, Ve8 Powder, E Powder & Bloomford

Fvite should be made available in a dish each day.

Lock down entire flock for 2 weeks

Follow **strict hygiene** practices including the **disinfection and biosecurity plans** detailed above.