

South Coast Pigeon Federation Incorporated



Protect these Birds

President: John Koster Secretary: Chris Bell

To all SCF members,

Due to the outbreak in Victoria of the paramyxovirus the committee has reluctantly decided that in the best interest and welfare of the pigeons and our lofts we will NOT be racing Tasmania this year, 2011. The committee feels that due to the nature of this outbreak and the fact that the effects and length of incubation period are yet to be determined it would be negligent of this Federation to provide ANY chance for this virus to contaminate our birds. Victoria and Tasmania have essentially 'locked down' their operations until further notice (min two weeks) and we do not know what is to happen after this period. We have therefore taken the conservative option and will not endanger the welfare of our birds by having the possibility that they may come in contact with any infected birds. Some may think this an overreaction but the welfare of our birds will take priority over any other aspect of our operations.

We also ask all members to be vigilante and thoughtful with their birds. We suggest that all follow these guidelines.

- Keep a careful watch for any symptoms of paramyxovirus
- If you do notice any than contact your Vet for help.
- Any stray pigeons isolate away from your own birds.

The first signs are usually increased thirst and diarrhoea, loss of appetite, and reluctance to move and fly.

Nervous signs may develop early (before diarrhoea), and include: trembling of the wings and head, tumbling on landing, partial paralysis of the wings and legs and twisting of the neck (torticollis). In some cases, birds attempting to feed may be unable to pick up grain.

The majority of pigeons in a loft may show signs of the disease and a proportion of these may die. Those recovering from the disease may be left with some nervous signs. Others may have their racing ability affected.

Similar symptoms are produced by other pigeon diseases e.g. herpes virus, salmonella, and poisons.

Factors which can lead to spread of disease include:

- Contact with infected birds (including strays or feral birds),
- Contact with contaminated travelling boxes or transporters that have not been cleaned and disinfected,
- Shared drinking water in lofts and transporters, and
- Virus carried on the clothes, hands and feet of loft visitors.

Regards

Chris Bell

SCF Federation Secretary.