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PRESS RELEASE

16 April 2018

To: The Management Committees of all Racing Pigeon Associations, Federations, Combine Entities, One-Loft Entities, Show Pigeon Associations and subscribers to the ANRPB Inc.

Re: Update 10 Rotavirus

Rotavirus Vaccine

Despite the best efforts of Dr Mark White and his team at Treidlia Biovet it is now looking highly unlikely that the rotavirus vaccine will be available in time for the scheduled start of the 2018 racing season.

Dr White has recently advised the Board that the reviewer assessing the rotavirus vaccine permit application for the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) has requested additional information thus slowing down the approval process.

Dr White has advised that “the questions being asked are mostly reasonably sensible but more focused on what would be required for a fully registered vaccine.”

Dr White has had to source further information from Latrobe University to provide the additional required by the external reviewers.

At this stage the APVMA have not provided any feedback with regard to whether or not the vaccine will be a veterinary only medicine.

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2

Dr White has also recently advised that they are still working on the pilot batches trying to sort out some technical issues.

Dr White advises that the rotavirus vaccine will definitely require two 0.3ml doses, at a minimum of 3 weeks apart; and that a further 1-2 weeks would be required for the vaccine to be fully effective; meaning that birds would need to be vaccinated 5 weeks prior to racing (or showing).

As many Associations and Federations are scheduled to start racing in approximately 6 weeks it is now unlikely that the rotavirus vaccine will be available in time.

The ANRPB, as a pigeon welfare based body, respectfully requests, that racing pigeon organizations consider delaying the scheduled starting date of their race programs by 4 weeks in 2018. (Whilst making this recommendation neither Treidlia Biovet nor the ANRPB can guarantee the availability of the rotavirus vaccine within this timeframe).

Such a delay would provide the best opportunity for fanciers to safely immunize their birds. The ANRPB understands that such a delay would be unpopular with some members. However, the ANRPB also understands that many pigeon fanciers would prefer to have their birds immunized and protected before racing.

Yours in Our Hobby and Sport; for and on behalf of the Australian National Racing Pigeon Board Inc.

Greg Kakoschke
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Press Release drafted by Greg Kakoschke and approved by Board Members

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