2 April 2017

A message from George Azar, President Western Australia Pigeon Racing Federation

Hi Guys,

I wish to address the matter of the recurrence of the Rotavirus in a loft here in Perth.

Contrary to some rumours which have been circulating amongst the fraternity there is only ONE case which has been diagnosed and confirmed to be the Rotavirus which afflicted our birds in May of last year.
The DPI also found pseudo inclusion bodies in their testing so we have asked the Department to run a Herpesvirus PCR and we are currently awaiting the results of this test as it may be an underlying factor.

I am constantly fielding phone calls and having to reassure members who are panicked at the prospect of the Rotavirus returning to their lofts. I am also having to spend many hours unnecessarily on the phone to the Eastern States
Explaining to them that we do not have an outbreak of the Rotavirus here in the West – we have in fact got ONE case. And quite frankly I am fed up with all these unnecessary speculations and rumours.

Our focus should be on remaining vigilant in the care and training of our birds (ensuring that they are not under undue stress or being tossed when in heavy moult) rather than gossiping and spreading all these rumours and heresy that have been floating around the Fed.

So, in future, the only information that you hear that you can guarantee to be true and correct will be any emails or reports which come from me – the President of the Federation. All other information cannot be confirmed and should not be believed.

If you notice any unusual health issues in your loft or have any unwell birds and suspect that you may have the virus, I urge you all to please contact me as soon as possible. In doing so we can remain on the front foot should the virus return to your loft and so that I can direct you to the DPI who will give you the best information possible at no cost to you. We don’t want to be in the same position as we were last year, when we were unaware of the virus being present in some lofts at the start of the season.

Yours in the Sport,

George Azar
President
Pigeon Racing Federation of WA (Inc.)