



**ANRPB**

flying gallantly into the future

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**25 January 2018**

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

**Re: Update 8 Rotavirus PLUS**

### **Rotavirus vaccine**

Contract negotiations between Dr Mark White (Troidlia Biovet Pty Ltd) and Latrobe University (LTU) have now been completed and contracts will soon be signed by the respective parties. Associated with this is a side agreement between Troidlia and the ANRPB.

Once contracts are signed Dr White and his team at Troidlia will undertake the preparation work for commercial production.

Dr White is unable to provide an exact timeline for the vaccine to be available; but barring unforeseen complications the vaccine should be available prior to the 2018 racing season. With a second batch of vaccine some 2 to 3 weeks later to provide sufficient supply to meet initial demand.

Dr White has also advised of his intention to apply for a permit so that pigeon owners can vaccinate their own birds; as per PMV. If approved this will alleviate the costly need for Veterinarian involvement. Obviously, owners would still need to comply with their club and Federation regulations.

Given the specific nature of the vaccine until Dr White produces the first batch he is unable to provide accurate costings.



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Whilst the process has taken considerably longer than initially projected pigeon owners should take some comfort in the knowledge that, from initial diagnosis of rotavirus, to the likely commencement of the commercial production of the vaccine, will have taken about 14 months. By world standards this is a remarkable achievement.

The ANRPB trusts that all pigeon owners will join with the Board in taking this opportunity to express sincere appreciation to;

- Dr Colin Walker; for without his initiative and considerable knowledge, skills and endeavor there most likely would not be a rota vaccine; and
- Dr Mark White; for taking on the LTU vaccine contract and negotiating the best deal possible for pigeon owners; as well as for his expert knowledge and skills in producing vaccines.

It is indeed fortunate that we have two such remarkable men in our sport.

### **Rotavirus research**

Dr Colin Walker has identified the need for further rotavirus research.

The ANRPB has proposed a working party to;

- Make recommendations to the Board re rota research
- Raise funds to support rota research endorsed by the Board

This is a work in progress.

### **Rota + PMV outbreak in Sydney**

In recent times there have been reports of rota related mortalities in Melbourne, Sydney and Adelaide.

There has also been a PMV outbreak in Sydney causing high mortality.

Should lofts experience an outbreak of disease the ANRPB recommends that owners have their birds diagnosed by a bird veterinarian.

The ANRPB strongly recommends that owners vaccinate their birds against PMV in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.



### **National Code of Practice: Animal Health Australia**

Grant Paterson of Canberra continues in his liaison role between the ANRPB and Animal Health Australia.

Animal Health Australia have currently called for submissions pertaining to the standards and guidelines that they have produced through consultation with stakeholders.

The current “Community Consultation” process is an opportunity for interested parties to participate.

All racing pigeon entities are encouraged to adopt the National Code of Practice.

### **Australian War Animal Memorial Organization**

Nigel Allsopp, the President of the Australian War Animal Memorial organization has advised that he is planning to organize a War Pigeon display for 6 months at the Army Museum in Brisbane later this year.

Nigel Allsopp, who was also ANZAC of the year in 2017, has previously laid a wreath on behalf of the ANRPB at Pozieres in France, honoring war pigeons. At Pozieres French pigeon fanciers released 100 pigeons from a WW1 horse drawn cart. Photographs will be available on the ANRPB website soon.

### **National Board Matters**

At the ANRPB Annual General Meeting in December 2017 former vice-chair Greg Kakoschke was elected as Chair for 2018.

Former Chair, Stephen Eggleton, did not seek re-election due to work commitments that include extensive overseas travel in 2018.

Stephen has demonstrated exceptional leadership during the formative stages of the National Board’s development.



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Stephen has had to manage significant changes of personnel on the Board, as well as the unexpected challenges associated with the rotavirus. Stephen's leadership knowledge and skillset will be sadly missed.

At the December meeting the ANRPB also welcomed highly respected Victorian Administrator Neil Machar to its membership.

Grant Paterson of Canberra continues in his "project officer" liaison role between the ANRPB and Animal Health Australia.

The ANRPB website will soon undergo significant development; visit: [www.anrpb.org](http://www.anrpb.org)

## **Summary**

To quote Dr White; although "we are not out of the woods yet, we are in with a fighting chance of a vaccine before racing."

With this encouraging news the ANRPB wishes all pigeon organizations and fanciers successful racing this year.

Similarly, best wishes for successful Shows to our colleagues with fancy pigeons.

Yours faithfully

Greg Kakoschke  
Chair: ANRPB Inc

For and on behalf of The Australian National Racing Pigeon Board Inc.

Press Release drafted by Greg Kakoschke and approved by majority of ANRPB Inc.