[**Rota Virus affecting Australia 2016**](http://www.letstalkpigeontalk.org/index.php?topic=29878.msg441480)

« **Reply #87 on:** Mar,01,2017,09:32:51AM »

Latest from Dr Walker   
  
Update 28th Feb 2017  
   
   
   
   
AgriBio meeting today  
Dr Travis Beddoe, Dr Mark White and myself met at AgriBio in Melbourne today. The meeting lasted for about 2 hours. Progress with  the vaccine development and production was discussed. The vaccine release is well on track. We are expecting the vaccine to be available to fanciers in the latter half of the year and all going well could be available earlier. We plan to meet regularly over the next few months to “compare notes” and make sure everything is progressing as quickly as possible.  
Sydney and Melbourne presentations  
Next Monday, the 6th  March I will speaking about all facets of Rota virus at the VHA headquarters in Notting Hill. All pigeon fanciers are welcome and the VHA is looking forward to hosting members of all federation and clubs. So please come along with all  of your questions and concerns. The presentation will start at 7.30 pm. Plans are underway for a similar presentation by Dr Mark White and myself in Sydney in about 2 – 3 weeks  
Thankyou  
Thank you to fanciers Rob Taylor, Gary Church, John Van Beers and Andrew Spiliopoulos for making birds available for blood collection for further investigations into Rota virus by AgriBio. Fanciers who give their time and make birds available help us all understand the disease better.  
Carrier state testing  
How long do pigeons carry Rota virus in their systems after recovery from the disease? This is an important question because birds that carry the virus are infectious to other pigeons even though they may look normal themselves. AgriBio has developed a Rota virus PCR test that detects the presence of Rota virus. The test is still undergoing validation but should be ready for use in the coming weeks. To do the test a swab will simply be taken from the birds cloaca ( vent ). Groups of birds will be tested from confirmed lofts that were infected 1, 2 and 3 months ago. Carriers will be shedding the virus and be positive on testing. Once the carrier state ends, the virus will not be shed and the tests will become negative. As the first cases in Victoria were only 3 months ago we don’t have birds that were infected earlier but the trial will continue until viral shedding stops ( and therefore the length of the carrier state determined )  
When can recovered birds catch the disease again ?  
Plans are underway for testing to determine how long it is before surviving Rota birds are vulnerable to reinfection. Similar tests were done in 2013 for PPMV. Blood will be drawn every month and the level of immunity present determined. Once the level falls below the amount that is sufficient to protect the bird then we know that the bird will be vulnerable to catching the disease again