



To: The Management Committees of All Australian Racing Pigeon Federations, Combine Entities, One-Loft Races and Fancy Pigeon Associations.

Re: Update 3: Highly infectious, emerging pigeon disease: Rota-virus outbreak in Australia.

Further to the ANRPB press release of 6 January 2017, the following update applies:

1. Diagnostic testing has just concluded with the virus being determined as a Rota- virus. This rota-virus in pigeons is new and there is no immunity vaccine available at this time. A rota-virus vaccine exists for cattle and in the short-term this will be explored to determine suitability for pigeons – for more information on this please refer on-line to: <http://www.melbournebirdvet.com/pigeon-virus-update.aspx>

2. Funding for trials and testing. As alerted in ANRPB press release 4 January 2017 we are setting up a ANRPB Inc. Disease Management Fund. Given the urgent need to build a financial “war chest” to co-fund possible vaccine trials and testing, the ANRPB is asking all Australian Racing Pigeon Federations,

RACING COBBLERS and Fancy Pigeon bodies to donate an amount of \$20 to \$25 per member as a first tranche of fund raising. A number of Racing Pigeon bodies have already come forward and pledged funds in-line with this request; to these bodies we appreciate their speedy response on this crucial fund raising initiative for our sport and hobby.

- a. Please make funds payable to: ANRPB Inc.
- b. For EFT: Bank Account details: BSB: 032 173, Account No: 600027, please clearly note name of donor
- c. Cheques can be posted to: ANRPB Inc. Hon Treasurer, Mr. Grant Paterson, 1/25 Halloran Drive, Jerrabomberra, NSW, 2619
- d. Email receipts will be sent, marked ANRPB Inc. Disease Management Fund
- e. We are hoping to have first tranche of funds in by 28 February 2017; a reminder will be sent out around 13 February 2017
- f. Individuals and those fanciers not aligned with a Federation at this time, are also welcome to contribute – payment by EFT as above or Cheque.
- g. All contributors will be publicly thanked and acknowledged on the ANRPB Inc. website: www.anrpb.org

3. The following Biosecurity measures remain in place for all pigeon flyers / fanciers and must be adhered to until further notice:

- a. Do not introduce new pigeons into your yard; which includes movement from Inter-state
- b. Do not allow your pigeons to mix with other pigeons
- c. Avoid visiting other pigeon lofts

Federation entities to ensure pigeon membership do not actively put their flocks or other member's flocks at risk. Please abide by the above Bio-security measures.

5. 2017 Racing - over the coming weeks the ANBRPB will be consulting with Federations and leading Avian Vet's. In the mean-time please abide by strict bio- security measures and keep your birds healthy.

6. Diagnosis – any flyers or fanciers who see any first signs of this rota-virus (birds vomiting, green bile droppings), contact your Avian vet for immediate diagnosis. Simultaneously it is also suggested to treat all birds with Sulprim ("AVS Sulphur") or another brand of trimethoprim/ sulphadiazine. It is suggested this may minimise mortality rate to ~10%.

Yours sincerely

For and on behalf of the Australian National Racing Pigeon Board
Incorporated.

Stephen Eggleton Chair – ANRPB Inc.

www.anrpb.org

Australian National Racing Pigeon Board Inc.

enquiries@anrpb.org