



Department of
Agriculture and Food



Investigation of pigeon mortalities– information for pigeon owners

26 May 2016

The Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA) has been assisting the pigeon industry in investigating mortalities in racing pigeons in the Perth metropolitan area.

Since Thursday 19 May, several lofts have been affected, with birds showing signs of diarrhoea, regurgitation and death. Mortalities have been variable, but have been up to 20 per cent in some lofts. Birds have been submitted to DAFWA's Animal Health Laboratories where full post mortem examination and sampling has been conducted.

All birds have tested negative for the **reportable diseases** avian influenza, pigeon paramyxovirus type 1, and Newcastle disease. Initial laboratory tests and an epidemiological assessment suggest that the cause of mortality is due to an adenovirus; however further testing is being undertaken to confirm this.

Adenoviruses are viruses that occur commonly in all species of bird, and can be passed easily from pigeon to pigeon.

DAFWA recommends the pigeon industry practice strict biosecurity to help protect their birds from catching the virus. Biosecurity advice is available on the [Department of Agriculture and Water Resources website](#). Owners of affected pigeons should contact their private veterinarian for treatment advice.

Any unusual illness or mortalities should be reported immediately to your private veterinarian, the Emergency Animal Disease hotline on 1800 675 888, or to Dr Emily Glass, DAFWA, on (08) 9368 3360 or Emily.Glass@agric.wa.gov.au.

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