

## ADENOVIRUSES IN RACE PIGEONS

This disease is caused by an Adenovirus, it is characterized by not having an envelope. There are two types of Adenovirus, type 1 that attacks only chicks and type 2 that attacks the entire population, chicks and adults.

Adenovirus type 1, actually the correct name would be "Adeno-Coli Syndrome".

This syndrome is strictly related to the stress caused to the pigeons that generally coincides with the first beatings or first races. This stress causes a bacterium called Escherichia Coli, a normal inhabitant of the intestinal flora, to exacerbate and it acts as a vehicle for the Adenovirus when it enters the body.

Without Escherichia Coli the virus could not enter the body. It must be taken into account that it is very difficult for the pigeon to regulate stress and if we add to this that the immune system begins to work well only after eight months of age, it becomes an ideal combo for this Syndrome to occur.

This illness normally resolves within 10 days.

## SYMPTOM

Anorexia: we see that the pigeon does not go down to eat and for a few days it usually lowers its food consumption to half of normal.

Vomiting: We see some vomiting in innkeepers.

Greenish diarrhea: because it attacks the intestine but preferably the LIVER.

Slow Digestion: It is very common to find food in the crop.

Hot water in Buches

Aerosacculitis: in some cases the chicks do not want to fly because the virus attacks the air sacs producing Aerosacculitis. (not always)

Generally it does not produce deaths or very few when a more virulent strain acts. Although the trigger is the stress of the first races, it can also be the overpopulation of pigeons (the ideal would be 3 pigeons per cubic meter) and the lack of hygiene in the loft as well as the water and feed troughs.

## TREATMENT

If we give an antibiotic to attack Escherichia Coli, we help to resolve the disease faster. This bacterium is very susceptible to a wide range of antibiotics such as Enrofloxacin, Ampicillin, Florfenicol or Sulfas.

Example: we can give a 10% Enrofloxacin one cm per liter of water, four days and continue 10 more days with a liver combined with probiotic and defense stimulant.

## ADENOVIRUS TYPE 2

It attacks the entire population, being more virulent than type 1. The appearance of dead adults draws our attention.

## SYMPTOM

vomiting.

Yellow diarrhea.

Many deaths.

Hepatitis.

## TREATMENT

This virus acts only when it enters the body, it does not need the complicity of Escherichia Coli, therefore the use of antibiotics is not necessary, if liver agents, probiotics, acidifiers and defense stimulants can be given.

## PREVENTION

There are currently no vaccines for either of these two types of Adenovirus. The use of acidifiers helps a lot. Within these, homemade ones such as apple cider vinegar, onion, lemon, etc. or veterinary acidifiers such as orthophosphoric acid, propionic acid, lactic acid, etc.

The intestine has a PH of 6.2, what we are looking for with natural or veterinary acidifiers is to lower that PH, make it more acid so that pathogenic bacteria cannot develop and in this way we help prevent the disease from appearing. Sodium bicarbonate raises the PH favoring the development of pathogenic bacteria (Escherichia Coli, Salmonella) therefore its use is not recommended.

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