

CIRCUVIRUSES IN RACING PIGEONS

Disease caused by a Circoviridae, a virus with the characteristic of being very difficult to isolate in the laboratory.

This virus preferentially attacks chicks between 1 month and 6 months of age, but chicks are at risk of contracting this disease until they are one year old.

It is a virus that has the same immunosuppressive characteristics as the AIDS virus in humans.

It attacks the entire lymphatic system (producer of the body's defenses), bone marrow, spleen, thymus, lymph nodes, Hader's glands and mainly the Bursa of Fabricius, an organ located on the back of the cloaca and the main producer of the chicks' defenses until 6 months of life (matures B lymphocytes), after 6 months of life, it regresses and ceases to be an important organ in the defense system.

The virus acts by destroying 50% of the Bursa of Fabricius, the organism cannot mature the B lymphocytes, its main defense against pathogenic agents, causing an immunosuppressed pigeon that constantly gets sick.

The pigeon contracts coccidium, trichomonas, salmonella, etc.

This virus is spread through water, food and dust in poorly ventilated lofts, another important vector in its transmission is community needles when we vaccinate, hence the importance of using individual needles.

It usually causes the death of 100% of the pigeons, what causes death is not the virus itself but all the diseases that it contracts as a result of immunosuppression.

Predisposing agents are:

overcrowding

Poor loft ventilation.

Stress especially that caused by weaning.

The needles.

DIAGNOSIS

It is carried out in the P.C.R. in blood or a histopathology of the Bursa of Fabricius.

SYMPTOM

The pigeons are permanently sick from one disease or another and die from different pathologies.

We can find lack of chalk in the feathers, some chicks in the nest enchant the feathers, filling the joints with blood.

It is suspected that some adult pigeons may be healthy carriers, especially those that are lost. Although it is a disease of many years, there are many things that are not known, such as what its reservoir is in nature.

TREATMENT

There is no vaccine. Defense stimulants are used especially when youngsters are separated from their parents.

Use individual disposable needles.

Zinc and selenium would help the immune system quite a bit.

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