

## RESPIRATORY DISEASES IN RACE PIGEONS

There are several respiratory diseases that can affect our pigeons but for a better summary we are only going to talk about three.

Ornithosis or Psittacosis

Infectious Coryza

Chronic Respiratory Disease or Mycoplasmosis

Those that affect the upper airways such as Ornithosis and Coryza and those that affect the lower airways where the main one is Mycoplasmosis

## ORNITHOSIS OR PSITTACOSIS

This is produced by a Chlamydia, it is very common in parrots, it is a zoonosis, which means that it can infect humans, especially if they are immunosuppressed (transplanted or sick with AIDS).

This disease gives digestive signs such as green or yellowish diarrhea and respiratory signs, conjunctivitis, sinus inflammation, they breathe with an open beak and the most characteristic thing we feel is a whistling respiratory noise.

The contagion is through secretions and dust in poorly ventilated lofts, they can also be infected by defecating food or water. Another form of contagion is vertical from the parents to the chicks.

## TREATMENT

The drugs of choice are:

Oxytetracycline

doxycycline

Azithromycin

Enrofloxacin

It must be taken into account that Chlamydia invades intracellularly, therefore the treatments must be for many days in a row, between 15 and 20 days, in some cases treatments have been carried out for 6 weeks. The main characteristic that the fancier observes is the noise that the pigeons make as if it were a WHISTLE.

A differential diagnosis should be made with Rhinitis and Infectious Coryza.

Coryza, although it has similar symptoms, there is an absence of that whistle, it is treated with Tetracyclines or Florfenicol and the treatments are 7 days, and the disease is easily resolved.

## CHRONIC RESPIRATORY DISEASE OR MYCOPLASMOSIS

This mycoplasma affects the bronchi, bronchioles, lungs and especially the air sacs, producing air sacculitis.

We can see that our athletes do not want to fly and some swell, we do not notice mucus or conjunctivitis. If we do a necropsy, white dots (pus) are seen in the air sacs.

## TREATMENT

Although the range of antibiotics is very wide, the most used are Tylosin, Florfenicol and Enrofloxacin. Treatments are 5 to 7 days in a row.

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