

## PMV Update, 4 March 2012

The CCEAD (Consultative Committee for Emergency Animal Disease), based on available scientific evidence, has advised the Victorian DPI (Department of Primary Industry) and AQIS (Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service) that two injections of killed chicken La Sota vaccine, given to pigeons 4 weeks apart, will confer a protective immunity against Paramyxovirus.

Because of this, and the perceived biosecurity risk of importing an overseas vaccine, the one registration application for an overseas pigeon PMV1 vaccine has been declined. Stephen Kearsey (president of the VHA) and Dr Colin Walker met with Dr Andrew Cameron (Victoria's chief veterinary officer) on Friday 1 March 2012. Dr Cameron advised that Victorian fanciers who wish to immunise their pigeons against PMV1 should use the vaccination program proposed by the CCEAD.

In the meantime, CCEAD member Dr Peter Scott has provided a testing protocol, vaccines and diagnostic testing to evaluate more fully the level of immunity formed from this vaccination protocol and others. The testing will be done in Melbourne by Dr Walker.

The testing program will run over 83 days and hopefully start next week. In the meantime, the Victorian DPI strongly advises that fanciers wishing to compete in 2012, commence vaccinating their birds. If the subsequent test results confirm the development of a protective immunity, Victorian racing should be able to start normally in July. The Victorian DPI is advising the NSW DPI and the South Australian DPI to advise any fanciers wishing to immunise their birds to adopt the same vaccination program, so that, when the Victorian borders are opened, their fanciers' birds will also be protected against PMV1.

Fanciers wishing to follow the DPI advice should contact their veterinarian. Vaccine is presented in a 500-ml bottle. The suggested dose for each pigeon is 0.5 ml twice, at a 4-week interval. Therefore, each bottle has sufficient vaccine to immunise 500 birds.