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Importation of Vaccines into Australia

It has come to the attention of the Australian National Racing Pigeon Board that a number of fanciers may be importing vaccines from Europe to immunize their birds against Pigeon Paramyxovirus (PPMV).

There are a number of issues of concern with this practice. They include:

- There can be no guarantee that a vaccine imported from overseas is not contaminated with another infectious organism. Birds that are vaccinated with an imported vaccine and then mixed with birds from other lofts risk spreading an exotic organism throughout the country. Importation of any vaccine poses a significant biosecurity risk, not only, to the Australian pigeon community but also potentially to other domestic birds and native fauna.
- It is illegal to import vaccines into Australia without approval from the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. There are severe penalties for illegally importing products of this kind into Australia.
- The fragility of the vaccine makes it difficult to transport. The 5+ day timeframe to freight it from Europe to Australia is likely to impact the effectiveness of the vaccine. This puts those birds vaccinated with this product at risk should they be exposed to PPMV in Australia.
- Reputational damage to our sport.

The ANRPB condemns the illegal importation of any vaccine and strongly recommends that only APVMA approved vaccines are used for pigeons Australia wide.

There is an APVMA approved vaccine and vaccination protocol available to Australian fanciers. The ANRPB supports this method to protect our

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birds against PPMV.

The issues are discussed in more detail on the Australian Pigeon Company Website in the article titled “Recent Disease Outbreaks, August 2019”. (See www.auspigeonco.com.au).

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Oct 19

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