

Correspondence from PIRSA 6th January, 2017

Dear pigeon industry members,

Please see an email below from the NSW Department of Primary Industries with an update for their pigeon industry on what's happening in Victoria. Also attached is an update from the Australian National Racing Pigeon Board (ANRPB).

PIRSA hasn't had any more reports of pigeon mortalities in South Australia since the cases before Christmas.

The South Australian samples are being tested for the presence of adenovirus and herpesvirus at the Asia Pacific Centre for Animal Health in Melbourne, and are at the Australian Animal Health Laboratory in Geelong for electron microscopy (a high powered microscope that can see viruses) and virus isolation (which will grow any viruses in the affected birds). The laboratory can't test directly for the reovirus but if it's present it should show up under electron microscopy as it did in the Victorian cases.

Hopefully the laboratory will have more information for us by end of next week. In the meantime, keep up your biosecurity practices.

Cheers, Emma

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From: Amanda Lee [<mailto:amanda.lee@dpi.nsw.gov.au>]

Sent: Thursday, 5 January 2017 2:17 PM

To: Amanda Lee <amanda.lee@dpi.nsw.gov.au>

Subject: Emerging pigeon disease

Dear all

A highly infectious viral disease was identified in racing pigeons in Victoria in December 2016. Affected lofts experienced mortality rates of approximately 30%. Clinical signs include green diarrhoea, vomiting, hunching and birds usually die within 24 hours. Initial testing has ruled out adenovirus, PPMV1 and herpes virus infections. The virus (suspected to be a reovirus) is likely, however, to be the same virus that affected Western Australian racing pigeon lofts earlier in 2016. Further diagnostic work is in progress. Results are expected by mid-January.

It's possible that some poultry vaccines will be of assistance in the management of this disease. In the meantime, biosecurity measures are **critical** to prevent the spread of this disease until a long-term solution can be determined.

Please see the attached press release from the Australian National Racing Pigeon Board and follow the link to the Melbourne Bird Veterinary Clinic website for further information.

<http://www.melbournebirdvet.com/pigeon-virus-update.aspx>

Further updates to follow when available.

Amanda

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