

# Old Bird Diseases

IF Convention - Long Island, NY

October 31, '14



# Old Birds – Preparation for Breeding

- Vaccination: Paramyxovirus (PMV), Salmonella, Pox, E. coli (autogenous)
- Test and treat for Parasites:
  - especially Canker: Throat Swab or OSOM test
  - Coccia and Worms: Fecal float at local Vet
- Put onto the correct diet:
  - Take off excess weight, especially hens (Barley)
  - Insure adequate Calcium, especially in hens
  - Insure adequate vitamins: **Vitamin D3** (sun light)

# Old Birds – Preparation for Breeding

- Insure adequate lighting: at least 14 hours per day for at least 2 weeks before putting together.
  - Stimulate adequate hormonal support for breeding
  - Signals birds that breeding season is approaching
- Preventative treatment for Strep: One of
  - Amoxicillin OR Cephalexin (@2.5 gm/gal x 7 days)
  - Ampicillin (@5.0 gm/gallon drinking water x 7 da)
  - Hens vulnerable as oviduct tones for breeding

# Health Maintenance Program

- June – Vaccinate EVERY bird for Salmonella, Paramyxovirus (PMV), possibly Pox.
- July, before training YB – Repeat Salmonella and PMV in Young Birds and unvaccinated Old Birds (Booster).
  - Check young birds for canker (Throat Swab or OSOM), and worms (Cloacal Swab or Fecal Float)
  - Treat as necessary
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- December – Vaccinate every bird for Salmonella; vaccinate any birds not vaccinated for PMV
  - Check for canker (Throat Swab or OSOM test), and worms (Cloacal Swab or Fecal Float)Treat as necessary
- Vaccinate and medicate ONLY when birds are NOT breeding, moulting or training.

# Old Bird Diseases - Streptococcus

- Streptococcus (Strep) (=Enterococcus)
- Symptoms vary widely: Sudden, unexpected death; rapid disintegration, shock; neonate death; depend on host immune response.
- Carried in intestines often without disease
- Spread through droppings: fecal – oral
- Treatment: Amoxicillin, Ampicillin, Cephalexin; treat breeding stock before breeding season

# Old Birds - Salmonella

- Latent infection (carrier state) occurs readily; birds can appear to be perfectly healthy
  - Can pass it to squabs in the nest (Paratyphoid)
  - Also can cause infertility or reduced fertility in breeders: eggs can be infected.
  - Also degrades racing performance.
- Treatment: Get an antibiotic sensitivity; choose medication according to sensitivity and tissue penetration.

# Old Birds - **Pasteurella**

- Symptoms and Treatment very similar to Strep
  - Birds become scared and hide (in nests, corners)
  - High body temperature before death (cooked)
- Carried by rodents (especially rats).
- Rarely occurs in Young Birds.





# Old Birds - Infertility

- Salmonella infections: Can be in cock or hen
- Birds too young or too old
- Improper preparation: lighting, diet
- Environment: Crowding, access to feed, water, bath water, sunlight, adequate nesting space



# Yearlings – Reproductive Failures

- Pair out of synchronization (hormonally)
  - Cock drives hard, keeps hen on nest
  - Hen unable to lay egg, goes out of condition (fast)
- **Basic Principle:** Keep the pair on their cycle:
  - Put glass/wooden egg into nest (ASAP),
  - If hen lays any eggs, take out artificial egg; otherwise put in a second egg two days later
  - If nothing hatches, put in a day old squab at the appropriate time ( when parents are lactating)
- Obviously the birds should be old enough.

# Old Birds – Reproductive Failures

- Egg Binding: Hen unable to pass egg in oviduct
  - Apply moist heat; provide comfortable clean nest
  - Lubricate through vent (cloaca); try to work out
  - Break egg only if necessary to remove; follow up with antibiotic treatment (Amoxicillin; Cephalexin)
  - Causes: Malnutrition, especially Calcium or Vit D3; infection in oviduct (salpingitis); excess fat; hen too old or too young; inadequate preparation.

# Old and Young Bird Diseases

- **Chlamydia** – An intracellular Bacteria
  - Symptoms: One Eye Cold  $\pm$  sinusitis; reduced respiratory capacity; poor doers; bouncing ball
  - Two forms of the bacteria:
    - Elementary body (external/resting; resistant in environ)
    - Essential/Reticulate (intracellular; active, reproductive; drug sensitive) body.
  - Treatment: Tetracyclines (Doxycycline) x 45 days; Requires medication capable of penetrating cells
  - Many adults are unapparent carriers
  - Some Chlamydia are zoonotic; pigeon is NOT