

**To:** Rooke, Emma (PIRSA) <[Emma.Rooke@sa.gov.au](mailto:Emma.Rooke@sa.gov.au)>

**Subject:** Pigeon paramyxovirus detected in SA pigeons

Dear all,

Pigeon paramyxovirus disease (PMV) has been detected in South Australia in a pigeon loft in the Murraylands. The disease is regarded as endemic throughout Australia, although this is the first formally confirmed case in this State.

PMV disease causes high mortalities in non-immunised populations. Affected birds become lethargic, may show signs of regurgitation and diarrhoea as well as nervous symptoms. Very few sick birds recover. The disease is spread largely through direct contact with sick birds, but also through contaminated equipment and cages.

The disease is regarded as highly species specific, and birds other than pigeons are rarely affected. There is no risk to human health.

Owners should not enter show events or races if their birds are not fully immunised. They should not buy in birds of unknown health status. Inactivated Newcastle disease vaccinated may be used off-label on veterinary prescription, giving two doses a month apart – full immunity is normally reached 4-6 weeks after the second vaccination.

Owners experiencing loft mortalities or seeking information about vaccination should contact their veterinarians ASAP.

More information is available at:

<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/livestock-biosecurity/pigeon-paramyxovirus-ppmv1>

<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/poultry/health-disease/advice-for-bird-owners>

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/pests-diseases-and-weeds/animal-diseases/vetsource-information-for-vets/pigeon-paramyxovirus-information-for-veterinarians>

[http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal\\_health/poultry/pigeon\\_paramyxovirus](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecurity/animal_health/poultry/pigeon_paramyxovirus)

For more information, please contact your private veterinarian.

Cheers, Emma

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