

sahpa

Subject: FW: FW: Pigeon paramyxovirus & pigeon racing

From: Dickason, Celia (PIRSA) [mailto:Celia.Dickason@sa.gov.au]

Sent: Wednesday, 7 September 2011 9:33 PM

To: gavin.harris@evolvingsolutions.com.au

Subject: Pigeon paramyxovirus & pigeon racing

Dear Gavin

As discussed with you this evening, the pigeon paramyxovirus outbreak in Victoria is currently being investigated. There are a few properties reported to be infected so far, with more investigations continuing. It is possible that more properties will be reported as being infected in the next few weeks. Due to the potential this disease has to spread rapidly, it is unlikely that outbreaks will be resolved soon.

It is also possible that if racing is suspended for a couple of weeks with a plan to resume racing thereafter, that pigeon racers may still wish to train/exercise their birds in the interim. This would defeat the purpose of suspending racing, as the birds would still be able to mix with other birds while they are out, thereby potentially exposing them to infection with pigeon paramyxovirus. This disease causes a very high mortality rate in affected birds, and is highly infectious, so it is not advisable to allow birds to mix with other birds (wild or otherwise).

Due to the reasons mentioned above, I believe it would be in your organisation's best interest to end the pigeon racing season early, therefore minimising risk of exposure of members' birds to infection.

Warm regards

Celia

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