

Bio security procedures to follow in the case of an outbreak of Avian Influenza or Newcastle Disease (virulent Paramyxovirus)

Procedures if one of the above mentioned diseases is found in your area, i.e. within 200 km.

1. Lock down – do not let your birds out.

- close access to aviaries.
- **call** all other fanciers to ensure all are aware
- **this is the most important of all the suggestions**

2. Eliminate all activities that require getting together, try to avoid contact with other pigeon fanciers and also poultry producers. Use phone for contact when necessary, this will minimize exposure to the virus. Do not bring in new birds or ship out existing birds.

3. Avoid spending time at the coffee shop / restaurant.

4. Make sure your birds are vaccinated for Paramyxovirus, this helps to keep their immune system in good working order.

5. Avoid areas where waterfowl frequent, such as parks. The instance of AI is higher in wild waterfowl.

6. Watch your birds for any unusual symptoms, ask for help if you are not sure from your local vet, the CU, Dr. Chalmers, if you have access to him or even the CFIA Inspectors that will be in your area. We are all there to help and want to if you ask..

7. Use common sense, if you think it sounds risky, it probably is.

Additional procedures if the outbreak is in your direct vicinity, i.e. 50 km. This is a little extreme but is a simple procedure that will show we are doing all we can to help.

8. Wear clean rubber boots from the house to the coop. Have a set of loft shoes in the coop. Have a footbath at the coop door (I use a chlorine pool puck in a pan of water. Be sure children and animals cannot get in it.) Step in the pan on your way in the loft. Change to your loft shoes for any work in the loft. Change back as you leave, again stepping in the footbath. This procedure is to avoid bringing the virus in from exposure to waterfowl such as ducks, geese and seagulls, the prime reservoir for the virus and they can leave you a load of virus just flying over your property.

Remember to change clothes and wash your hands before leaving home.

Finally, you may want to do a lock down for other diseases such as Foot & Mouth. Our birds are not affected but can be physical carriers of the virus. It would show our neighbors that we are concerned for their welfare as well as our own.

Watch for updates and links to Bio-security sites that will come on line in the near future for more detailed programs.

