

ANY MEANS TO PREVENT?

Recently It has become a fashion to give pigeons vinegar from apples which is supposed to reduce an outbreak of 'Adeno/coli' due to the pH. Vinegar belongs, as you know quite well, to a broad category of chemical substances marked by a sour taste. Most body functions depend on the maintenance of balance between acids and bases in cells, blood and other body fluids. Others give yoghurt, also probiotics (an addition of good bacteria) have become popular among fanciers especially to those who have become desperate because of the problems they encounter year after year. Is there a thing you can do to reduce an outbreak of Adeno/coli? Furthermore you hear people say that after they vaccinated the birds against paratyphoid they did not have problems with Coli. Does this make sense to you? It also seems that as for old birds hens are more vulnerable than cocks. Your reaction please?

Dr. de Weerd: 'Unfortunately I do not think there is one thing a fancier can do to safeguard himself for 100 percent. Why do I say for '100 percent?' Because I do think there are things that might help to reduce chances to prevent an outbreak indeed. One of them is vinegar from apples. I am a very great supporter of this stuff though I do not sell it myself. In my opinion one spoonful of vinegar in a liter water every two days reduces chances of an outbreak of Coli but, once more, no guarantee, just a smaller risk. Yoghurt might also help because of the lactobacilli it contains.

About probiotics my message is short: Scientists all over the world are doubtful despite the publicity which is made for them. Pigeon magazines can only survive by publicity, I know. But a good and respectable pigeon magazine should provide any articles which might be educational to the fancier. That is the moral task towards the subscribers who pay to get the right information. Right information in the pigeon press should be more important than make some money made by adverts. I also heard the rumors that pigeons which were vaccinated against paratyphoid do not get 'Adeno/Col' but for me these are no more than rumors. Scientifically there is nothing to support this idea. That hens are more vulnerable to 'Adeno/Coli' than cocks is a fable. And you better not believe in fables. Some years ago somewhere in Holland hundreds of pigeons died only a couple of days after they were in perfect shape. It was no less than a disaster. Nobody talked about it then as there lived some 'sellers' in the area who were afraid foreigners would not buy their birds if they would know about it but I can tell you it was both cocks and hens that died by the hundreds.