

More about the interview between Dr. weerd and Ad S.;

"Another question about this theme. Is there anything a fancier can do to prevent an outbreak of paratyphoid? Dr De Weerd: 'First of all I want to tell you that paratyphoid and quality are quite different things. I know that some people say that good pigeons never get sick. That is bull. When you have many eggs which are not filled or little babies in the nest that die you better watch out. For 90 percent sure you have paratyphoid and this has nothing to do with quality. Even the best pigeons in the world can get it. But the question was 'if we can do something to prevent paratyphoid?' I think we can indeed. Which fanciers do have most problems? A: Owners of breeding stations. B: People that import many birds from different fanciers. What I mean to say is this: You have a greater chance to get paratyphoid when birds of different fanciers get into contact with each other unless you take measures of course. Paratyphoid is a much more serious problem with pigeons than many fanciers are aware of. You know what often happens? The birds are not in good shape, the fancier medicates against all kinds of everything apart from their real problem: Paratyphoid.

About this disease I have one final remark: Many vets (collegians) are undeservedly accused of being incapable. Fanciers send the droppings of birds to a vet and he in turn sends these droppings to a lab to have them tested. When in a lab the bacteria is found you may be sure you have a problem. But if they do not find the bacteria, so if the test is negative, this does not mean it cannot be there !!! Moreover it is possible that the bacteria is not found in one sample of the droppings but it is found in another. This is something good to remember for every pigeon fancier. If you have a healthy family of birds the best way to keep it healthy is never to import other birds. But import other birds now and then and try out new crossings is an absolute must for every ambitious fancier. That's why I agree with your method: Medicate preventively yearly. Of course there is also the possibility of a blood test. This is a much safer method.

STRANGE OR NOT

A strange thing is that in case of salmonella very often coccidiosis and or streptococci are also involved. Is that a coincidence or? Dr de Weerd: 'That is rather normal than a coincidence. You must know that normally speaking coccidiosis is not a big problem with pigeons. When they are healthy and the environment is good, I mean not too humid, pigeons rarely suffer from coccidiosis. This is different however when birds are weakened for whatever reason. For example after a hard race or because of sicknesses. Salmonella and streptococci of course weakens the body of birds very much and that gives coccidiosis a chance. But once more in normal situations it is not a problem and I would like to warn against medicine against coccidiosis during the racing season. Some of them are so called condition killers. So my advice? Do not take chances; vaccinate your birds against salmonella yearly but not the birds which you are racing."