

Instructions for Pigeon Paramyxovirus (PMV) Vaccine

Product Description:

This vaccine is a killed viral vaccine consisting of formaldehyde killed PMV virus. It has been developed from an isolate taken from a sick pigeon which subsequently died from disease caused by Pigeon Paramyxovirus (PMV). The isolate has been extensively tested, gene sequenced and verified to be the genuine disease causing organism commonly referred to as Pigeon Paramyxovirus (PMV). This vaccine is intended to aid in the prevention of PMV infections in pigeons.

Indications:

This vaccine is intended for use in all types of domestic pigeons. Vaccinate only healthy birds, preferably during a period of low stress, such as after the moult or prior to breeding season. Avoid vaccination during the breeding, racing and showing seasons, during the moult and in pigeons less than 6 weeks of age. It is also advisable to observe birds carefully for any possible reaction, and to avoid stressing them for 48 hours post vaccination.

Vaccinate all birds in the flock; this includes not only breeders, fliers and young birds, but also feeders, droppers and all stock/odd birds. Vaccinate all birds, regardless of whether they are kept fully confined, or go out for racing, flying, training or showing. Do not vaccinate during periods of extreme heat/cold. A light meal is advised 2 hours prior to vaccination. During a PMV disease outbreak, vaccinate all healthy birds to stimulate their immune systems. Vaccination will not cure birds already sick, and these should not be vaccinated; for treatment, please consult a pigeon Veterinarian for appropriate symptomatic relief/support and additional control measures.

Vaccine Administration:

Shake the bottle well before using, and after every ten birds have been vaccinated. Vaccination is accomplished by using a small (3 ml or less) syringe and a small (19 or higher) gauge needle to inject 0.25 ml of the vaccine subcutaneously at the base of the neck over the back. Aseptic technique should be used: clean the injection site with alcohol (pull a few feathers if necessary); use a separate sterile needle and syringe for each bird. Caution should be taken to insert the needle at the shoulder level at the back of the neck, and not any higher up the neck. There is an extensive venous plexus higher up in the neck which must be avoided. To insure this, gently draw back on the plunger in the syringe after needle insertion; if blood comes into the syringe through the needle, withdraw the needle from the bird, and try again. An alternate vaccination site is the inguinal area; prep similarly, and give the injection subcutaneously. In the unlikely occurrence of anaphylaxis, treat with epinephrine or atropine sulfate. Have a pigeon Veterinarian or a Veterinary Technician perform this procedure if necessary.

Initially, two vaccinations are recommended 3 to 4 weeks apart, and 2 to 3 weeks prior to racing, showing or breeding. Thereafter an annual booster is recommended. A minimum 21-day withdrawal period is required prior to slaughter.

General Information:

This vaccine has been carefully produced and has undergone potency, purity, sterility and safety tests.

Technical Support:

Questions concerning the use of this vaccine should be directed to Dr. John Kazmierczak at West Trenton Animal Hospital, phone (609)-771-0995.