

## **PARATYPHOID**

**This is rewritten from "Pigeons for Pleasure and Profit By; Charles Foy & Clair Hetland.**

**Paratyphoid is a deadly killer of pigeons and also one of the most difficult diseases to recognize in the flock. A swollen, feverish lump on the wing or knee joints is an almost positive symptom in old birds: Added comment: (Could be a tumor)?**

**The swelling subsides but will leave the pigeon lame or with a dragging, stiff or useless wing. During an outbreak there may be a marked decrease in the fertility of eggs as well as many partially or fully developed squabs that die in the shell.**

**Affected squabs in the nest will refuse to eat, lose weight, and seem to dry up. The parents might quit feeding them. Slight diarrhea might be present. In advanced stages the neck might twist. Squabs out of the nest ruffle up, only the feathers seem to grow.**

**They lose their appetite, stagger, appear glassy-eyed, shrivel up and die. Until a few years ago there was no drug on the market to fight Paratyphoid in pigeons. We just had to "live with it," hoping the disease would not show up the next breeding season.**

**Fortunately we now have several things we can do to control Paratyphoid. If you have an outbreak you should immediately stop breeding by separating males and females. There are variety of medications available. At this time, drugs proven to work include Cipro, Baytril, Sulfa-trimethoprim, Albon, Sulmet, and Aureomycin. Whether these drugs will be the best in five years we don't know. Check with Foy's (Jerry's) or your veterinarian.**

**It is best to prevent Paratyphoid by vaccination. This vaccine does a good job only when the directions are followed.**

**Another prevention is to acidify the litter. A combination of Sodium Acid Sulfate and Sulfur applied to the floor will work well. It should be noted that lime is alkaline and when used it will PROMOTE Paratyphoid. A tablespoon of vinegar per gallon of drinking water will help control Salmonella from being spread in the water. Of course, keeping droppings out of the drinking water is essential.**

**It should be noted that doves do not live long if they get Paratyphoid. So if you keep a pair of Doves in your loft and they do okay you probably do not have Paratyphoid.**

**The insidious part of the disease is the difficulty of completely eliminating it. You can cure 95% of your flock and be left with 5% that also survived, but have become carriers. Finding those birds can be difficult. If you have a pair that survived an**

**outbreak but still loses babies you must cull them. At the time of this writing, it is my understanding that Baytril, Sarafloxin, and Cipro will remove the disease from carriers. But I am willing to bet that won't last because these drugs are being used recklessly. The Paratyphoid bacteria will build up an immunity to these medications due to irresponsible distribution.**

**These drugs should only be obtained from a veterinarian and then only used according to the prescription instructions.**