



CARROT JUICE

Text: Gary Miller, president of the Arizona Pigeon Club. Photos: AE

This was passed onto me by several members of the club & friends. It's a very interesting article and may be of interest to a few. Some of the readers are aware that I actively participate in the racing sport. When shipping birds to a race, often 3500 birds are entered and the watering system (trough) will tend to service 4-500 birds each. Thus, often a recipe for disease.

A few months ago, my race team came down with Circo Virus. Those that are not aware of this disease, it can be very deadly, primarily hitting young birds. It is similar to AIDS in humans, it completely shuts down the immune system, making the birds in danger to any infection that is normally kept in check. The disease being

a virus, has no cure yet when the disease runs its course, the birds are not carriers, unlike salmonella. Those that have problems with Circo, treat for secondary infections, coccidia, typhoid, etc. Of course, the medications place further strains on the birds. Generally, one tries to replace fluids as much as possible and one treatment is give the birds *Pedialyte* or even *Gatorade*. Incidentally, all birds are vaccinated for PMV and typhoid at 4 weeks, again at 10 weeks.

I lost about 8 young racing homers, 3 Modenas and nearly 40 Voorburgs. The disease took a toll on the Voorburgs, they apparently were just more susceptible. I lost almost all the young birds, save those that have been recently weaned.

Treated for the secondary problems, cleaned daily, changed the PH of the water, added vitamins and probiotics regularly. Yet, daily, one or two more birds would come down with the disease (confirmed by the Cal State Lab and Dr. Zollars in Indiana) The samples sent were negative for salmonella, PMV, Adeno, cocci, & e.coli.





In a conversation with a friend from Norway, he reported that a woman in Sweden has recommended treating bird viruses with carrot juice! She is not a pigeon fancier and I think I was told she may be a gypsy from one of the Eastern Countries. (Hungary?) Apparently, she raises other types of domestic birds or fowl. Of course my reply was, "Really, you know that doesn't make sense, one can't treat a virus!" His reply was, "Don't kill the messenger, I'm just repeating what some of the Europeans are doing for Circo, PMV and Adeno." OK, but after losing nearly 50 birds, one often gets desperate and will try something that goes against conventional wisdom. One young bird loft had continual problems, the other lofts had either old birds or much older youngsters and were not infected.

The birds that became infected were generally between 8 -12 weeks of age. Additionally, I kept 4 youngsters that normally would be dispatched that were desperately sick. Circo places a huge demand on the kidneys, a great amount of urea is produced and the birds rapidly became dehydrated and emaciated. Within 3-4 days, they are so "down" they are incapable of walking. Within 12 hours they die. So, I took the advice, made a 50/50 blend of carrot juice and water. Held the very sick birds to the drinker and gave the same blend to two lofts. This was on a Sunday, in fact July 5. I repeated holding the birds to drink about three or four times that day. The next morning before work I noticed what I thought was a slight improvement but fully expected the birds to be dead upon my return from work. Later, the birds appeared brighter, they no longer closed their eyes and while they could not walk yet, they were definitely improved over the day before. Also, no sick birds in either of the two treated lofts. On Tuesday, I was surprised to see the very sick birds try to eat and definitely the treated lofts showed an improvement. Only held the birds twice to drink since I went to work that day.. Tuesday evening, the sick birds were standing and tried to eat on their own. Wednesday morning, were eating and the responded well to offerings of safflower. I continued with the carrot juice until Friday and one week later, a visitor would not be able to tell which birds were sick. Of course, their weight is still down, but all are recovering nicely and next weekend they will be removed from isolation and join the community loft again. They were eager to take a bath last Sunday and fly readily to perches in the isolation cage.

So, a couple of ideas here: The disease actually ran its course and was in the final stages anyway.....or, my constant good care allowed survival of the fittest. Or? ... does the beta carotene that is high in carrots acts as some blocking agent to a virus? Do carrots, high in sugar content and carbohydrates contribute to a recovery process? Is there something else? Ironically, I spoke to a racing homer fancier whose wife is a Chinese physician that specializes in Eastern remedies and life styles. I told him of the above and he rather smiled and said, "Of course, carrots have been used for years for viruses as well as other vegetable products". He indicated that this is a treatment for PMV and Adeno as well and apparently used readily in Europe and the Far East.

So, I cannot comment more on the subject, makes little sense to me...but, if the birds even faintly look sick, carrot juice will be in the mix. Just sharing some findings, don't kill the messenger.

Note: Can you relate to this article? If you have used carrot juice, we would like to hear from you at

Redactie@aviculture-europe.nl



CHICKEN DRAWINGS

Want a picture of your favorite chicken? Send by email a photo of the chicken as you want the drawing. I don't know by heart the details of every breed, so make sure the colour variety and head and comb can be seen clearly in the images; if needed send several photos. In just a few days you will receive the drawing per snail mail.



You will also receive the digital file (jpg) by email, so you can e.g. have it printed on canvas, which is really nice! You can arrange this yourself, as it is cheaper via internet.

The original drawing is A4 and can be printed on canvas at least 2 times larger, because of the lower resolution compared to (printing) print.

It is also possible to do a portrait of the head only. I can draw other animals too; actually, each animal is possible as long as it is not a human.

One chicken drawing, A4 print on card + digital file by email is € 20,00 Including shipping in the Netherlands. Please contact me for shipping costs abroad.

Sigrid van Dort info@tuinvee.nl or see www.tuinvee.nl

PHOTO REPORT

NOORD SHOW

7-8-9 JANUARY 2010

The online photo reportage by Mireille Schuijt is now available for the readers of Aviculture Europe at:

<http://s398.photobucket.com/albums/pp67/dreamer-1985/Noordshow%202010/?albumview=slideshow>



This splendid series of over 200 photos, will give you a very good impression of the largest poultry show in the Netherlands. The full list of participants and entered animals can be seen on www.noordshow.nl

The photos were taken during judging day, so the winners were not known at the time. However, if you wish to have more information on a specific photo - such as breed name, colour variety or even the name of the owner - don't hesitate to ask via mireilleschuijt@hotmail.com or via redactie@aviculture-europe.nl

Click the album link and
ENJOY THESE PHOTOS!



DRENTHE FOWL - DRENTHE BANTAMS

This very special book was recently published in the Netherlands: It describes the history of the Drenthe Fowl (Drentse Hoenders) in all their colour varieties and also the rumpless variety (Drentse Bolstaart) and the Drenthe Bantams (Drentse Kriel). The book is in Dutch, and copiously illustrated with drawings of Van Gink and many photos of top chickens of Club members. Costs, exclusive shipment, €32, 50 For all further information please contact Hans Meijer, e-mail novazemb@xs4all.nl

SCALED QUAIL

There are 4 subspecies of Scaled Quail. The nominate subspecies, *Callipepla s. squamata* is native to Mexico. They are often called blue quail or 'cotton top' and live in arid habitat with mesquite and other thorny scrubs, which are essential as natural cover, and the berries and seeds are the most important food source. Together with insects and plant shoots, the berries are also an indispensable source of moisture. Still free water may become a critical factor for survival of young birds during dry times and many die in years of extreme drought.

Scaled quail are swift on foot and often prefer to run rather than hide or fly. Like other quail, they are monogamous, ground-nesting birds. They are known for their contact call: "Pe-cos".

Listen to the sound on

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Scaled_Quail/sounds

They can be kept in aviaries with a sandy and dry soil. The pen should have an area where they can hide or feel secure.

The eggs have irregular light to dark brown spots and are larger in size and less pointed than the eggs of the Bobwhite hens.

**Left:
Scaled Quails in the London Zoo;
a Drawing from Life, by John
Gould.**





Scaled quail are medium size quails. Both sexes have a short, broad crest, which is white-tipped, hence the name 'cotton-top'.

Usually the crest of the hen looks smaller compared to the male's crest. The difference in sex can also be seen in the chin feathers; males have plain light brown feathers and females have faint brown pin-stripe in the throat area.

The head is grey-brown.

The eye is dark brown, and the small, stout bill is black.

The plumage of the neck, upper back and chest is blue-gray, each feather having a narrow, black lacing; their name refers to these scale-like markings. The scaling extends to the underparts.

The upperwings are grey-brown, the flanks are grey with white streaks.

The belly is light coloured with a buff to chestnut fleck, darker in the male and much lighter in the female.

The nominate subspecies has a whitish belly.

The tail is bluish grey, the outer feathers white laced.

The legs and feet are dull brown.

Photo: Dirk de Jong.