

PARAMYXOVIRUS - MAKING SURE YOU USE ONLY AUTHORISED MEDICINES: ADVICE FROM THE VETERINARY MEDICINES DIRECTORATE (VMD)

We understand that many of you at this time of year will have vaccinated or are about to vaccinate your pigeons against paramyxovirus which can significantly harm their health.

Pigeon paramyxovirus infection is a notifiable disease. That means if you suspect it you must [tell the Animal and Plant Health Agency](#) immediately. Failure to do so is an offence.

To clear up any confusion about the vaccines you should be using, the VMD, the Government agency which regulates veterinary medicines in the UK, has set out what you must do to comply with the law when using medicines, including vaccines, for your pigeons.

Anyone using a medicine on a pigeon and indeed any animal must use a UK **authorised** medicine*. If you are unsure if the medicine is authorised in the UK you should consult the VMD's online [Product Information Database](#) which has an A-Z listing of all UK authorised veterinary medicines. This is on the VMD's GOV.UK website. You can also select the target species 'pigeon' to search for all veterinary medicines which can be used in pigeons - there are currently 19.

Using an unauthorised medicine is an offence against the Veterinary Medicines Regulations. Illegal medicines can be seized and users and suppliers may be prosecuted.

The only time when you may use a medicine that is not authorised in the UK is when a suitable medicine is not authorised or available in the UK to treat the specific condition. On these occasions, your vet - and only your vet – may:

- use another medicine authorised in the UK for another species or condition that may be suitable or
- apply to the VMD to import a suitable medicine

The VMD will accept applications to import medicines including vaccines if there is no suitable medicine available or authorised in the UK to treat the specific condition..The VMD is aware that some pigeon owners may be tempted to treat their pigeons with, or improve their performance by, using unauthorised medicines such as antibiotics and steroids. As well as presenting a risk to your birds' health and that of the handlers, this is illegal and you may be prosecuted.

* Some medicines for homing pigeons that contain certain ingredients do not have to have a marketing authorisation. For details about the legal exemptions for homing pigeons and other small pet animals see www.gov.uk/guidance/exemption-from-authorisation-for-medicines-for-small-pet-animals

Note: There is guidance on [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) on how to spot paramyxovirus infection in pigeons, what to do if you suspect it and measures to prevent its spread.

Annex: List of VMPs authorised for use in pigeons as at 3 April 2018.

Product name	MA Holder	Vm No.	Date issued	Active substance	CD ?	Target species	Dist. Cat.	SPC link	Distributer
Amoxicure, 30% w/w Powder for Oral Solution	Oropharma n.v	13058/4004	02/04/2000	Amoxicillin	N	Pigeons	POM-V	View SPC	Oropharma nv
Appertex 2.5 mg Tablets	Harkers Ltd	11245/4000	17/09/1992	Clazuril	N	Pigeons	AVM-GSL	View SPC	Harkers Limited
Avicas, Febantel 15 mg, Tablet	Oropharma n.v	13058/4000	19/05/1994	Febantel	N	Pigeons	AVM-GSL	View SPC	Oropharma nv
Colombovac PMV	Zoetis UK Limited	42058/4020	28/02/2005	Newcastle disease virus	N	Pigeons	POM-VPS	View SPC	Zoetis UK Limited
Colombovac PMV/Pox	Zoetis UK Limited	42058/4021	05/10/1998	Newcastle disease virus, Pigeonpox virus	N	Pigeons	POM-VPS	View SPC	Zoetis UK Limited
Coxi Plus, Sulfadimethoxine Sodium Anhydrous 25% w/w Powder for Oral Solution	Oropharma n.v	13058/4002	14/08/1997	Sulphadimethoxine Sodium Anhydrous	N	Pigeons	POM-V	View SPC	Oropharma nv
Euthoxin 500 mg/ml Solution for Injection	Chanelle Pharmaceuticals Manufacturing Ltd	08749/4055	11/04/2016	Pentobarbital Sodium	3	Cats, Cattle, Chickens, Dogs, Frogs, Guinea Pigs,	POM-V	View SPC	Chanelle Animal Health Ltd

						Hamsters, Hares, Horses, Lizards, Mice, Mink, Ornament al Birds, Pigeons, Pigs, Polecats, Rabbits, Rats, Snakes, Tortoises			
Harkers Carnidazole 10 mg Tablets	Harkers Ltd	11245/4002	15/09/1992	Carnidazole	N	Pigeons	AVM-GSL	View SPC	Harkers Limited
Harkers Pigeon Coccidiosis Treatment 3.84% w/v Concentrate for Oral Solution	Harkers Ltd	11245/4003	18/04/1996	Amprolium Hydrochloride	N	Pigeons	AVM-GSL	View SPC	Harkers Limited
Isoba 100% w/w Inhalation Vapour, Liquid	Intervet UK Ltd	01708/4600	02/01/2002	Isoflurane	N	Cats, Chinchilla, Dogs, Ferrets, Gerbil, Guinea Pigs, Hamsters, Horses, Mice, Ornament al Birds, Pigeons,	POM-V	View SPC	Intervet UK Ltd

						Rabbits, Rats, Reptiles			
Isoxetol 100% w/w Inhalation Vapour, Liquid	Intervet UK Ltd	01708/4601	07/08/2002	Isoflurane	N	Cats, Chinchilla, Dogs, Ferrets, Gerbil, Guinea Pigs, Hamsters, Horses, Mice, Ornament al Birds, Pigeons, Rats, Reptiles	POM-V	View SPC	Intervet UK Ltd
Johnson's Anti Pest Insect Spray	Johnson's Veterinary Products Ltd	01759/4047	08/10/1991	Piperonyl Butoxide, Pyrethrum Extract 25%	N	Cats, Dogs, Pigeons	AVM- GSL	View SPC	Johnson's Veterinary Products Ltd
Johnson's Anti-Mite and Insect Spray, Cutaneous Spray, Solution	Johnson's Veterinary Products Ltd	01759/4037	22/04/1991	Piperonyl Butoxide, Pyrethrum Extract 25%	N	Budgerigar , Cage Birds, Canaries, Pigeons	AVM- GSL	View SPC	Johnson's Veterinary Products Ltd
Johnson's Pigeon Insect Spray	Johnson's Veterinary Products Ltd	01759/4046	08/10/1991	Piperonyl Butoxide, Pyrethrum Extract 25%	N	Pigeons	AVM- GSL	View SPC	Johnson's Veterinary Products Ltd
Meranox 25 mg/ml Oral Suspension for Pigeons	Avimedical B.V.	43564/4002	28/04/2017	Fenbendazole	N	Pigeons	POM-V	View SPC	Avimedical B.V.
Nobilis Paramyxo P201	Intervet UK Ltd	01708/4489	10/10/2002	Pigeon paramyxo	N	Pigeons	POM-	View	Intervet Ireland

				virus			VPS	SPC	Ltd. Intervet UK Ltd.
Ornicure 150 mg/g, Powder for Use in Drinking Water for Racing Pigeons and Ornamental Birds	Oropharma n.v	13058/4005	28/07/2016	Doxycycline Hyclate	N	Ornament al Birds, Pigeons	POM-V	View SPC	Oropharma n.v
Release 300 mg/ml, Solution for Injection	WDT- Wirtschaftsgenosse nschaft deutscher Tieraerzte eG	32829/4000	05/08/2008	Pentobarbital Sodium	3	Cage Birds, Cats, Cattle, Chickens, Dogs, Frogs , Guinea Pigs, Hamsters, Hares, Horses, Lizards, Mice, Mink, Pigeons, Pigs, Polecats, Rabbits, Rats, Snakes, Tortoises	POM-V	View SPC	WDT- Wirtschaftsgenos senschaft deutscher Tieraerzte eG
Sulfatrim (16 mg/ml + 80 mg/ml) Oral Drops	Le Vet B.V.	19994/4024	28/03/2014	Sulfamethoxazole , Trimethoprim	N	Bearded Dragons, Pigeons, Rabbits	POM-V	View SPC	Virbac Ltd