

## **Paramyxovirus - making sure you use only authorised vaccines: 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. Paramyxovirus can significantly harm a pigeon's health.

Pigeon paramyxovirus infection is a notifiable disease. That means if you suspect your pigeon is infected you must tell the Animal and Plant Health Agency (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/paramyxovirus-infection>) 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 administering a medicine to a pigeon, or 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. The database can be found on the VMD's [GOV.UK] website:

<https://www.vmd.defra.gov.uk/ProductInformationDatabase/>

You can select the target species 'pigeon' to search for all veterinary medicines which can be used in pigeons.

Using an unauthorised medicine is an offence under 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 a medicine authorised in the UK for another species or condition that may be suitable
- 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.

#1940597

For details about the legal exemptions for homing pigeons and other small pet animals see the guidance on GOV.UK; [www.gov.uk/guidance/exemption-from-authorisation-for-medicines-for-small-pet-animals](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/exemption-from-authorisation-for-medicines-for-small-pet-animals)

Note: There is guidance on GOV.UK; <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/paramyxovirus-infection> 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 6 November 2020.

Product Name	MA Holder	Vm No.	Active substance	Distributor category	Link to SPC	Distributor
Amoxicure, 30% w/w Powder for Oral Solution	Oropharma n.v	13058/4004	Amoxicillin	POM-V	<a href="#">View SPC</a>	Oropharma nv
Appertex 2.5 mg Tablets	Harkers Ltd	11245/4000	Clazuril	AVM-GSL	<a href="#">View SPC</a>	Harkers Limited
Avicas, Febantel 15 mg, Tablet	Oropharma n.v	13058/4000	Febantel	AVM-GSL	<a href="#">View SPC</a>	Oropharma nv
Colombovac PMV	Zoetis UK Limited	42058/4020	Newcastle disease virus	POM-VPS	<a href="#">View SPC</a>	Zoetis UK Limited
Colombovac PMV/Pox	Zoetis UK Limited	42058/4021	Newcastle disease virus, Pigeonpox virus	POM-VPS	<a href="#">View SPC</a>	Zoetis UK Limited
Coxi Plus, Sulfadimethoxine Sodium Anhydrous 25% w/w Powder for Oral Solution	Oropharma n.v	13058/4002	Sulphadimethoxine Sodium Anhydrous	POM-V	<a href="#">View SPC</a>	Oropharma nv

#1940597

Harkers Carnidazole 10 mg Tablets	Harkers Ltd	11245/4002	Carnidazole	AVM-GSL	<a href="#">View SPC</a>	Harkers Limited
Harkers Pigeon Coccidiosis Treatment 3.84% w/v Concentrate for Oral Solution	Harkers Ltd	11245/4003	Amprolium Hydrochloride	AVM-GSL	<a href="#">View SPC</a>	Harkers Limited
Johnson's Anti Pest Insect Spray	Johnson's Veterinary Products Ltd	01759/4047	Piperonyl Butoxide, Pyrethrum Extract 25%	AVM-GSL	<a href="#">View SPC</a>	Johnson's Veterinary Products Ltd
Johnson's Anti-Mite and Insect Spray, Cutaneous Spray, Solution	Johnson's Veterinary Products Ltd	01759/4037	Piperonyl Butoxide, Pyrethrum Extract 25%	AVM-GSL	<a href="#">View SPC</a>	Johnson's Veterinary Products Ltd
Johnson's Pigeon Insect Spray	Johnson's Veterinary Products Ltd	01759/4046	Piperonyl Butoxide, Pyrethrum Extract 25%	AVM-GSL	<a href="#">View SPC</a>	Johnson's Veterinary Products Ltd
Meranox 25 mg/ml Oral Suspension for Pigeons	Avimedical B.V.	43564/4002	Fenbendazole	POM-V	<a href="#">View SPC</a>	Avimedical B.V.
Nobilis Paramyxo P201	Intervet UK Ltd	01708/4489	Pigeon paramyxo virus	POM-VPS	<a href="#">View SPC</a>	Intervet Ireland Ltd.  MSD Animal Health UK Limited
Ornicure 150 mg/g, Powder for Use in Drinking Water for Racing Pigeons and Ornamental Birds	Oropharma n.v	13058/4005	Doxycycline Hyclate	POM-V	<a href="#">View SPC</a>	Oropharma n.v

#1940597

Sulfatrim (16 mg/ml +  
80 mg/ml) Oral Drops

Le Vet B.V.

19994/4024

Sulfamethoxazole,  
Trimethoprim

POM-V

[View  
SPC](#)

Virbac Ltd