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立法會 CB(2) 1226/05-06(01)號文件  
LC Paper No. CB(2) 1226/05-06(01)

The Hong Kong Racing Pigeon Association Ltd.

香港特別行政區立法會

尊敬議員

本人因不在港昨天才回，奉會員要求  
出席24日賽會小組委員會懇請批准表達  
意見。(大約10人出席)

同時附上一大部份資料以便參閱。

秘書長

許建榮

22/2/06

手提電話 93500439

The Hong Kong Racing Pigeon Association 香港賽鴿會

16/F, Tern Centre II, 251 Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong. Tel: 2545 0495 Fax: 2545 6751

Member: Asian Racing Pigeon Fancier Federation Affiliate: Federation Colombophile Internationale

11 Feb. 2006 13:08

NO. 2674 11 107

郭先生:

附信內容大致是由國際鴿盟致歐盟有關由賽鴿傳遞禽流感的風險評估。

第二頁中的結論是說賽鴿感染禽流感的機會不大，所以對傳遞禽流感入一個地區的威脅不大。賽鴿並非儲存禽流感病毒的‘冰塊’。

跟著以下的各小段是介紹賽鴿的居住情況，運送情況以及比賽情況等。

所以他們認為3月份的比賽應如期舉行，並在最後一句說明最新歐盟指引上已認為賽鴿不應<sup>被</sup>列為Poultry(禽畜)。

最後他們說儘管沒有風險，以下安全措施仍當留意：

- ① 六月一日前不放鬆比賽。
- ② 只有比其地有鳥分閘飼養的賽鴿才可以參賽。
- ③ 飼養在可以自由出入的籠子的賽鴿不准參賽。

林太

2月11日

Présidence et Secrétariat Général  
Rue de Livourne 39 - 1050 BRUXELLES  
Tel. (02) 537 62 11 - Fax (02) 539 87 21

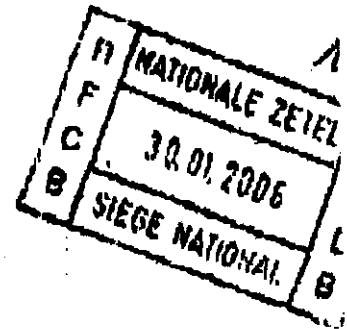
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N° AD. A rappeler

Annexe:

Brussels, 24 January 2006



To : Mr Marcos Kyrianiou,  
Member of the European Commission,  
Rue de la Loi 200,  
B-1040 Brussels.

- Copies to :
- Mr R Madelin - European Commission- Director General-DG Health and Consumer Protection,
  - Mr J Husu Kallio - European Commission-Deputy Director General-DG Health and Consumer Protection,
  - Mr B Van Goethem -European Commission-Director-DG Health and Consumer Protection-Directorate D,
  - Mr A Laddomada-European Commission-Deputy Head of Unit-DG Health and Consumer Protection-Directorate D.1,
  - Mr. Mr. W.A. Valder-European Commission-Legislative veterinary officer -DG Health and Consumer Protection-Directorate D.1.
- address:  
Rue Froissart 101.  
B-1040 Brussels

Subject : Risk assessment with regard to the transmission of avian influenza by racing pigeons

Dear Mr. Kyrianiou,

On 20 December 2005 the EU Council adopted the revised Avian Influenza Directive which will repeal Council Directive 92/40/EEC on Community control measures for the control of AI.

The Community measures on avian influenza (AI) were updated with the objective to achieve better prevention and control of outbreaks and to reduce the health risks, the costs and losses and the negative impact to the whole of society due to this disease. In this updated Directive special attention is paid to racing pigeons. The amended Directive states that, based on a risk assessment, movements of racing pigeons into, from and within the protection and surveillance zones are allowed if specific measures are taken.

By this letter the Fédération Colombophile Internationale (FCI) aims to help the national authorities of EU Member States and the world with the risk assessment. The FCI is the international pigeon fanciers organization, representing 623.300 members of 57 countries. The individual pigeon fanciers are represented in the FCI by their national organizations.

*from R. Vere*

### Risk of avian influenza transmission by racing pigeons

Historically, racing pigeons (*Columba livia*) have been considered resistant to avian influenza viruses and in experiments infections of pigeons have been difficult to establish. Up to 2004 there was no evidence that pigeons could be infected by H5 or H7 strains of avian influenza. Panigrahy et al., (1986) infected pigeons experimentally with highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) and low pathogenic avian influenza (LPAI) viruses of H5N2 subtype and HPAI H7N7 and LPAI H7N1, by ocular/nasal and intravenous routes and in contact with these infected birds. They failed to produce disease or seroconversion in any of the infected pigeons and only one tracheal swab taken on day 3 from a LPAI H7-infected pigeon, yielded virus, which the authors considered to be residual inoculum. Similarly, Perkins and Swayne (2002) failed to show any virus excretion, disease, lesions or seroconversion in pigeons infected intranasally with HPAI H5N1 virus. In experiments performed by Shell (2004) aimed at assessing the ability of the HPAI H7N7 virus responsible for the outbreaks in the Netherlands in 2003 to infect pigeons administration to individual pigeons intranasally failed to result in the excretions of virus, clinical or histological signs or seroconversion.

Ellis et al. (2004) isolated H5N1 from a dead pigeon found in the quarantine zone during the avian influenza outbreak in Hong Kong in 2002. However, there is no evidence that the pigeon died from avian influenza, only a cloacal swab was found positive (personal communication). A dead tree sparrow found on the same day was also tested positive for avian influenza, while all other birds sampled around the quarantine area, including 57 cloacal swabs from other pigeons, and 239 environmental samples were negative for influenza viruses. The test result should, therefore, be critically assessed.

Further, there seems to be some unpublished work of Swayne in which pigeons were infected with Asian H5N1 strains. Some of these pigeons would not have been fully resistant to the virus. However, these studies were performed under laboratory conditions in which the amount of virus used for infection is much higher as pigeons may ever come into contact with under practical conditions.

The conclusion from these data is that pigeons are very unlikely to become infected with avian influenza viruses and therefore pose very little threat of introducing avian influenza viruses into an area. Pigeons will certainly not act as a reservoir for avian influenza viruses.

### Housing of racing pigeons

Racing pigeons are housed in specially designed pigeon houses fully separated from poultry or other birds (the vast majority of the pigeon fanciers keeps only racing pigeons). Once or twice a day the pigeons are released for their daily training of about one hour. During this period the pigeon house is cleaned and the pigeons fly around the house. After the training(s) the birds are fed and locked in for the remaining of the day.

### Transport of racing pigeons

Racing pigeons are transported in specially designed trailers which are only used for the transport of racing pigeons and not for any other birds. The pigeons receive water and food in the container.

### The races

Pigeons race from distances over 50 km and more. During the racing season the pigeons are weekly or biweekly sent to the liberation sites. The pigeons return homewards with a speed of, depended on the direction of the wind, 80 to 100 km/hour. Except for extreme long distance races the pigeons arrive home on the day of release. The pigeons do normally not stop on their way homewards.

Only pigeons in good condition and good health are basketed. This is checked by the basketing officers of the local clubs.

**Conclusion**

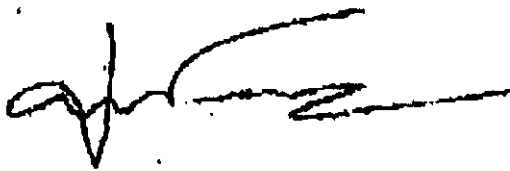
Racing pigeons (*Columba livia*) do not act as reservoir for avian influenza and are very unlikely to become infected with avian influenza viruses. The chance that avian influenza is transmitted by pigeons that take part in racing is negligible. Therefore, the outcome of the risk assessment as indicated in the new EU Directive should be that pigeon races do not pose a threat with respect to the transmission of avian influenza and that the races may start in March 2006 as usual, independent whether there are any preventive measures for poultry into place. Please note that according to the Directive racing pigeons are not considered as poultry.

Although there is no risk for transmitting avian influenza by racing pigeons, the following additional safety measures are proposed:

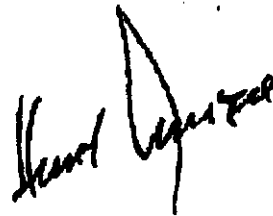
- Until 1 June 2006 no pigeons are liberated for extreme long distance races.
- Only pigeons that are housed separated from other birds are allowed to take part in races.
- It will be forbidden to race pigeons which are housed in an open loft system (pigeons can fly free in and out the loft)

If you there are any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us on the following address:

Fédération Colomophile Internationale,  
Rue de Louvaine 38,  
B-1050 Brussels.



Dr. J.M.A Toroso  
President FCI



H. Menzel  
President Veterinary Committee FCI

**References**

Panigrahy B, Senne DA, Pedersen JC, Shefer AL, Pearson JE. Susceptibility of pigeons to avian influenza. *Avian Dis* 1998 Jul-Sep;40(3):600-604.

Perkins LE, Swayne DE. Pathogenicity of a Hong Kong-origin H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza virus for emus, geese, ducks, and pigeons. *Avian Dis* 2002 Jan-Mar;46(1):53-53.

Shell W. Experimental infection of pigeons with HPAI H7N7 (The Netherlands 2003 virus). Proceedings of the joint tenth annual meetings of the national Newcastle disease and avian influenza laboratories of countries of the European Union. 30<sup>th</sup> September to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004: 43-51.

Ellis TM, Bousfield RB, Bissett LA, Dyrting KG, Luk GEM, Tam BY, Sturm-Ramirez K, Webster RG, Guan Y, Malik Peiris JS. Investigation of outbreaks of highly pathogenic H5N1 avian influenza in waterfowl and wild birds in Hong Kong in late 2002. *Avian Pathol.* 2004 Oct;33(8):492-503.

Copies will be provided upon request.



2006年公  
秋季比赛

## 农业部、北京市科委再次研究和证实鸽子对H5N1禽流感不易感

严芳

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### 农业部、北京市科委再次研究和证实鸽子对H5N1禽流感不易感

#### 鉴定意见

2006年1月19日,北京市科委组织专家对“鸽等动物禽流感流行病学与免疫防治研究”成果进行了鉴定。鉴定委员听取了项目的工作、技术报告,审阅了相关资料,并进行了质疑和答辩,经讨论形成如下鉴定意见:

1、首次系统研究了鸽子对鸡、鸭、鹅、孔雀和虎源的禽流感病毒H5N1亚型毒株的易感性,证实了鸽子对供试毒株的不易感。

2、初步确定了某些特禽(火鸡、乌鸡)等对禽流感H5亚型疫苗免疫后H1抗体效价与攻毒保护的相关性,证实现有禽流感H5亚型疫苗能够产生良好的免疫保护,并建立了相应的免疫程序。

3、在2004年和2005年春天对北京地区鸽子、特禽、野鼠、部分品种候鸟和猪群中禽流感血清抗体和带毒情况进行了调查,获得了大量有关高致病性禽流感有价值的流行病学资料和试验数据。

鉴定委员会专家一致认为,该项研究成果为北京市科学防控高致病性禽流感提供了决策依据,并为国家体育总局、中国信鸽协会参加国际赛事提供了科学依据,达到国际先进水平。

建议进一步深入研究鸽子对禽流感病毒H5N1亚型不易感的机制。

鉴定委员会主任 杨汉春 副主任 穆祥  
2006年1月19日(北京)

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2	副主任	穆祥	北京农学院	兽医	兽医学	教授
3	委员	高福	中国科学院微生物研究所	兽医	分子免疫病毒学	研究员/所长

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5	委员	章金刚	军事医学科学院	兽医	分子免疫病毒学	研究员
6	委员	田克恭	农业部兽医诊断中心	兽医	预防兽医学	研究员
7	委员	赖平安	北京出入境检验检疫局	兽医	动物检验检疫学	研究员

注明：农业部兽医诊断中心主任：贾幼陵（农业部新闻发言人）  
此次农业部特派预防兽医学专家田克恭参加此次鉴定会

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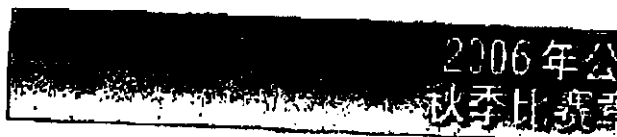
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