The Pigeon Medicine Cabinet

By Dr. David E. Marx DVM

PART 1

Baytril–a good choice for serious infections, mainly intestinal or systemic. This drug comes in tablet form and individual pigeons can be dosed at 5mg per pigeon per day. Flock treat with the liquid Baytril only (the tablets will not go into solution). Use for 5-10 days.
Do not use during reproduction and rapid growth of squabs.

Amoxicillin–a safer alternative drug to Baytril. It can be used during reproduction and racing without side effects. Not as broad spectrum as Baytril but often very effective in treating serious infections. Comes in tablet form (50mg) which can be used once or twice daily on individual cases. Flock treatment best accomplished using 3grams per gallon for 5-10 days.

Tetracycline drug (Terramycin, Aeuromycin, Tetracycline , or Doxycycline)–good for respiratory infections; best when used in combination with Tylan. One usually has no distinct advantage over the other and they share a common spectrum of activity. With the exception of Doxycycline, they are all available over the counter as poultry preparations. Use 4 teaspoonsful per gallon of the regular strength or 2 teaspoonsful per gallon of the concentrate. Doxycyline is dosed at 500-1000mg per gallon. Use these for 7-14 days.

Tylan–use as mentioned above, in combination with a tetracycline for respiratory infections. Tylan powder is dosed at 1-2 teaspoonsful per gallon. Individual dose at 50 mg per pigeon per day.

Delta Albaplex– this is a veterinary tablet which can be quite useful in treating individual cases of respiratory disease. It contains a tetracycline plus albamycin as well as a small amount of corticosteroid. Use 1/2 tablet twice daily for 3-7 days.

Amprolium– the standby for coccidiosis..treat at 1tsp/gallon of the 20% powder for 3-5 days.

Baycox (Toltazuril)–a newer more effective coccidiostat, not yet avilable in the USA but seems to be available through various channels. Can be

used instead of Amprolium. Dose for 1-2 days at 4cc (100mg) per gallon.

Ronidazole (RIdzol)– for trichomonas…this is the safest of the three products commonly used but is not approved for use in this country. 1tsp per gallon for 3-5 days.

Emtryl (Dimetridazole)–for trichomonas…not approved for use in this country. Mexican or Canadian Emtryl dosed at 1/4-3/8 tsp per gallon for 3-5 days. Can cause seizures at higher doses.

Flagyl (Metronidazole)–for trichomonas…25-50 mg per pigeon per day for 1-3 days or 1250-2500 mg per gallon for 3-5 days.

Ivomec (Ivermectin)–wormer–500-1000micrograms(ug) per pigeon. Effective against Capallaria (hairworms) and Tetrameres and Dyspharynx (stomach wall worms); less effective against Roundworms.

Pyrantel pamoate–1-3mg per pigeon (75mg per gallon) for 1-2 days for roundworms only.

Tramisol (levamisole) 1-1.5 grams per gallon for one day for roundworms only.

Panacur (fenbendazole) effective against the three major worms but has potential to cause feather damage. Do not use during reproduction or moult. 5mg per pigeon per day for 3 days.

Quinacrine–antimalarial drug..use only in areas where malaria or Haemoproteus is a problem. Use for 4 weeks before flying season then one day weekly during races. Dosse at 200mg per gallon

There are many other choice available and I've kept it to what I consider a minimal, giving choices for some conditions. Not all of these drugs are commonly available. Consult your friendly veterinarian for help in acquiring some of these handy drugs as some are by perscription only.

PART 2

ERYTHROMYCIN.(Gallimycin)- An antibiotic generally effective against respiratory infections,especially Mycoplasmosis. May also be useful against certain Staph infections. DOSAGE: 3-6 tsp per gallon for 4-7 days; PREVENTATIVE DOSE: ¾ tsp per gallon

OXYTETRACYCLINE (Terramycin)- A broad spectrum antibiotic useful against many types of infections, but often not highly effective. Most usually recommended for use after races as a general preventative Dosage: (for concentrate) 1 tsp per gallon.

CLORTETRACYCLINE (Aureomycin) A broad spectrum antibiotic similar to Terramycin but probably more effective. Dosage: (concentrate) 1-2 tsp per gallon for as many as 15 days if positive results are noted.

LINCOMYCIN/SPECTINOMYCIN (L/S 50) An antibiotic consisting of two synergistic antibiotics which are highly effective against Mycoplasmosis. Considered the drug of choice in treatment of respiratory infections. Spectinomycin may also be very effective against Salmonella and E-Coli. Dosage: 1 tsp per gallon for 5-7 days.

AMPICILLIN- An antibiotic in the Penicillin family which is effective against most strains of E-Coli, and probably other infections, but not a cure-all. Dosage: for 200 ml bottles. Make a stock solution and use 7 tsp per gallon for 7-10 days. Keep refrigerated

ENROFLOXACIN-(Baytril)- An antibacterial agent effective against both gram negative and gram positive bacteria. Considered the drug of choice against parathypoid if birds have not been vaccinated. May also be very effective against E-Coli Dosage: ¼ tablet twice a day for 5-10 days

SULFACHLORPYRIDAZINE(Vetisulid or Pyradan) A sulfa drug to which most strains of E-Coli are sensitive Also an effective coccidiostat. Dosage: 1 tsp per gallon for 5-7 days.

TYLOSIN (Tylan) – Most effective in concentrated form. An effective drug against respiratory infections, especially Mycoplasmosis. Dosage: 1 tsp per gallon for 5-7 days I mix this with L/S 50 for very good results.

Amprolium (Amprol or Corid)- An inexpensive and very effective coccidiostat. Considered the drug of choice for coccidiosis…. Dosage: 1 tsp per gallon for 3-5 days. For an outbreakl; 1 tsp per gallon for 5 days than ½ tsp per gallon for 7 additional days.

MEBENDAZOLE(Telmentic)- A general wormer. Considered the wormer of choice by many as it is highly effective against all worms except tapeworms. *Dosage: ¼ tsp per gallon for 5 days. Repeat within 10-15 days.*

Posted By Raymond Julien