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## **Pigeon Paramyxovirus 1 (PPMV1) in Imported Columbidae Species during APHIS Quarantine Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)**

### **1. Purpose and Background**

This document provides guidance to Veterinary Service (VS) units who manage federal and APHIS-approved private avian quarantines with shipments of columbid species that test positive by virus isolation during quarantine for Pigeon Paramyxovirus1(PPMV1).

### **2. SCOPE**

This SOP applies to all APHIS VS personnel providing work at federal, and APHIS-approved private avian quarantines for columbid shipments.

### **3. Authority and References**

**A. Authorities** (*Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR)):  
[9 CFR 93.209](#)

#### **B. References**

- [VSG 13401.1 Approval and Oversight of Privately Owned Avian Import Quarantine Facilities in the U.S.pdf \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
- [VSG 13410.1 Testing and Sampling Requirements for Imported Poultry and Birds During Quarantine.pdf \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
- [VSG 13403.1 Cleaning and Disinfecting Avian Quarantine Facilities Following Outbreaks.pdf \(sharepoint.com\)](#)
- [VS Guidance Document SharePoint site](#)

### **4. Definitions**

1. Pigeon Paramyxovirus-1 (PPMV-1) is a distinct lineage of avian paramyxovirus serotype-1 viruses (APMV-1; aka avian avulavirus-1) that is predominantly maintained by columbid species (e.g. pigeons and doves). Many bird species can be infected with APMV-1, and virulent APMV-1 viruses cause Newcastle disease in poultry. The virus is readily transmitted by direct contact between birds and by contact with feces and other discharges. The virus can persist for several weeks in the environment. Sites of commingling, such as bird feeders or bird baths, could be considered high risk.

### **5. Handling of samples positive for PPMV-1**

1. When PPMV-1 virus is confirmed by the National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) from one or more sample(s) collected from a columbid species shipment, APHIS has the following options:



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- a. Refuse entry without further testing.
  - i. The importer should be given 10 days to remove the shipment from the United States or if there is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) contract with the operator of the facility the contract language should be followed.
  - ii. Upon removal of birds in quarantine, space should be cleaned and disinfected as per VSG 13403.1.
- b. Advanced testing option: APHIS can request that the isolated virus(es) be tested by Intracerebral Pathogenic Index (ICPI) at NVSL. If the calculated index is 0.7 or greater, the virus is classified as virulent per The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and the remaining columbids in quarantine are refused entry.

## 6. Additional Cost

1. APHIS will inform the importer in writing of all costs associated with additional testing and will include quarantine fees that go beyond the original 30- day time frame.
  - a. The importer should be cautioned that the probability of returning the shipment to the country of export in the event of a positive ICPI is highly unlikely.
  - b. If the importer is unable to return the shipment back to the country of export, APHIS can provide euthanasia service.
  - c. If the importer decides not to allow advanced testing but would like to have remaining flock euthanized, APHIS is to provide expected user fee costs and then perform the service once written confirmation is received from the importer.

## 7. Inquiries

1. USDA APHIS VS Strategy and Policy: 301-851-3300, Opt. 2 or [VS.Live.Animal.Import.Export@usda.gov](mailto:VS.Live.Animal.Import.Export@usda.gov)