

D.R.C. News	65th Year	March 2009	Spring Edition
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VRCS Club Correspondence

Our 65th Year!

This June will mark the 65th anniversary of The DRC News. We began publishing the DRC News 10 years after the DRCA was formed in 1934. June is also the month that our summer edition is published. For this reason, much of our summer edition will reflect on people and events that commemorate our past. Since we have had such a rich history, I am certain that many of you will check your mailboxes often this June to be first in line to read this issue.

A Gentle Reminder!
In order purchase the official "DA" leg bands for your birds to qualify for song competition, you need to be a member of a DRCA affiliated club and be an active subscriber of the DRC News.

Everyone in the club is off to a good start this year with breeding Rollers. Joe Pietrobon of Burnaby, Marvin Haynes of Penticton, Richard Smith of Matsqui and myself, all have young ones with more nests on the way. Alex Meindertsma of Edmonton now has a completely new stock of Rollers after he imported a whole flock from the East into his Aviary. I really had to rush into action in order to get him some breeding stock because they still would need a little time to settle in before breeding season began. He had such bad luck with his winter disaster that I felt obliged to do all I could to get him started again. The timing of his request came at perhaps one of the worst times of year that one could go looking for new stock, but in the end I managed to scramble up the following:

Schlott	Males	2
Prataviera	Males	2
Prataviera	Hens	6
Haynes	Hens	1
Pietrobon	Hens	2
Donnelly	Hens	3
Total birds		16

Alex has also made an order for 40 rings and has kept his News subscription active since joining the VRCS, so his birds will qualify to compete at the shows.

Let's all wish him the best of luck in raising some quality young Rollers.

A divider between parts of a breeding cage is sometimes used to prevent quarrels until the male learns how to feed the hen.

Two cages can work just as well if the bars are close enough to each other for them to feed through.

Any signs of nest building will signal that they are getting ready to be paired.

There is usually a bit of quarrelling when they are first paired, but this should not continue for long.

You must observe them carefully and separate them every time the quarrels become violent.

In 2007, one of my hens actually killed her first two mates before she accepted the third one.

That was the only time I had that happen. I sold her right after she raised that nest.

The hen's behaviour will signal the male when she is ready for mating.

Mating usually starts after she allows the male to feed her, and they have been hopping back and forth on the perch continuously.

Some obvious signs of readiness are; when she chirps quickly and softly, and when she squats on a perch fluttering her wings gently.

The male will fly over her back to fertilize her when he sees her do this.

It takes about four days after she is fertilized for a fertile egg to be laid.

Any sooner would mean the egg is likely going to be "clear".

It only takes one mating for all the eggs to become fertilized.

The whole clutch that she will lay will be "lined-up" (one behind the other) in the oviduct before the shells are formed.

The shells are form one at a time over each "last egg" on the assembly line.

Once a shell has formed around the egg it cannot be fertilized.

Only the remaining eggs with no shell can be fertilized.

After the hen completes her nest, she will sit when the eggs begin to travel down her oviduct.

She might leave the nest at times until the first egg comes and between each egg that is laid.

Richard smith of Matsqui BC writes:

Hi Kent I hope all is well with you, have you got lots of young birds? I have all 4 hens sitting the Schlott birds the green German ones are duds so far I hope that changes. See you, -Richard

P.S. Oh I forgot what is it you feed your birds is it duck starter? Was it medicated or not? Thanks

-Richard

In Response to Richard (from pg.3)

Hi Richard,

Good to hear from you.

This is a quick update.

Only today do I have 3 eggs from my German pair on their first nest.

Until now I have raised only one young bird (Schlott) from more than half a dozen nesting attempts.

Yesterday I found a nest of 4 eggs totally broken on the ground with the nest full of blood only a few days before due hatch.

Joe thinks this happened because the male was left in too long and wanted to mate again.

I can think of no other reason because the male was an excellent feeder to the hen.

Joe has a "meatball" of 8 in one of his nests.

It sounds like he is having a very good start to the season.

Marvin has some young German chicks and also has been having a good season.

I think they are both doing well because of their lighting.

Marvin has had a lot of bright sunny weather and Joe regulates his breeding room with artificial lights on timers.

Joe recently stopped using duck starter but Marvin is thrilled with it.

Buckerfields (on Sumas way and Vye Road) has some good duck starter, chick starter and turkey- duck grower.

Just tell them you want non-medicated 20% - 22% duck grower.

They sell their own brand as well as the Pro-Form feeds brand from Chilliwack.

Either of these is excellent.

It's ok to use the 26% medicated chick starter to wean the young ones.

You can grind it up in a coffee grinder but its not as necessary to do this for older birds because they chew up the crumbles.

It costs about 15 dollars for any of the 22.5 kg bags.

I think it has all they need for good health and the hens raise some healthy babies on it(once you get them to hatch).

One last thing...

The news is going to be really late because I am trying to decipher the mailing labels Peter has sent me.

I have no idea which ones are paid customers because there are some other mailing labels mixed in amongst them.

Many of the address labels have been peeled off of the templates, so I have to retype a new list as I figure out who everyone is.

I think you might have to cross pair the Germans if they are infertile.

Also, Joe hasn't done well with the brother of your -#DA 22 (08) #20.

He is having a lot of success with another Schlott pair #35 male and the #259 hen.

The #259 hen had eight eggs in one nesting- all fertile- all hatched.

That was the “meatball” hen.

I will let you know more on how things go in a few weeks, Richard.

By then we should really be into the season.

Best of luck,

-Kent

Bill Friend of Vernon BC writes:

Hi Kent,

The box was shipped today. You will receive it tomorrow, Greyhound will phone you. Cost collect is \$27.52.

My life is changing, as my wife is divorcing me. **I am moving on April 1 to Canterbury Court, #508 - 3011 Gateby Place, Vernon, B.C., V1T 9S4.** You can remove my card from the News.

Thanks Kent.....As I will be lonely, send me an email once in a while...

My email and telephone number remain the same.

The changes you made to the journals are good. I am very pleased that you are taking hold of it all. My Best to you.....Bill

Keep in touch...

Further to Bill’s message:

Sometime in the third week of March, just before the News was being readied to send off to the printer (a month late already), Bill Friend called me to let me know that he is sending me his complete work on the six

journals that he spend many years of research into documenting. They are based on Roller Canary articles that were written by various authors over time and they have previously appeared in the News and other publications, covering a span of about 100 years. Being that the articles are grouped together according to each author that wrote them, you no longer have to go through the many books and magazines that they originated from in order to read one particular article, written by one of the authors. Since Bill gave me his full permission to do anything I want with them, I decided the best thing would be to get them published as soon as possible. I am currently preparing them to send to the Printer, so it won’t be long before they will be made available to everyone in the fancy.

(Please refer to the announcement on page 18, to learn how you can acquire your copies of these valuable Journals).

In addition to sending me these Journals, Bill mailed a carton of Vintage material, some of which I had been seeking from sellers on the internet over the past several years without any success. Also included was a very old binder filled with numerous articles written on onion paper from the early 1900’s that were published in the Roller Canary Journal. I was so happy with everything that I consider the \$100 I gave to Bill a real bargain for all his work.

My most recent response to Bill follows on the next page, describing only some of what was in the box he sent:

Hi Bill,

I picked the box up from Greyhound today. What a wonderful surprise when I got home and found out what was inside! -Articles from the Canary Journal that go back to 1932-two years before the DRCA formed. – The DRC News from 1954 to present with only a small number of years missing- a true treasure trove. And finally but not least of all were the two books that I have been seeking for the last few years. -Chalice O. Thomason’s ~ Song of the Roller Canary ~and the book that Chalice always loved to criticise written by J.Presley Pound ~ A Philosophy of Song~. I noticed that you were editor in the 1970’s and that you lived in North Vancouver. I spent half my childhood not far away – 1721 Ottawa avenue W.V. -Why didn’t you ever mention that you were practically my neighbour? You could’ve come over and checked our family’s first little Roller during the mid 60’s to late 70’s. At the time I lived there I never would have dreamed that there was such a thing as a Canary Club. Since I am one that would’ve loved to attend, I suppose I missed out on a lot of fun. Instead of a club, I would wait until the whole family was out of the house and turn up the stereo. I would practice songs for the band I sang with while our little bird (mom named him Billy) would join in and sing his heart out. That was one of my favourite pastimes in youth. My dinner is ready, so I have to move on but I really did enjoy this little chat.

-God Bless, - Kent Donnelly

After I responded to Kathy, I reviewed some of the past issues of the News and realized that there was still much to say on the topic of pairing and breeding. It has been a long while since we had any in depth articles to guide newcomers, and even the more experienced breeder can benefit by reviewing some of the basics, so I ask you, what better time than now, with springtime just around the corner, for all of us to read the following articles in order to prime yourself for this years’ breeding season?

Working with Eggs

If you observe the water level of your drinker bottle, you can generally tell when the eggs are about to be laid. The hen will drink a lot of water just before an egg is laid. A lot of water is needed when the egg white forms around the yolk. Make sure that you don’t allow the water bottle to ever run dry during this important time.

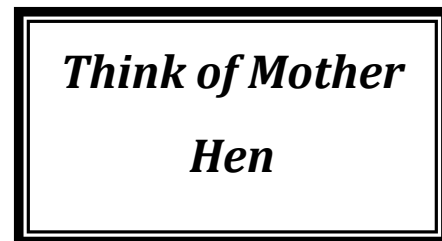
The eggs are usually laid in the mornings. You can often get all the chicks to hatch around the same time if you carefully remove the egg each morning and store it safely in a container. If you use your fingers to pick up the eggs, you risk the chance of

crushing the shell or contaminating the outside of the egg with your own body oil when it rubs off of your fingertips and onto the egg surface. Since the young embryo must breathe through the shell, its porous surface must not become sealed or contaminated by oils. For this reason, I advise you to wash and thoroughly rinse your hands before attempting to handle eggs. It is also a good idea to frequently rub off any fingerprint oil with a clean dry cloth if you handle eggs for any extended length of time. Remember that your fingers can get very sweaty, especially when you candle the eggs in bright light.

The survival rate of your chicks will increase greatly if they all hatch on the same day. Some of you may have not yet developed any stable method to make this happen, so in order to minimize disaster when you go through all the motions, I prepared the following list. Avoiding damage to the eggs when you handle them can be a big challenge - especially to the unwary, so please read carefully:

- a. First, prepare a container for the eggs. Place an inch of clean soft material (canola seed) as a bed to cushion the eggs during the time they will be stored.
- b. Position your egg container as near to the cage as possible, so you don't have to make any footsteps travelling after you scoop them. This will minimize the chance of losing your balance and dropping the egg.
- c. Use a clean spoon that has a deep recess in its cradle. The deeper the recess, the less chance the egg has to roll out.
- d. If the spoon is very cold, warm it before lifting the egg. Try rubbing it with a clean cloth. The friction from rubbing will warm it enough for the egg.
- e. When the hen is away from the nest, open the cage door and while holding the spoon firmly, slowly move it towards the nest. Slow movements are less disturbing to the hen. The less the hen flies about in panic, the less chance to damage an egg.
- f. Always maintain a steady hand regardless of what the hen is doing. She will settle down quickly once you are finished.
- g. Gently press the spoon down into the nesting material underneath the egg to allow the egg to roll into the cradle of the spoon. Don't crush the egg by pushing the spoon at it.
- h. Carefully scoop the egg from the nest by lifting it slowly and hold the spoon as level as possible while travelling.
- i. You must have a completely unobstructed path to the egg container to avoid any mishap. The slightest bump will cause the egg to bounce out of the spoon, so watch your actions carefully the whole time.

- j. Identify which nest the eggs are from by labelling the egg container with a post-it-note.
- k. Place a dummy egg in the nest after the egg has been removed. This helps to encourage the hen back to the nest so she can continue with laying her next egg.
- l. Make sure that all the eggs placed in the container have the smaller pointed end facing downward into the seed.
- m. Rotate the eggs a few times daily. Do this by tipping them to the left at an angle between 30 and 45 degrees and then moving them back to centre after a while. Repeat this same process later in the day by turning them in the opposite direction for a short while and then back. The pointed end of the egg is placed downward because the large opposite end is where the air sac is located.
- n. Fertile eggs should be stored at temperatures between 13C and 18 C (55F -65F). Embryos will either develop poorly, or weaken and die in higher temperature. When storage temperatures are lower than 13 C (55F), a high rate of embryo mortality will occur. Never let temperatures fall below 8 degrees C (46 F) or go higher than 22 C (72 F).
- o. Once the final blue egg has been laid, just leave it in the nest because you can now carefully scoop up the stored eggs with a spoon to return them all back to the nest.
- p. Do not gather up more than one egg at a time because they can easily crack open when they crush against each other.
- q. When placing the eggs back in the nest, try to keep the spoon away from damaging the other eggs. You can do this by gently and slowly allowing the spoon to tilt slightly which will allow the egg to roll towards the side of the nest - well away from the other eggs. The eggs should never be rough handled with sudden movements or shaken. Realize that an egg grader in a packing plant will purposely shake an egg to kill any living embryo with a quick twist of the wrist.



It is wise to put a small drop of cod liver oil in the egg food before and during each day she is laying. This oil is rich in vitamin D. This is the catalyst needed for the hen to assimilate calcium – a vital process for egg development. It is especially important during egg shell formation because poorly formed shells can cause the hen some serious distress. This can develop into the potentially fatal condition that we commonly describe as “egg –binding”. A poorly formed shell can be highly abrasive

to the inner lining of the oviduct. The shell is rough because there is less calcium used to form a completely smooth surface. This means that it can damage the inner lining of the oviduct by causing cuts and abrasion as it passes. If you notice the first eggs, they are usually blood spotted more than the last eggs, and the very last "blue egg" is almost clean. Minor cuts and abrasion are quite normal and they will often heal before the next nest is laid. Your concern with well conditioned hens will be minimal. Often enough, your panic button won't even be pressed until after a hen begins to lay her eggs too early, and signs of distress appear to signal you that she is in big trouble. You know she is in real trouble when you suddenly see her sitting on the bottom of the cage, with her head tucked in and breathing hard instead of sitting on the perch and looking as active as she did a few days earlier. If egg-binding occurs, it will usually begin when the hen is trying to lay her first egg but it can also occur with any subsequent egg being laid. The reason your hen went into sudden distress is because of troubles with poor shell formation when it reached the shell gland (See "D" on pg. 10). It can take longer for the poorly conditioned hen to form the shell when it reaches that stage and the egg can either become lodged there or in the vaginal area. By holding the hen in your hands gently and using a little steam and warmth, sometimes the egg will release itself from the vaginal wall and be expelled through the opening. If you assist the hen in this way, you must not press her abdomen because there is danger of

crushing the egg before it is expelled. Don't be too persistent by trying to force the hen into expelling the egg on your first attempt. She will sometimes need repeated attempts. Don't spend more than a few minutes each time you warm her and always place her back in the nest after each try. The hen will often lay the egg after you warm her and put her back in the nest, but be prepared just in case her egg is expelled in your hands. Egg-binding need not ever happen if you plan ahead and take the necessary precautions to prevent it. Just remember that a little vitamin D and a lot of Calcium should do the trick every time. In sunny bird rooms, there is less chance of having this condition occur because of the ultra-violet rays. The light from these rays is absorbed through the feathers. The feathers process these light rays by converting them into vitamin D. From there it will be absorbed into the bloodstream.

One way to give the hen all the calcium she needs is to provide her with a cuttlebone by fastening it near to a perch on one side of the cage. Another way is to place some crushed oyster shells in a treat cup fastened between the bars. Some types of grit have a mix of oyster shell, crushed rock, and minerals already prepared. I sometimes use a commercially prepared mix that contains everything they need-called "Blue Grit". I also use a mineral - calcium powder from Abba, namely "Abba's RX Ova Aid" that Linda Hogan recommended to me. It is guaranteed to prevent egg binding. I usually put a teaspoon of this into my one litre

water container before shaking it. Its fine particles remain suspended in the water jug for days, barely settling to the bottom at all. Another thing I add to the water is a few 500 mg. vitamin C capsules. They dissolve very slowly, so I prepare a second water jug when I am halfway through using the first one. I reuse plastic V8 or Mott's tomato juice containers and just toss them into the recycle bin when finished rather than try to wash out the slight ring that forms at the water line. Remember to check the nest each day for the blue egg because once it is laid, you will immediately remove any remaining egg food and stop feeding the hen any more until the young ones hatch. During incubation, offer the hen only a cuttlebone, clean water, and seed, pellets or duck starter.

On the 13th to 14th day after the third egg is laid the eggs are due to hatch.

You can offer the hen a bath at that time and begin feeding egg again with the soft nestling food for the young...

-Kent



Making your Own Calcium Powder?

For years, I have heard about people that reuse egg shells in order to supply their birds with calcium. I have heard some of the pros and cons for doing this. Some say that unless the shells have been sterilized, your birds will get the salmonella bug. Others claim that the sharp bits of unbroken shell pieces can make cuts inside your bird after they have been swallowed. Until recently, I avoided feeding chicken egg shells due to such reasons. I always believed that there is some danger in experimenting with the "new and unknown". Using chicken eggs for their calcium is something that you really have to be extra careful with. Some Chickens can carry the avian flu without even showing any visible symptoms of illness. The porous composition of calcium in unsterilized egg shells can harbour almost any harmful contagion. Since the Avian flu (**Influenza A**) and its virus subtype (**H5N1**) has killed tens of millions of birds worldwide, you have to wonder how long it will take before it is diagnosed in Canaries. There is also a growing concern in the scientific community over its risk to humans. As of Jan 2009, 248 humans have died from H5N1 in twelve countries worldwide (See page 14).

If you decide to use chicken egg shells, do so on your least valuable birds first. Let them be the test specimens for a few weeks but keep them apart from your other birds during the experiment in case they actually do become infected. Afterwards if you feel it causes no harm to them, you can further decide if you want to feed this to the whole flock that remains. Remember too that not all chicken eggs come from one farm. Almost every store that sells eggs gets them from a different farm. I know this because am good friends with Debbie Penner. Who is Debbie Penner you ask? Debbie owns Davalen Industries- an Abbotsford chicken farm that has 80,000 layer hens. All their eggs go to one place only –Safeway. Well, being that I am friends with Debbie, it just so happens that I became friends with another chicken farmer but all their eggs go to a different store called Save on Foods. Since all these farmers sell their eggs to different outlets and only some use an ink stamp on the egg to identify the source, you won't always know which farm sold them to the store. When the health authorities discovered that Debbie's farm had the H5N1 a few years ago, they immediately destroyed all 80,000 of her chickens. Before the chickens were found to be carrying the virus, the eggs were already sold and distributed. None of the eggs were recalled. I believe the chances are pretty good that your Canary would also be infected with this virus if you fed your birds any of the egg shells from those birds. In a few months Debbie was right back in business after sterilizing everything, enforcing hygienic

controls for workers, and restocking the whole bunch of 80,000 hens with healthy stock. She has had no trouble since but another farm in Abbotsford has recently been found with H5N1 to take her place. Those eggs were not recalled from the store shelves either. Since those shells would also carry the disease, the H5N1 threat remains.

If this still hasn't scared you off and you still want to try out making free calcium powder for yourself, read on...

Making a fine calcium powder is not very difficult. If you have ever used a coffee grinder to pulverize something into a fine powder, you will already have a good idea of what it takes to do the job. Not long after I discovered how well that little machine pulverizes duck starter into a fine dust, I wanted to have a try at making calcium powder out of egg shells. I decided to first have a look at some commercially prepared calcium powder in order to see what I should be aiming for. I opened a jar of Abba's RX Ova-Aid and examined its calcium powder. I saw that it was made up of such a very fine powder that had such an even consistency that I began to have doubt that I could replicate its texture in a coffee grinder. Still, I thought it was worth a try to find out. I went into action by first training my wife in the art of saving all her leftover egg shells in a small container next to the sink. I was surprised to find that after only a few days there were enough shells to start a little manufacturing industry of my own. I knew the time had come to try out my own

processing method just when the shells aged enough to really stink up the kitchen.

I also knew that by boiling something in water for twenty minutes, you will kill all the salmonella, so into the cook pot went all the egg shells, where they were boiled for well over twenty minutes. As an added precaution, I then removed them and steam dried them out before placing them all in the microwave on high setting for another 5 minutes before removing them.

Once they had cooled and were dried crisp, I put them into the coffee grinder. After a few minutes of processing, I still saw chunks of shell at the top of the grinder cup and a fine powder on the bottom. I shook the grinder up, down and sideways to get the small pieces of shell to settle to the bottom in order to have better contact with the blades. After about ten minutes I stopped because the motor was starting to smell. The result was only satisfactory. In fact, the calcium powder that I made was nothing like Abba's RX Ova Aid at all. Abba's powder was so fine that it actually feels "slippery" in between your fingers; rather unlike the gritty feel that my homemade powder had. Also, it does not dissolve as well in water as Abba's powder does. It settles too quickly to the bottom. It's so useless on the bottom of a drinker. A bird can't get any unless all the water disappears and they can peck at what remains. The only effective way to feed this heavy grained powder is to dump it in their egg food or put it in a treat cup. Doing this immediately made me think of

the gritty texture that chicken burgers have in them. I think they grind up whole chickens to make those because something in them feels like ground bones that scratch your teeth. With that in mind, I decided not to use it in the egg food either because I didn't want my canaries to hate their egg food as much as I hate gritty chicken burgers. Without going any further, I finally decided to give up on the whole idea after all.

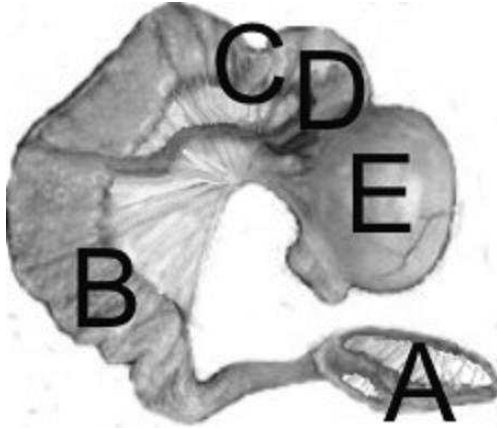
If any of you want to feed chicken egg shells, go right ahead. You can stink up your own kitchen with smelly shells. You can grind them into a gritty powder or feed them raw after boiling and sterilizing the poop out of them for all that I care. I just know that for me, it was all too much bother for what I was able to produce. Besides, isn't it just a little too risky playing around with something that can carry a virus as contagious as the avian flu?

I have since gone back to using Abba's product. Actually I guess you could say that I just prefer to be a bit spoiled and lazy in my latter days of wisdom.

-Kent



The Hen's Oviduct



- A. Infundibulum - where fertilization takes place.
- B. Magnum - where the egg white forms.
- C. Isthmus- where the shell membrane forms.
- D. Shell Gland – where the shell is formed
- E. Vagina – (enlarged with an egg inside) ready for laying.

Did you know?

In recent years much progress has taken place to develop vaccines that can cure HIV Aids and treat Cancer by researching the **Canary Pox virus**. An explosion of data on this topic has appeared on the internet and the show of positive results from this testing is very encouraging. Although current human testing includes only the “high risk” candidate in North America (Aids and Cancer victims), a more aggressive approach might eventually come from research done in countries with fewer restrictions. A commercially manufactured North American vaccine will not be made available to the general public until our governments can either satisfy or relax “safety” restrictions that currently prevent any “cure” from being marketed.

You and the Avian Flu

The Avian Flu claimed at least 200 humans in Indonesia, Vietnam, Laos, Romania, China, Turkey and Russia. Epidemiologists are afraid that the next time such a virus mutates, it could pass from human to human. If this form of transmission occurs, another pandemic could result. Numerous well informed Scientists have voiced concern over what now appears to be an imminent threat to us all. This is why disease-control centers around the world are making further research of the avian flu a top priority. Various organizations, health authorities, and government leaders, have all come forth to encourage poultry-related operations to develop a pre-emptive plan to prevent the spread of H5N1 and its potentially pandemic strains. A top priority is the eradication of all diseased birds currently held in captivity. They also educate bird handlers in such hygienic controls as disinfecting their footwear in and out of bird containment areas and encouraging the use of protective clothing. By our isolating birds from contamination, we can help prevent the spread of this virus to humans.

Canary Pox - An "Avipoxvirus"

Canary pox is a disease caused by a poxvirus in the genus *Avipoxvirus*, Other Avipoxvirus diseases include The Avian flu and Newcastle disease.

Canary Pox spreads slowly amongst canaries, finches and some other passerines.

There are three different variations of the Canary Pox virus. They are sometimes referred to as the "Wet", "Dry", and "Systemic" variations.

I recommend disposing of any bird that contracts any form of this disease even if it's survived the "mild" form. This is because you can never be certain that it will be isolated from other birds all the rest of its life. You will never really know what the chances are for this bird act as a "carrier". This virus will survive in a bird's system even after it develops immunity to it. It can easily be transferred to other birds later on. If it is sold or given away as a pet, you should inform the new owner that the bird had a pox virus and that it is not a good idea to let it near other healthy birds. You certainly won't ever try to ever breed it again. If you want to immunize your birds in order to protect them from canary pox, read the article on the following page.

“POXIMUNE® C”

The **POXIMUNE® C** vaccination can be used by a veterinarian to immunize healthy birds from Canary Pox.

It can be obtained from:

BIOMUNE CO.

Division of Ceva Animal Health Inc.

8906 ROSEHILL ROAD, LENEXA, KS, 66215

This vaccine is used to protect canaries against canary pox disease—a highly infectious and fatal disease in canaries commonly spread by mosquitoes or direct contact between birds. Clinical expression of the disease varies from an acute respiratory form to a chronic form with skin lesions around the eyes, beak or feet. Mortality rates are devastating and can reach 100%. If you are going to immunize your birds with this vaccine, then here are some things to know. All susceptible birds on the same premises should be vaccinated at the same time. Young birds may be vaccinated at weaning age. Booster vaccinations are recommended every 6 to 12 months (depending on the disease risk) and four weeks prior to laying or vector season. Vaccination in the face of a disease outbreak is also indicated and has been demonstrated to control the outbreak and stop mortality in those birds not yet showing clinical symptoms.

Administration and Dosage

Immediately prior to administration the desiccated (freeze dried) vaccine is dissolved with the diluent supplied. The single needle vaccinators are dipped into the mixed vaccine to completely fill the groove of the needle with the proper vaccine dose. Vaccination is accomplished by piercing the needle through the underneath surface of the wing-web which should be devoid of feathers. The administration should be a slow, steady motion (not a quick poke) to ensure release of the entire vaccine dose from the needle groove onto the epithelial tissue.

Post-Vaccination:

Following wing-web vaccination, pox lesions should develop at the site of inoculation to show that the vaccine took effect. At about 7-10 days after vaccination, the wing-web should be examined for a satisfactory “take” reaction -characterized by a swelling, inflammation or scab formation at the site of inoculation. Revaccination is recommended if a “take” reaction is not evident. Although immunity begins to develop immediately following vaccination, three (3) to four (4) weeks are required to establish maximum immunity.

Warning

Do not vaccinate within four (4) weeks of onset of egg production or during egg production.

More on the different Forms of Poxviruses

The Dry Form: The longer a bird survives the dry form, the better chance that it will have to develop immunity to this variation of the virus. Common symptoms are swollen areas of the face, featherless areas of the body and legs with lesions around the eyes, the beak and sometimes the feet. Lesions generally disappear at 1-2 weeks and regression takes place 4-6 weeks after the first signs appear. This form of the virus is least lethal and the bird will usually recover if it survives the first few weeks.

The Wet Form:

Many symptoms of this form of Pox are found on species of the "wild". There is a swelling of the eyelids and the eyes themselves appear very shiny and watery. Feathers near the eyelids and the nasal area of the beak appear wet due to a watery discharge of fluid. In the more advanced stage, there will be lesions of the oral cavity, trachea, and crusty erosive lesions will form on the eyelids. The chances for survival are low but the longer a bird survives this wet form, the better chance it has to develop immunity to this variation of the virus. All forms of Pox share the same characteristic that Chicken pox has with humans, in that - once infected; it stays in the system for life. Since the Chicken pox can mutate into "Shingles" and return in later years when the immune system weakens, one has to wonder if the same kind of mutation will occur amongst the various forms of Avipoxvirus that exist in birds. Positive results have been reported from adding high amounts of vitamin A to the diet in order to help with recovery. Also helpful is the use of a probiotic ointment (such as Polysporin) which will minimize secondary infection. It is common to have staphylococcal organisms (Staph) and other fungi or bacteria occur as a secondary infection. Using a probiotic will not only reduce the secondary infections, it will help the bird's immunity system to recover in order to fight off the Pox virus. Attempting to rescue a bird from any form of Pox, includes its immediate isolation from the flock as soon as you notice any symptoms of the disease. It must be isolated in a sterile environment. You must always keep the cage area very clean by washing the cage, perches and food containers with Virkon or with a mild bleach solution of one part bleach to 32 parts water.

I personally recommend disposing of a bird that survives any form of this disease even if it's survived the mild "dry" form. This is because you can never be certain after selling it or giving it away, that it will be kept in complete isolation all the rest of its life. Chances are good that an infected bird will carry the disease in its system after it develops immunity, and later transfer the virus to another bird. If it is sold or given away as a pet, you should inform the new owner that it had the virus. It should always be kept away from healthy birds, and eliminated from any breeding program.

The Systemic Form:

This is the most lethal form of the Avipoxvirus and, it is referred to as "Canary Pox" in Canaries. Most birds with this form of disease will die within 2-3 days. Symptoms include extensive air sac lesions and pneumonia. There can be discharges of watery fluid from the beak and severe breathing problems. The only known prevention is the vaccine that I referred to on pg. 15.

Summary:

A common opinion shared by many in the scientific community seems to point towards the following:

- All avian species, regardless of age, sex or breed, are highly susceptible to the Avipoxvirus.
- Many strains of the virus exist which are adapted to various avian hosts, (such as the Canary Pox in Canaries), but all are considered to be variants of the same species, poxvirus avium.
- While one species of birds may be highly susceptible to one strain, it may be completely resistant to another.

-Kent

<i>Paid Ads</i>

With this issue, the DRC News has restored its policy to publish commercial advertising space in the news. All money raised from ads will be used to promote the annual song contest in Quebec this year. HARI (Hagen Avicultural Research Institute) was the first to respond with a colour ad for our back page. Any further advertising will be in black and white. The commercial ads can complement your \$5.00 breeder card by giving you more space for photos and text. The size of the Colour ad is one full page. The sizes of black and white ads are ¼ page, ½ page, and full page. The ads will sometimes appear between articles in the News as well as on separate pages. At times, some of the smaller ads will be given larger spaces in order to fill the remaining space of pages intended for advertising.

Refer to the following table for pricing of annual advertising spaces.

Full back page colour ad annual fee:	One Hundred Fifty Dollars Canadian
¼ page black and white ad with text and photo:	Twenty Five dollars Canadian
½ page black and white ad with text and photo:	Fifty Dollars Canadian
Full page black and white ad with text and photo:	One hundred Dollars Canadian

<u>Subscriptions and Changes of Address</u>

As a subscriber to the Dominion Roller Canary News, you might sometimes need to update your mailing address. To do this, all you have to do is fill in and mail the subscription form found at the bottom of the "Executive" page of the News. We thank you for your continued support and request that you renew your subscription prior to January each year. If your subscription didn't start in January, please adjust your payments by \$6.25 (CDN) per issue, to the year end.

The DRCA is pleased to Announce:

Bill Friend has completed his six year project to produce six Journals that contain the most complete and comprehensive gathering of material ever written by some of the most prominent Elders in our fancy. When he donated this work to me, he wanted to have it published hoping that it will hold a rightful place well into the future. Please refer to the table below for the complete list of all his Journals. This collection is truly an invaluable treasure for the serious Roller Canary enthusiast! They can be obtained by filling in the order form on the following page.

-Kent Donnelly

The Complete Collection of Roller Canary Journals		
Produced by C.W. Friend (Bill)		
~ First Edition 2009~		
Journal	Title	Author
#1	"The Chronicles of an Elder Roller Canary Master Breeder"	Judge W.J. Lamy (Bill) ~ England
#2	"The Chronicles of an Elder, Roller Canary Master Breeder"	Judge Albert S. Purkiss (Bert) ~ England
#3	"The Chronicles and Scientific Analysis of the Roller Canary Song"	Judge Chalice O. Thomason ~ U.S.A.
#4	"The Chronicles of Two Elder, Roller Canary Master Breeders"	Judge Tell Muhlestein & Judge Haig Sarkisian ~ U.S.A.
#5	"The Chronicles of Elder, Roller Canary Master Breeders"	~ Various ~ England, Belgium, Germany, Canada, U.S.A.
#6	"The Chronicles of an Elder, Roller Canary Master Breeder"	C.W. Friend (Bill) ~ Canada

"The Roller Canary Journals"

Introductory Pricing to December 2009

Order Form

Journal #	Author	Pages	Price	Check Box
1	Judge W.J. Lamy	69	\$11.00	
2	Judge Albert S. Purkiss	27	\$5.00	
3	Judge Chalice O. Thomason	48	\$8.00	
4	Judges Tell Muhlestein & Haig Sarkisian	28	\$5.00	
5	Various Authors (over 60)	138	\$21.00	
6	C.W. Friend (Bill)	99	\$15.00	
Total	Over 60 authors	409	\$65.00	

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Judging your own Birds

Due to the recent transition of various DRCA executive positions that involved delays in getting the News out this quarter, the third lesson of Roller Song in this series will be published in the next issue.

I thank everyone for their kind patience in this matter.

-Kent Donnelly