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Subject: avian influenza
To: <jp.pigeons@gmail.com>
Cc:

To Whom it may concern.

RACING PIGEONS NO THREAT IN AVIAN FLU BREAKOUT

ACCORDING to veterinary scientists at Onderstepoort, South Africa's pigeon population is not a carrier or transmitter of avian flu.

In a letter to the South African National Pigeon Organisation (SANPO), Prof Marthinus Hoffman, Acting Director Clinical Services in the Department of Companion Animal Clinical Studies, referred to a research report in the International Journal of Veterinary Microbiology (4 June 2014) that states: "...it is clear that columbids (pigeons) are susceptible to infection, **but (are) ineffective propagators and disseminators of the virus, i.e. "dead end" hosts for AIVs, even HPAI.**"

"This comprehensive study proves that racing pigeons are not carriers of avian flu," he said.

Consequently, SANPO has decided to continue pigeon racing this weekend in the light of the birds being no threat to man, animal, feral pigeons, or other bird species.

Regards


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