Newcastle Disease in Italy: epidemiological situation

(3 July 2012)
On 23/02/2012 NRL confirmed an outbreak of Newcastle disease in a farm located in Montespertoli municipality, Florence province (Tuscany Region). The farm reared 80 pigeons for non-commercial use of which 10 died and 8 showed clinical symptoms.
Newcastle disease in Italy

An Highly virulent Paramyxovirus type 1 (F protein cleavage site –GRRQKR*F and ICPI: 1.2) was isolated from samples taken from livers of dead birds.

This strain was characterised as Pigeon Paramyxovirus type 1 belonging to genetic lineage 4b.

Control measures

Ban of movement

Disinfection and cleansing procedures
On 16/05/2012 NRL confirmed an outbreak of Newcastle disease in a farm located in Gottasecca municipality Cuneo province (Piemonte Region).

Farm reared 24 pigeons for non-commercial use of which 1 died and 7 showing clinical symptoms were euthanized.
On 04/06/2012 NRL confirmed an outbreak of Newcastle disease in a farm located in Treja municipality Macerata province (Marche Region).

Farm reared 180 pigeons for non commercial use of which 10 died.
Newcastle disease in Italy

In both outbreak Mesogenic Paramyxovirus type 1 (F protein cleavage site –GRRQKR*F and ICPI: between 0.9 and 1.05) was isolated from samples taken from livers of dead birds. The strains were characterised as Pigeon Paramyxovirus type 1 belonging to genetic lineage 4b.

**Symptoms**
Clinical sign of disease weren’t severe, low rate of mortality was observed. These data are strongly related to the mesogenic pathotype; this form presents with respiratory signs, occasional nervous signs, but low mortality. These infections can pass undetected for several days also months.

**Control measures provided by Council Directive 92/66/CEE:**

According to art. 19:

- Ban of movement for at least 60 days after the end of symptoms
- Disinfection and cleansing procedures