



Project - "Feather Problems" in Budgerigars

2019 REPORT

According to the guidelines approved by the 2017 WBO Meeting in Budapest, the study began with the preparation of the strategy to be applied to the study in order to begin the practical work.

At the 2018 WBO Meeting in South Africa, I passed on the request from the university to have live birds supplied for the study and communicated the overall strategy for the study.

After that meeting, a consignment of birds from England (24 birds) was delivered to the lab in January 2019.

According to the planned procedure, out of the 24 birds, PCR tests were made on 16 of them both for Polyomavirus and Circovirus.

The results from these tests were somewhat surprising, since all of the birds tested POSITIVE for Circovirus (Pbfd-Psitaccine beak and feather disease) and all tested NEGATIVE for Polyomavirus (APV).

At this stage it was decided not to proceed to sequence the strains of viruses found, and analyze the possibility that all the birds in the consignment were contaminated between them, since they were transported in the same box for some days.

It was decided to wait for more blood samples obtained from some breeders in Germany, Austria and Hungary, from different breeders and birdrooms

A total of 17 blood samples arrived in June and were recently tested both for Polyomavirus and Circovirus and some results are already available:

All the blood samples tested NEGATIVE for Circovirus.

Regarding Polyomavirus some were POSITIVE and other negative, and in a group of samples coming from a single breeder ALL were POSITIVE for Polyomavirus and with a very strong signal.

The university has now asked for photos of these birds, and the possibility of getting some of these birds or/and to be able to analyze and follow the evolution of the symptoms in these birds.

In parallel, necropsy and histopathology studies were and are being conducted in order to verify the compatibility between them and the PCR tests results.



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According to the University team, we should bear in mind that the viruses can be found not only in the blood stream of the birds but also the feather follicles, and as such, we should wait for the histopathology tests in order to be able to extract any conclusion.

The next step will be to start with the identification of the dominant virus strain or strains that are most likely to induce the most serious disease condition.

A more comprehensive report is being presented today by means of a PowerPoint presentation and a full scientific report of the work done at the next meeting.

According to the procedure decided, we inform you that the total cost of the study is at this time in the amount of 790.00 euros.

Karlsruhe, august 23, 2019

Carlos Fernando Ramôa, W.B.O. Chairman