



## USING A BLUNT TIP SYRINGE TO HYDRATE/MEDICATE OUR THOROUGHBREDS OF THE SKY.

By: Rohan H. Fyffe (www.fyffefamilyloft.com)

Oftentimes, we find a bird in our loft that just does not look right. They will sit on their perch with feathers ruffled as if to say, “master, I do not feel well.” After a fecal analysis or as most flyers do, guess at what the ailment may be and begin to practice a non-specific health program, there comes a point when some type of medicated cure has to be administered.

What and how one establishes a viable health program is not the issue here, but once you have determined the cause and proper cure, how effectively you administer medication in liquid form is? I have found that administering liquids via a Blunt Tip Piston Syringe is the better way to go. You can dunk a bird’s beak/head in the liquid but you cannot guarantee that they have taken sufficient levels of the medication to be effective. In addition, the bird must be very thirsty for the dunking method to work. My blunt tip piston syringe method is a little involved, but for that special flyer/breeder that needs some special attention, it is well worth the time. I go as far as giving extra water to my race team on shipping night. Going down for water is not tolerated in my loft. In my combine, they are supposed to water on every race, short and long distances. Does it always happen, who knows? Guys in warmer weather should try this hydrating method. It may lead to better results.

As previously stated, my product of choice is a blunt tip piston syringe. Below is a picture of the Bulb and piston styles.



The blunt tip bulb syringe is on the left. The blunt tip Piston syringe with 14 fr catheter is on the right. The Piston Syringe is my product of choice

You can purchase these products at your local Pharmacy or Medical Supply store. The reason that I do not like the bulb style is that when you squeeze the bulb to disburse the liquid, *you have to be very careful and not release the bulb pressure while the catheter is still in the bird’s crop.* If you do, ***the bulb syringe will suck out the contents of the crop.*** In the same process, one may also damage the inner lining of the crop. In contrast, the piston works better. When you disburse the liquid in the crop, it is impossible to automatically suck out the content and you can accurately place a specific amount of fluid in as well.

### Hygiene:

It is very important to clean the catheter out with bleach between usage and store the catheter properly. I would recommend having a few extras on hand. You have some catheters that when it gets in contact with liquid, it becomes lubricious (slippery). This makes it easy to place it in the crop.

### Anatomy & properly inserting a catheter:

When you look into a pigeon’s mouth with the beak pointing toward you, the first and smaller opening leads to the lungs. The back opening (throat) leads to the crop. I know that you know this but I have to cover myself. If someone puts the catheter in the lungs, they can kiss their bird goodbye because it could possibly drown. The bird will let you know if something is wrong. The photo below should make it very clear where to place the catheter.



First opening leads to the lungs. Back of throat leads to the crop. **Do not insert catheter into the lungs.**

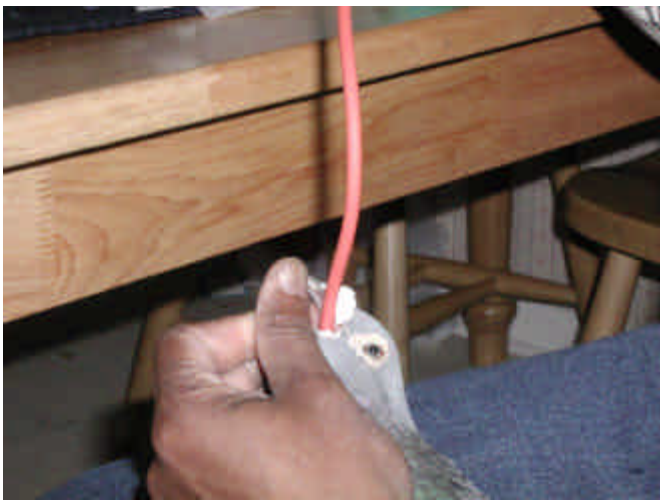
### Method of insertion:

When I am administering fluids, I get everything ready first. I will mix the medication and have a loaded syringe with catheter attached ready to go on a table or chair on top of a paper towel. I will then grab the bird, sit down and hold the bird between my legs with its head pointing away from me.



Hold bird between your leg with head facing toward you knees.

I will have the filled catheter and syringe in hand after dipping the catheter tip in the liquid to make it slippery, open the bird's beak and insert the catheter in the proper opening all the way down in the crop.



The catheter should go in far enough so that when you elevate the syringe and catheter to insert the liquid, there is no liquid back up that could enter the lungs. Trust me, the further down you go the better. You are not hurting the bird. Slowly push down on the piston so that the fluid does not come out like a jet stream. **(Practice to see how the liquid will flow**

**from the catheter before inserting it in the crop.)** I will then insert "x" amount of liquid in the crop. I say "x" because the amount administered will vary. I will then finish the process by taking out the catheter and putting the bird back in its crate. On shipping night, I give a minimum of 30cc per bird of clear water.

As you can see, with the right equipment you can ensure that a bird gets the right amount of medicated or non-medicated liquid. Again, I like using a piston syringe with a 14 or 22 French Size Catheter. Purchase them at your local pharmacy or medical supply store and you will be ready to rock-n-roll. Please feel free to contact me via [www.fyffefamilyloft.com](http://www.fyffefamilyloft.com) or [rohanfyffe@comcast.net](mailto:rohanfyffe@comcast.net) if you have any questions. If you like, I can make a simple video showing my procedure. You will just have to pay for the tape and postage and promise not to sell it and make millions of dollars off me. Take care and have a wonderful and successful flying season. Yours in the sport, Rohan Fyffe.

### Items needed:



Close up of blunt tip bulb syringe.



Close up of blunt tip piston syringe-product of choice.



14 French Catheter