



HOW THE AU LEGAL FUND BENEFITS MEMBERS

In 2003, the AU became the first and only pigeon organization in the US to hire a lobbyist to represent fanciers across the country. To date, Greg has monitored legislation on our behalf and alerted us to legislation that may have a negative impact on the pigeon sport. He helped us overcome shipping problems when the airlines stopped carrying live animals for the US Post Office. He was instrumental in interacting with the USDA when regulation was being considered. These are brief examples of just a small part of his work on our behalf. Explanation of some of his efforts are further described below.

While some may argue that the pigeon industry is small, the issues that face us are not. Animal Rights groups also continue to threaten the sport. Greg's assistance has become necessary and we hope you will consider supporting our efforts to retain him.

► *Proposed Legislation, Shipping Protection...*

Greg monitored House Bill 669 that could have negatively impacted the racing pigeon hobby. Because of his efforts, we were able to alert members to petition elected officials to persuade positive change. Our voices were heard and the bill is being revised to fairly consider our needs. He continues to monitor legislation on our behalf.

Shipping rights through the United States Postal Service were threatened several years ago when airlines stopped carrying live animals through the mail. Partnering with other animal interest groups, Greg helped lead our crusade to Washington, D.C., to urge USPS officials to continue allowing shipment of live animals through the mail. Without this service, members would be limited to shipping and the cost of air cargo would be much higher. Many would not be able to ship at all without the service of the USPS. He continues to interact with the USPS to ensure our shipping rights are protected.

► *Speaking Up For Pigeon Fanciers...*

When the USDA advised they may regulate pigeon racing, Greg crafted arguments, which were submitted to the Federal Register to illustrate that we are self-regulated and government regulation is not necessary. Though the Animal Welfare Act is still pending, his comments on our behalf are the basis for the USDA's consideration to allow our continued self-regulation.

Additionally, he has posted comments to the Federal Register pertaining to quarantines in the event of disease outbreak.

Revenue generated for the AU Legal Defense Fund is maintained in a separate account and is used to fund his efforts on our behalf throughout the year. There are challenges ahead and your help is needed. We sincerely appreciate your support!

 Yes, I want to help support the AU to protect the right to raise and race pigeons, enclosed please find my support of _____.

Our club would like to support the AU lobbying efforts and _____ is enclosed.

Please send copies of brochures explaining Effective Advocacy for the pigeon racing community.