

AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION, INC.

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Virulent Newcastle Disease Outbreak

Since May 2018, there have been 299 confirmed cases of virulent Newcastle Disease within Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside and Ventura Counties reported. The California Department of Food and Agriculture reports that due to the continued spread of the disease, they have now imposed mandatory euthanasia of birds in some areas.

Further, the California Department of Food and Agriculture has also announced the recommendation to suspend gatherings where birds (including but not limited to poultry) are brought together for shows, auctions, swap meets, pet marts, fair exhibits, pigeon races, and petting zoos.

We encourage members to adhere to the recommendations to avoid potentially spreading the virus or putting your birds in jeopardy.

The Utah Department of Food and Agriculture has also announced that exhibition poultry imported from California to Utah County have tested positive for virulent Newcastle Disease. As a result, the facility in Utah County has been quarantined.

For more information about the situation in California, go to:

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/pdfs/V_N_D_SB_Riverside_Area_Quarantine.pdf

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/Newcastle_Disease_Info.html

Utah information is posted at:

<http://www.ag.utah.gov/home/news/779-virulent-newcastle-disease-found-in-exhibition-poultry-in-utah-county.html?fbclid=IwAR1JnmTul2T1GAskMyk4zd7MZs4SSEJabCmxDHT6zJZFuAX8I7oq5O7aVHQ>

It is important that members not allow comingling of pigeons and poultry. We also encourage members to follow recommended bio-security measures.

The AU is in contact with USDA officials and will continue to monitor the situation and advocate for pigeon fanciers.

AU Bio-Security Recommendations

Basic bio-security measures should always be used. It is more important than ever to make sure you are cleaning your loft regularly, washing hands going in and out of the loft, monitoring or perhaps restricting others from going in and out of your loft and placing new birds in a quarantine section before integrating them with your other birds. AU Bio-Security Recommendations are found at <http://www.pigeon.org/loftcertificationpolicy.htm>