

AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION, INC.

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Virulent Newcastle Disease Outbreak

On August 6, 2018, the California Department of Food and Agriculture provided an update on the virulent Newcastle Disease (vND) outbreak. As of August 3, 77 cases have been confirmed. San Bernardino County has reported 63 cases; 7 cases have been detected in Los Angeles County, and 7 confirmed cases in Riverside County have been reported.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has posted information regarding restriction of movement and quarantines now imposed in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties at

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

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

Though some members do not live within those quarantine areas, birds may be returning from a race flying over those areas to their home lofts. There is no control over where a pigeon may stop along the race course, so the AU strongly recommends that clubs, combines and concourses select different race courses to avoid comingling with potentially infected flocks.

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>