

AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION, INC.

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Virulent Newcastle Disease (vND) Update

No new cases of vND have been detected since June 4, 2019. It has been more than a month since any new cases of virulent Newcastle disease (vND) have been detected in Southern California.

There have been 448 cases detected in Riverside, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Ventura and Alameda counties since first reporting the outbreak in May 2018. Members in those areas have had to contend with a very difficult situation and endured quarantines and restrictions on movement of their pigeons. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has been enforcing these restrictions to protect the state poultry industry and so included all birds in their efforts.

Many shows and other events where birds were to be brought together had to be cancelled. For some, this meant no movement at all and no racing.

Having reached a month with no new premises testing positive is significant. The CDFA will continue their surveillance for several months and restriction on movement is still in place. Members are encouraged to practice good bio-security measures to protect their birds.

We are hopeful that the members in Southern California will soon be able to get back to racing and we appreciate their cooperation with state officials.

The CDFA is still recommending that 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 be suspended.

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

Please do not attempt to ship birds from within quarantine areas.

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>