

AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION, INC.

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Virulent Newcastle Disease Outbreak

The California Department of Food and Agriculture has imposed quarantines in specific areas within Riverside and San Bernardino Counties as a result of the Virulent Newcastle Disease (VND) outbreak.

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.

To view the areas under quarantine, 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

Since May 18, 64 cases of VND have been detected in Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties.

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

Though we know from previous Newcastle outbreaks that pigeons have not been problematic, this is a new strain and officials need scientific data to determine susceptibility. The AU is in contact with California State 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>