

AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION, INC.

P.O. BOX 18465 OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73154-0465 PH: 405-848-5801 FAX: 405-848-5888

May 23, 2019

Virulent Newcastle Disease Outbreak



Since May 2018, 440 cases of Virulent Newcastle Disease (vND) have been confirmed in California (San Bernardino, Riverside, Los Angeles, Ventura, and Alameda Counties). Other premises testing positive for vND was in Utah County, Utah and one in Coconino County, Arizona. For more information on the locations, please go to:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/avian!/ut/p/z1/fY-5DslwEET7fAUNJdocnCWiqEQUHE3ixlqCIQvGBtvh-HtMFI6KZmdntG-IARa0WkEAmRe_NOOtWBReaY-OtEIJGeSsz2dxPlmibjSfpqNhuJwkYW-1mCbraABpDX7514f_RNYQzflHIKfD5cLGwAqtnLg7yPBckuW1VY5L2hg0j3ZokevK8J0uKIs7VHRCyUuB0pW_yZasQCs4qZ02p7pUO_T90MuVTCX9344StwKtk8Jnagvnl8uferbZCw!!!

The heaviest concentration has been detected in Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) indicates infected and exposed flocks will be euthanized. Surveillance and isolation will continue to help with disease eradication efforts.

The link below shares further information about surveillance and eradication measures the CDFA is taking to stop the spread of vND.

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

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.

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>