

AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION, INC.

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Virulent Newcastle Disease (VND) Update

As reported by the California State Veterinarian's office, the quarantine in Southern California and restriction on movement of birds is still in place. In October they reported entering into a "Freedom of Disease" phase because some time had passed since any new cases were detected.

Unfortunately, there have been a few new cases detected as recently as November 18. As a result, they are considering expanding the control area.

We have placed calls to the California State Veterinarian's office again today. We will continue to reach out to them so that we might request a meeting to discuss options and present certain statistics that will hopefully prove our case that pigeons are not problematic.

For additional information or to view a map of the quarantine area, go to:
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.

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>