

AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION, INC.

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Virulent Newcastle Disease (VND) Update

As previously reported, two new positives for Virulent Newcastle Disease were detected on August 14. The California Department of Food & Agriculture has reported that they have determined movement of infected birds from within the quarantine area (Riverside) to San Diego spread the virus to healthy birds. They continue surveillance in the quarantine and surrounding areas.

The AU did contact the California State Veterinarian's office on September 30, 2019. We talked with the Public Information Officer that is assigned to the quarantine area in southern California. They indicated that while there were the two new cases, their testing shows that they were isolated events and no further spread has been detected, which is encouraging.

The quarantine and restriction on movement is still in place in Los Angeles and eastern sections of San Bernardino and Riverside counties. California officials are performing regular testing in those areas to ensure no further detection or spread of VND.

The AU has again reached out to representatives with the United States Department of Food and Agriculture (USDA). As soon as we have an update from them, we will forward that information to members as well.

For additional information or to view a map of the quarantine area, go to:
https://www.cdffa.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>