



# AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION, INC.

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

Member - Federation  
Colombophile Internationale

August 4, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

This will confirm that Mr. Garagoza is a member in good standing of the American Racing Pigeon Union (AU). The AU is the largest organization of pigeon fanciers in this country with nearly 10,000 members nationwide who enjoy raising domesticated pigeons.

As a member in our organization, Mr. Garagoza is required to adhere to strict competition standards and regulations. One of the many requirements is maintenance of a clean and healthy loft.

In the enclosed booklet, *Homing Pigeons: Perception vs. Reality*, you will see correct information regarding lack of disease in registered, pedigreed birds. These are not the same feral pigeons seen in parks and they do not create the same problems associated with some common birds, as they do not fly after feeding. It is physically impossible for the birds to defecate while flying since they do not have a full crop when exercising or flying, as food is a key motivator to get the birds to come quickly into the home loft.

Per USDA definition (9 Code of Federal Regulations, Sub-part A, 145.1), pigeons are not defined as poultry, fowl or game birds. Nor are they livestock. They are not exotic birds. See below:

***Poultry. Domesticated fowl, including chickens, turkeys, ostriches, emus, rheas, cassowaries, waterfowl and game birds, except doves and pigeons, which are bred for the primary purpose of producing eggs or meat.***

Additionally, our national organization has conducted studies with CDC, Cornell University, and the University of CA-Davis. We have challenged flocks of pigeons and CDC has reported that pigeons are not susceptible to many viruses. Because the temperature exceeds 107 degrees and the metabolism is so rapid, homing pigeons cannot host most diseases. Therefore, they cannot shed or serve as vectors.

The hobby of raising registered, banded Homing Pigeons is one that is nearly 120 years old in this country and offers people from all walks of life wholesome backyard activity. Many children and families enjoy the hobby. Pigeon keeping also provides enjoyment for seniors in their golden years.

#### Officers

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John McSweeney, Exec. Vice President

Lee Kohli, Vice President

Tom Coletti, President Ex-Officio

#### Directors

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Bud Williams, SW Zone

Alan Porter, Plains Zone

Terry Finnerty, Lakes Zone

Robert McKenna, NE Zone

Joyce Stierlin, Pacific Mountain Zone

Al Hassler, SE Zone


Page Two

We appreciate your willingness to learn more about the birds so that Mr. Garagoza may continue to participate in the hobby of racing thoroughbred pigeons.

Please do not hesitate to call on our national office if we might provide additional information

Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Karen Clifton  
Executive Director