



Republic of the Philippines  
Department of Agriculture  
**BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY**  
Visayas Ave., Diliman Quezon City 1101

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**MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR**

NO. 38  
Series of 2022

**SUBJECT : RULES AND REGULATIONS ON THE MANDATORY REGISTRATION OF PIGEON RACING CLUBS AND ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATE OF FREE STATUS FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA FOR REGISTERED PIGEON CLUBS**

**WHEREAS**, the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) issued a Memorandum dated March 2, 2005 requiring all pigeon establishments, i.e. farm or premise where pigeons are kept or reared, to be accredited by the Animal Health Division before they can be issued a shipping permit, including actual inspection of pigeon establishments and Newcastle disease control program;

**WHEREAS**, Section 5.9.5 of the Department of Agriculture (DA) Administrative Order No. 5, Series of 2019, provides the guidelines for local movement of racing pigeons and requires Certificate of BAI Accreditation of pigeon racing association;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the Avian Influenza Protection Program and DA Administrative Circular No. 8 series of 2021, which provides the lists of notifiable animal diseases in the country and guidelines on reporting to the Veterinary Authority, Avian Influenza (AI) Type A subtypes H5 and H7 are reportable to the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI);

**WHEREAS**, DA issued Memorandum Circular (MC) Nos. 5, 6, 12, 16, and 27 series of 2022 on February 24, 2022, March 7, 2022, April 6, 2022, May 11, 2022 and June 30, 2022, respectively, which provide guidance and movement restrictions in several poultry related commodities across different regions in the Philippines and slowly easing the restrictions of pigeon transport and racing from a total ban to allowing movement but with limitations;

**WHEREAS**, BAI MC No. 10, Series of 2022 was issued to temporarily suspend the Pigeon Club Certification in relation to the abovementioned DA MCs and to address the numerous reports received by the Bureau on continuous pigeon transport, racing, training and breeding despite the banning;

**WHEREAS**, there is a recent detection of Avian Influenza Type A Subtype H5N1 in pigeons from a private pigeon loft in Laguna;

**WHEREAS**, additional safety measures are necessary to prevent further spread of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) to the remaining disease-free areas in the country and to keep the traceability of the pigeon club members and enthusiasts;

**WHEREAS**, Executive Order 138, mandates the Local Government Units to implement the full devolution of powers and resources mandated by the 1991 Local Government Code, which shall include provision of basic veterinary services, in accordance with Section 17(g) through the issuance of Veterinary Health Certificate or Veterinary Clearance;



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**WHEREAS**, BAI MC No. 29, Series of 2022 was released to provide guidelines on the issuance of Certificate of Free Status - Avian Influenza;

**IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING**, BAI reiterates the registration of Pigeon Racing Clubs and its members, stipulating additional requirements as means to safeguarding the public health and resuming the process of Certification ONLY in preparation for the pigeon training and racing events, to wit:

### **SECTION 1. REGISTRATION OF PIGEON RACING CLUBS**

1.1. All Pigeon Racing Clubs involved in rearing, maintaining, training, racing, selling, transporting and trading pigeons shall secure a Certificate of Registration as Pigeon Racing Club from BAI or DA - Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) concerned:

#### 1.1.1. Requirements for application of Pigeon Racing Club:

- a. Completely filled-out Application Form
- b. 1x1 ID picture of the Owner, Manager, President of the Club
- c. Copy of Business Name Registration with DTI or SEC
- d. Copy of notarized Employment Contract/ Memorandum of Agreement of the licensed Veterinarian
- e. Copy of valid PRC and PTR of the Veterinarian
- f. Copy of Certificate of Attendance on Animal Welfare Seminar Conducted by BAI/ DA-RFOs or other BAI-recognized Organization
- g. Environmental Clearance Certificate (ECC) or Certificate of Non-coverage (CNC) from DENR
- h. Pigeon Health, Biosecurity, Vaccination and Medication Program signed by the club veterinarian
- i. List of Pigeon Racing Club Members (Annex 1) attaching the following:
  - i. Copy of Local Government Veterinary Clearance or equivalent LGU Registration for each member
  - ii. One (1) Valid Government-issued ID (any of the following):
    - Passport
    - PRC ID
    - Driver's License
    - SSS or GSIS UMID
    - National ID
    - Barangay Clearance
    - NBI Clearance
- j. Copy of Avian Influenza Laboratory Test results

#### 1.1.2. Application Process (see Annex 2):

- a. All required documents shall be submitted to the BAI-Animal Health and Welfare Division or via DA-RFO Regulatory Division concerned.





- b. ONLY application with complete requirements shall be endorsed for sample collection and issuance of test result.
- c. The Pigeon Racing Club member lofts shall be subjected to sample collection and actual inspection prior to the issuance of Certificate of Registration as Pigeon Racing Club as per the following guidelines:
  - The number of member lofts to be subjected for sample collection and actual inspection shall be based at 2% Prevalence Rate using the CANNON, R & ROE, R. (1982) sampling table as reference (Annex 4).
  - The number of samples to be collected per loft shall be as follow:

Total No. of Pigeons	Sample Size
1-49	3
50-299	20
300 and more	30

- d. Club veterinarians shall issue a Veterinary Health Certificate (Annex 3) attesting that the loft has been inspected and complied with the animal health and welfare minimum requirements, and which shall be concurred by the Local Government Veterinarians.
- e. BAI-AHWD will process all initial applications and renewal of application in the National Capital Region and will issue Certificate of Registration as Pigeon Racing Club. Concerned DARFO shall be responsible for the processing of renewal of applications.
- f. Independent pigeon racing lofts/ facility with valid BAI Certificate of Registration as Pigeon Racing Facility shall no longer be required to secure a Certificate of Pigeon Racing Club Lofts.

**SECTION 2. ISSUANCE OF ANIMAL DISEASE MONITORING FOR PIGEON RACING CLUBS AND CERTIFICATE OF FREE STATUS FOR AVIAN INFLUENZA**

- 2.1. All Pigeon Racing Clubs applying for the Certificate of Registration shall comply with the AI test and shall submit the prescribed number of samples for testing following the guidelines issued by the AHWD-Veterinary Epidemiology Section.
- 2.2. Screening tests for AI shall be conducted for the purposes of animal disease monitoring. Reactors shall be confirmed using Real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). Testing shall be conducted in any Government Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories and any private Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratories accredited by the BAI Animal Disease Diagnosis and Reference Laboratory.



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2.3. The Certificate of Free Status (CFS) for AI shall be issued by BAI/ DARFO upon receipt of the following requirements:

2.3.1. Valid NEGATIVE laboratory test results for AI (1 month from the time of sample collection); and

2.3.2. Certificate of Registration as Pigeon Racing Club

2.4. The validity of the CFS-AI shall depend on the prevailing issuance pertaining on the local movement.

**SECTION 3. SCHEDULE OF FEES**

Services	Fees	Validity
Certificate of Registration as Pigeon Racing Club  Initial Renewal	Php 300.00 per club Php 900.00 per club	One (1) Year Three (3) Years
Animal Disease Monitoring for Pigeon Racing Club	No charges	6 months
CFS-AI	No charges	Depending on the prevailing issuance for movement

**SECTION 4. ISSUANCE OF ANIMAL-EVENT ORGANIZER/VETERINARIAN REGISTRATION AND ANIMAL-EVENT CLEARANCE**

4.1. All Pigeon Races shall be considered as Animal-Event.

4.2. Only Pigeon Racing Club with valid Animal Disease Monitoring Certificate shall be given clearance upon compliance with other requirements for Animal-Event Clearance.

4.3. Issuance of Animal-Event Organizer/Veterinarian Registration and Animal-Event Clearance are governed by the BAI MC No. 17, Series of 2022.





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## SECTION 5. ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS

- 5.1. The BAI Director thru the Animal Health and Welfare Division shall conduct investigation to an offense.
- 5.2. Upon issuance of the Notice of Violation/ Show Cause Order, the Pigeon Racing Club shall be given three (3) days to submit a verified Explanation, addressed to the Director of the BAI.
- 5.3. The BAI Director, by virtue of Section 3 of RA 8485/ RA 10631, upon finding that there had been violation to any provisions of the animal welfare laws and issuances shall impose administrative sanction either by suspension or revocation of authorization (i.e. – License to Operate as Pigeon Racing facility, Certificate of Registration as Pigeon Racing Club, Land Transport Carrier Registration, Animal-event Veterinarian Registration Certificate, Animal-event Organizer Registration Certificate and Animal-event Clearance).
- 5.4. The following are grounds for Suspension or Revocation of authorization:
  - a. Misrepresentation of any material fact in the application for authorization and in any documentation used as a basis for issuing the authorization;
  - b. Failure to take adequate remedial or corrective measures for the deficiencies identified in the application;
  - c. Any other violation of this Memorandum Circular;
- 5.5. The decision to impose between suspension and revocation depends upon the effect or result of the offense to the health and welfare of the animals concerned and the nature of the complaint.
- 5.6. Revoked authorization may only be re-applied after three (3) years;
- 5.7. Animal-event veterinarians found guilty of misrepresentation or submitting false reports shall be sanctioned in accordance to RA 9268 “The Philippine Veterinary Medicine Act of 2004”. Said violation shall be reported to the Philippine Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA). The PVMA, as an institutional member of the Department of Agriculture Committee on Animal Welfare (DA-CAW) shall facilitate the filing and processing of appropriate complaints upon endorsement by the BAI.
- 5.8. Any appeal shall be addressed to the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture thru the Committee on Animal Welfare.



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- 5.9. Any violation related to animal cruelty, as defined in RA 8485, committed by any individual is punishable under RA 8485, as amended by RA 10631.

This circular shall take effect immediately and shall be in force until revoked in writing.

Done this 13<sup>th</sup> day of Sept. 2022.

  
**REILDRIN G. MORALES, DVM, MVPH**  
OIC, Director



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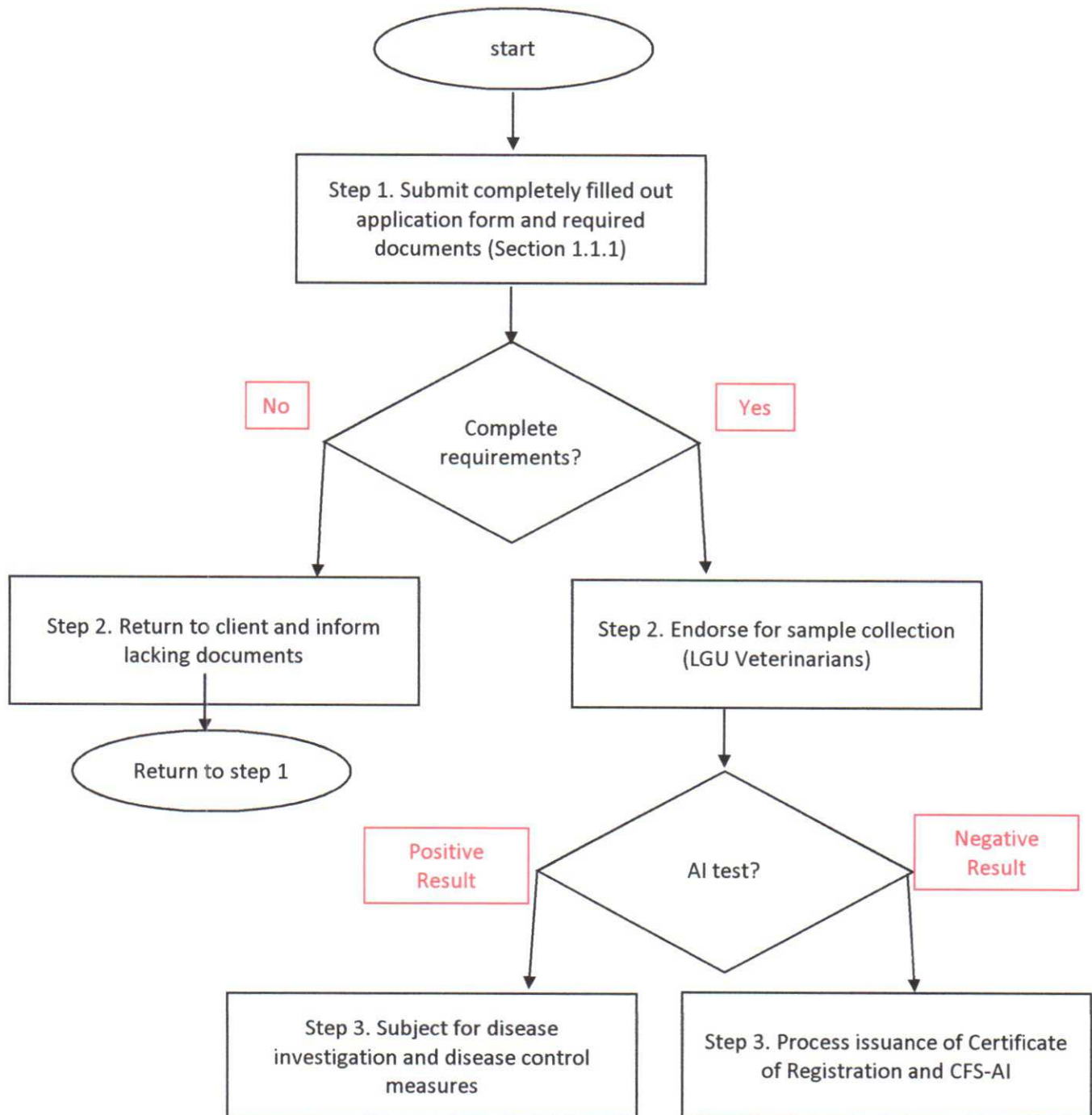
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Annex 1. List of the Pigeon Club Members

Member Name	Loft Address (House #, Street, Barangay, District, City, Province)	Cellphone No.	Email Address	Total Pigeon Population	Veterinary Clearance/LGU Registration Number



Annex 2. Process of Registration







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Annex 3. Template for Veterinary Health Certificate

LOGO of the LGU Veterinary Office

Control no.

# VETERINARY HEALTH ATTESTATION

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE NAME OF THE PIGEON LOFT FACILITY

Owner: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

had undergone veterinary inspection and are found to be compliant with the provisions of Republic Act (RA) 8485 or the "Animal Welfare Act of 1998", as amended by RA 10631, and related animal health policies issued by BAI pursuant to Act 3639.

I hereby attest that:

1. The pigeon showed no clinical signs suggestive of Newcastle Disease and Avian Influenza during the inspection on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_;
2. The pigeon loft and its surrounding 3 kilometer radius has no reported cases of Newcastle Disease (ND) and Avian Influenza (AI) during the last 21 days;
3. The pigeons are transported in new or appropriately sanitized vehicles/haulers;
4. All fomites, including manure in the transport vehicle per trip shall be disposed of properly;
5. The pigeons are vaccinated against ND with Lot Number: \_\_\_\_\_ dated: \_\_\_\_\_.

THIS CERTIFICATION IS ISSUED THIS \_\_\_\_\_

FOR THE PURPOSES OF ROUTINE ANIMAL DISEASE MONITORING AND PIGEON CLUB REGISTRATION.

ISSUED BY:

CONCURRED BY:

PIGEON CLUB VETERINARIAN

LOCAL GOVERNMENT VETERINARIAN

PRC License No.

PRC License No.

Valid Until:

Valid Until:

Contact No.: (of the veterinarian)

Contact No.: (of the veterinarian)



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Annex 4. Table of Sample Size (Number of Lofts/Club) required for detecting disease at 95% Confidence Level.

Pop n size (N)	(i) Percentage of diseased animals in population (d/N) OR (ii) Percentage sampled and found clean (n/N)													
	50 %	40 %	30 %	25 %	20 %	15 %	10 %	6% %	5% %	2% %	1% %	0.5 %	0.1 %	
10	4	5	6	7	8	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	
20	4	6	7	9	10	12	16	19	19	20	20	20	20	
30	4	6	8	9	11	14	19	24	26	30	30	30	30	
40	5	6	8	10	12	15	21	29	31	40	40	40	40	
50	5	6	8	10	12	16	22	31	35	48	50	50	50	
60	5	6	8	10	12	16	23	34	38	55	60	60	60	
70	5	6	8	10	13	17	24	35	40	62	70	70	70	
80	5	6	8	10	13	17	24	37	42	68	79	80	80	
90	5	6	8	10	13	17	25	38	43	73	87	90	90	
100	5	6	9	10	13	17	25	39	45	78	96	100	100	
120	5	6	9	10	13	18	26	40	47	86	111	120	120	
140	5	6	9	11	13	18	26	41	48	92	124	139	140	
160	5	6	9	11	13	18	27	42	49	97	136	157	160	
180	5	6	9	11	13	18	27	43	50	101	146	174	180	
200	5	6	9	11	13	18	27	43	51	105	155	190	200	
250	5	6	9	11	14	18	27	44	53	112	175	228	250	
300	5	6	9	11	14	18	28	45	54	117	189	260	300	
350	5	6	9	11	14	18	28	46	54	121	201	287	350	
400	5	6	9	11	14	19	28	46	55	124	211	311	400	
450	5	6	9	11	14	19	28	46	55	127	218	331	450	
500	5	6	9	11	14	19	28	47	56	129	225	349	500	
600	5	6	9	11	14	19	28	47	56	132	235	379	597	
700	5	6	9	11	14	19	28	47	57	134	243	402	691	
800	5	6	9	11	14	19	28	47	57	136	249	421	782	
900	5	6	9	11	14	19	28	48	57	137	254	437	868	
1000	5	6	9	11	14	19	29	48	57	138	258	450	950	
1200	5	6	9	11	14	19	29	48	57	140	264	471	1102	
1400	5	6	9	11	14	19	29	48	58	141	269	487	1236	
1600	5	6	9	11	14	19	29	48	58	142	272	499	1354	
1800	5	6	9	11	14	19	29	48	58	143	275	509	1459	
2000	5	6	9	11	14	19	29	48	58	143	277	517	1553	
3000	5	6	9	11	14	19	29	49	58	145	284	542	1895	
4000	5	6	9	11	14	19	29	49	58	146	288	556	2108	
5000	5	6	9	11	14	19	29	49	59	147	290	564	2253	
6000	5	6	9	11	14	19	29	49	59	147	291	569	2358	
7000	5	6	9	11	14	19	29	49	59	147	292	573	2437	
8000	5	6	9	11	14	19	29	49	59	147	293	576	2498	
9000	5	6	9	11	14	19	29	49	59	148	294	579	2548	
10000	5	6	9	11	14	19	29	49	59	148	294	581	2588	
x	5	6	9	11	14	19	29	49	59	149	299	598	2995	

Source: Cannon, R. & Roe, R. (1982). Livestock Disease Surveys: A Field Manual for Veterinarians. Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, Australia.