

## San Bernardino Man Claims Bird Flu in Raw Milk Killed Cats

## **Description**

In light of rising concerns about bird flu across the nation, an Inland Empire resident, Joseph Journell, has claimed that the virus, transmitted through contaminated raw milk, led to the demise of his cherished pets. Journell, a cat owner for 15 years, is striving to alert others to prevent them from enduring a similar ordeal.

According to Journell, two of his four cats, Tuxsie the Tuxedo and Alexander the Great, succumbed after consuming a batch of raw milk tainted with the bird flu virus, which has affected both humans and animals in California and beyond. "After a few days, I noticed they weren't touching their wet food or the milk I'd given them," Journell recounted. "When my oldest cat, Alexander, lay his head down on the bed, it struck me that something was amiss."

Journell insists he possesses test results verifying the virus in his cats and receipts for the raw milk he suspects was the culprit.

As of last month, 11 cats in California have died after consuming raw milk and pet food, with seven from Los Angeles County and two — Tuxsie and Alexander — from San Bernardino County, officials report. In response, the United States Department of Agriculture has mandated the testing of unpasteurized milk samples nationwide to trace the virus's origins.

Raw Farm, the Fresno-based company linked to the contaminated milk, released a video stating, "There are no illnesses associated with H5N1 in our products; this is a political issue."

Despite his profound loss, Journell continues to champion the health benefits of raw milk for both humans and pets, remarking, "I believe it's beneficial but recognize the need for more rigorous testing."

Journell is seeking reimbursement from Raw Farm for nearly \$12,000 in veterinary expenses and has not ruled out legal action, though he remains undecided.

# **Vocabulary List:**

- 1. **Contaminated** /kən'tæmə,neɪtɪd/ (adjective): Polluted or made impure by contact with harmful substances.
- 2. **Demise** /dɪ'maɪz/ (noun): The end or termination of something; death.
- 3. Striving /'straɪvɪŋ/ (verb): Making great efforts to achieve or obtain something.
- 4. **Succumbed** /sə'kʌmd/ (verb): Failed to resist pressure temptation or some other negative force.
- 5. Mandated /'mæn.deɪtɪd/ (verb): Required or commanded by law or authority.
- 6. **Reimbursement** /,ri:Im'b3:rs,mənt/ (noun): The act of repaying someone for expenses incurred.



# **Comprehension Questions**

### **Multiple Choice**

1. What type of virus was suspected to have caused the demise of Joseph Journell's cats?

Option: Bird flu virus Option: Swine flu virus Option: COVID-19 virus Option: Zika virus

2. How many of Joseph Journell's cats passed away after consuming contaminated raw milk?

Option: One Option: Two Option: Three Option: Four

3. Which county in California reported the deaths of Tuxsie and Alexander after consuming raw milk?

Option: Los Angeles County Option: San Bernardino County

Option: Orange County
Option: Riverside County

4. What action did the United States Department of Agriculture take in response to the cat deaths?

Option: Mandated testing of unpasteurized milk samples

Option: Issued a statement of condolence Option: Banned all pet food products

Option: Ignored the situation

5. Which company was linked to the contaminated raw milk?

Option: Raw Farm Option: Fresh Dairy Option: Healthy Cow Option: Pure Milk

6. How much reimbursement is Joseph Journell seeking from Raw Farm for veterinary expenses?

Option: \$5,000



Option: \$12,000 Option: \$20,000 Option: \$30,000

#### **True-False**

- 7. Joseph Journell believes raw milk has no health benefits for pets.
- 8. The United States Department of Agriculture traced the virus's origins back to Raw Farm.
- 9. Joseph Journell has already decided to pursue legal action against Raw Farm.
- 10. All 11 cats in California that died from consuming raw milk were from Los Angeles County.
- 11. Raw Farm admitted responsibility for the contamination in their video statement.
- ESL-NEWS 12. The virus that affected the cats is also known to have affected humans in California.

#### **Gap-Fill**

13. Joseph Journell has been a cat owner for years.	
14. The United States Department of Agriculture has mandated the testing of unpasteurized milk sample	es
nationwide to trace the virus's origins after cats died in California.	
15. Raw Farm, the company linked to the contaminated milk, is based in	
16. Joseph Journell is seeking reimbursement from Raw Farm for nearly in	
veterinary expenses.	
17. Joseph Journell recognizes the need for more rigorous testing of	
18. Journell believes raw milk has health benefits for both and pets.	

## **Answer**

Multiple Choice: 1. Bird flu virus 2. Two 3. San Bernardino County 4. Mandated testing of unpasteurized milk samples



5. Raw Farm 6. \$12,000

True-False: 7. False 8. False 9. False 10. False 11. False 12. True

Gap-Fill: 13. 15 14. 11 15. Fresno 16. \$12,000 17. raw milk 18. humans

## **Answer**

### **CATEGORY**

1. Health - LEVEL4

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