RENO, NV - A fraternity at the University of Nevada, Reno has been slapped with a 2-year suspension for hazing.

The university took the action after the local Alpha Tau Omega chapter was accused of hazing pledges by branding their buttocks with dry ice and making them eat raw poultry.

University Director of Student Conduct Sally Morgan says the hazing came to light in December after as many as 11 pledges sought treatment at the student health center after eating uncooked chicken or turkey.

She says they were diagnosed with a food-borne illness required to be reported to the county health department.

The students were questioned during a campus investigation in January when they returned from their winter break.

Morgan says fraternity members used dry ice to etch the Greek letter omega, resembling an upside down U, on pledges' buttocks.

A spokesman for the fraternity says the decision to shut down the fraternity until 2010 has been appealed.

Built in 1929, the ATO house at the university was Nevada's first fraternity house.

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