

Animal science "pigeon"

INTRODUCTION

Pigeons have been one of man's closest Associates for more than 4,000 yrs. The scientific names are "columbidae". It is the only family in the order columbiformes. These are stout bodied birds with short necks, and short slender bills that in some species feature fleshy ceres. They primarily feed on seeds, fruits, and plant's. The family occurs worldwide, but the greatest variety is in the Indomalayan and Australasian realms. The family contain 344 species divided into 50 genera. Thirteen of the species are extinct...

The samller species tend to be called "doves" and the larger ones "pigeons". However, the distinction is not consistent and does not exist in most other languages. Historically, the common names for these birds involve a great deal of variation between the terms. The bird most commonly referred to as just "pigeon" is the domestic pigeon, which is common in

the domestic pigeon, which is common in many cities as the ferel pigeon..

Doves and pigeon build relatively flimsy nests, often using sticks and other debris, which may be placed on branches of trees, on ledges, or on the ground, depending on species . They lay one or two white eggs at a time, and. Both parents care for the young , which leave the nest after 25-32 days. Unfledged baby doves and pigeons are called squabs and are generally able to fly by 5 weeks of age. These fledglings, with their immature squeaking voices, are called squeakers once they are weaned or weaning. Unlike most birds, both sexes of doves and pigeons produce" crop milk" to feed to their young, secreted by a sloughing of fluid filled cells from the lininig of the crop..

HISTORY OF PIGEON

Pigeons have had a long and colourful history in the service of human's. Earliest records indicate that we had a deep interest in the breeding of pigeons.

Our early efforts at breeding and selection



deep interest in the breeding of pigeons.
Our early efforts at breeding and selection soon gave us pigeons with different colors, Shapes, size and abilities, which lead to the development of the homing and racing pigeons..

Pigeons have been widely. Used to carry messages, especially in times of war, they are employed in rescue work and have been used to carry messages from ships to nearby land area's. Pigeons have often been used by "underground" movements and person engaged in subversive activities where other forms of communication could be traced..

Today pigeons are bred for:

- 1. Racing And Homing
- 2. Meat Production
- 3. Exhibition

Some Pigeon fancio believe that Pioneer aviators learned to do many of their maneuvers by observing the flight of pigeons. Such feats as loops are patterned closely after similar movements in the fly of pigeons..

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BEHAVIOUR OF PIGEONS

Pigeons mate in pair's and generally remain paired to each other for life. When a pair has gone through the courting stage and mated, the two are ready to build a nest and hatch young. They remain true to each other as long as they live or as long as they. Are allowed to remain together. If a mating is broken by death. Or separation, the birds will mate. Again with Other bird's. This rule of constancy is rarely and may be depend upon even in large flocks..

Some dealers are rather cautions in talking about mated pairs but speak about pairs of pigeons without saying anything about matinge. Insist upon getting mated pair's when you buy breeder's..

OPPORTUNITYS TO LERN DO,

In the beginning the person keeping pigeons will want to do several things to gain experience with. The bird's



keeping pigeons will want to do several things to gain experience with. The bird's and confidence in his or her ability to care for them..

FOR "OLD HANDS".

- 1. Raise some homing pigeons
- 2. Raise some performing pigeons
- 3. Dres squabs for market
- 4. Exhibit at larger shows

FOR BEGINNERS.

- Band your birds and keep total records
 - 2. Attey one or more pigeons shows
- Select your best birds to be retained as future breeders
- Obtain at least two pair's of the same breed and variety (color)

FOR THE MORE EXPERIENCE.

- Increase the size of your breeding flock
 - 2. Assist with a stage or pigeon show
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FOR THE MORE EXPERIENCE.

- Increase the size of your breeding flock
 - 2. Assist with a stage or pigeon show
- Break and remate to other partner's two or more pair's

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