

Pigeon Study Guide Level 1

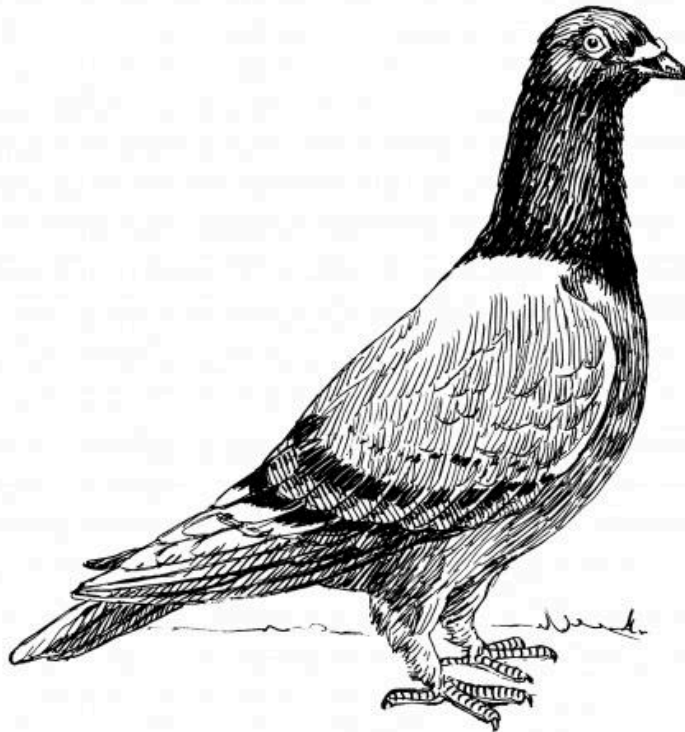
SMALL ANIMAL ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

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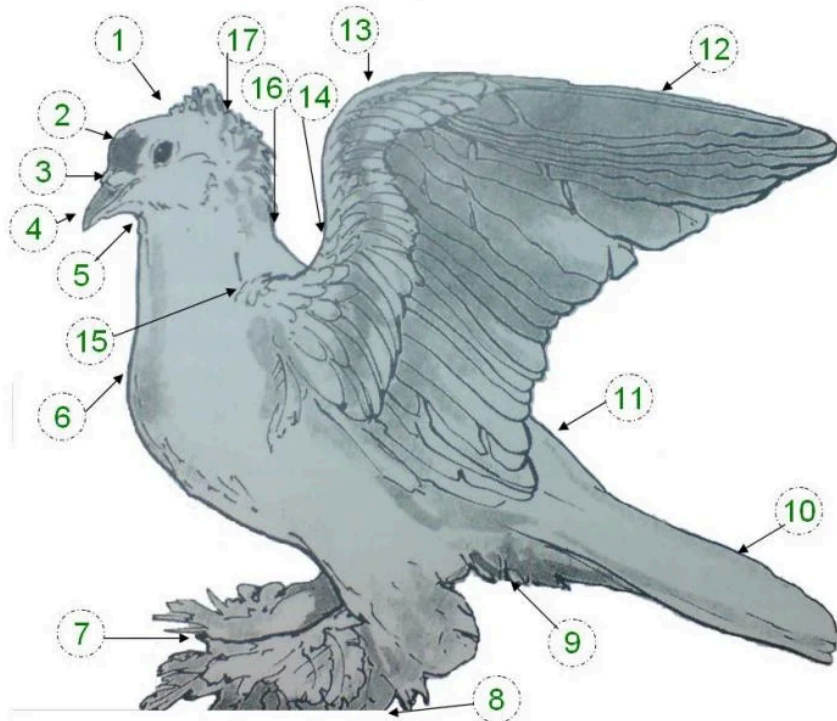
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FRESNO COUNTY 4-H
Pigeon Study guide

LEVEL I



1. Crown or topskull
2. Frontal or forehead
3. Nostril cere or wattle
4. Beak (upper and lower mandible)
5. Chin and bib (throat) region
6. Crop region
7. Foot
8. Foot feathers
9. Vent region
10. Tail
11. Rump and upper (dorsal) tail coverts
12. Wing
13. Wrist or wing butt
14. Elbow
15. Shoulder
16. Nape
17. Back skull with crest



Different parts of the pigeon body

Special facts about pigeons

1. A pigeon male is the only male bird that produces milk for their squeakers.
2. There are four different classes of pigeons: Old cock, old hen, young cock, young hen.
3. It depends on the breed and time of year that changes the protein and fat content we feed to our birds.
4. Incubation on an egg is 17-19 days.
5. Pigeons mate for life.
6. They are one of the few birds that recognize themselves in a mirror.
7. Pigeons can fly up to 90 miles per hour, with an average flying speed of around 50-60 miles per hour.
8. Pigeons can fly long distances, often up to 600 miles (965 kilometers) in a single day, depending on their training and condition.
9. There are 11 groups of pigeons including doves in the pigeon "Book Of Standards" and over 300 breeds of pigeons and doves.
 - a. Form pigeons
 - b. Wattle pigeons
 - c. Croppers and Pouters
 - d. Color pigeons
 - e. Owls and Frills
 - f. Tumblers, Rollers, and high Flyers
 - g. Trumpeters
 - h. Structure pigeons
 - i. Syrian pigeon breeds
 - j. Middle eastern pigeon breeds
 - k. Doves

Biosecurity, Diseases and parasites

1. Mites-A pigeon mite, "Dermanyssus gallinae" also called a bird mite, is a tiny parasitic insect that primarily lives on birds like pigeons but can occasionally bite humans if they come into close contact with infested areas, causing itchy red bumps on the skin.
2. Lice-The pigeon louse fly, "Pseudolychia canariensis", is a common ectoparasite of pigeons and doves. The louse flies (Hippoboscidae) are obligate blood-feeding ectoparasites of birds and mammals. Both adult males and females feed on the blood of their host.
3. Bacterial infections
 - E. coli: A contagious bacterial infection that can be fatal to pigeons and can also affect humans
 - Salmonella: A bacterial infection that can develop into paratyphoid
 - Chlamydiosis: A bacterial infection that can be passed on to people
4. Parasitic diseases
 - Coccidiosis: An intestinal protozoa infection that causes diarrhea and weight loss
 - Trichomoniasis: A protozoa infection that primarily affects young pigeons and doves
 - Ascarids: A nematode that's common in feral pigeons
 - Capillaria: A nematode that can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and anemia
 - Roundworms: A nematode that can cause severe hemorrhage

Items to successfully raise pigeons

1. A loft that is completely enclosed with solid or wire. It must be safe from drafts and extreme heat or cold. Must have proper ventilation.
2. Proper watering system. It is easy to always provide fresh drinking water without access to birds defecating in it.
3. Proper feeding system. It is easy to fill and has no access for birds to waste food and/or defecate in it. Also, know what is the best food for your specific breed.
4. A water bath pan that has enough diameter for rolling. Larger for a couple of birds. Deep enough for 2-inch water that won't splash out too badly.
5. Smaller bowl to give them grit periodically.
6. Proper bedding to keep the loft clean, dry, and pesticide-free.
7. Nest box with proper bedding for laying season. Nesting material should be around the loft so the birds can build their nests.
8. Enough perches for birds to get off the ground individually and in groups.
9. A storage of the medication. For parasites, colds, eye issues, diseases, etc.
10. Trimmers and file for beak and nails.

Items needed to successfully show pigeons

1. Carriers for safe transport. It must be clean and proper bedding. If needed, a feeder and waterer are also required.
2. Items to clean up and present your bird.
3. Prepared to handle your bird alone correctly.
4. Copies of entries.
5. Knowledge of pigeons, care and your breed specific.

Showmanship steps

Carry to showmanship cage with proper hold, Put in/ pose, close door
Remove bird from cage with proper hold, head first.

1. Check eyes.
2. Check ceres.
3. Check nose.
4. Check beak.
5. Check beak overhang.
6. Check head.
7. Check throat.
8. Check the width of the body.
9. Check the underlayer of feathers and skin on the back.
10. Check wings.
11. Check tail.

Flip your bird

12. Check wings.
13. Check vent.
14. Check pelvic bones.
15. Check legs.
16. Check feet.
17. Check toes.
18. Check keel bone.

Flip bird back

19. Check the crop.

Step back and ask the judge if they have any questions. While securely and comfortably holding your bird.

Terms

Air Sacs - Nine hollow areas extend throughout the pigeon's body. Air flows through this system of interconnected sacs, almost like blood in the circulatory system.

Arm - The humerus - the bone in the wing projects directly from the body.

Aviary - A wire enclosure attached to the loft so the pigeons can sun themselves and in which a bath may be given. It also trains young birds or their surroundings outside the loft. It enables the birds to be outside on the landing board, learning how to enter the trap door without being able to fly away from the loft, and they are too young to return home.

Balanced - The term describes how the bird feels when holding it in your hand. Good balance is a must.

Banding - At 7 days old, pigeons must have a unique identification on one of the right legs. This procedure is called banding and is also used for shipping nights when the birds receive a rubber countermark on their leg for that weekend's race. (The bird returns home from the race, and the master pulls the countermark off their leg and places it in a clock that kicks the exact arrival time).

Beak Angle - Angle formed between the forehead and beak.

Bib - A color pattern of the front part of the neck.

Billing - Pigeon kissing. When the female sticks her bill down the male's throat and takes an offering of regurgitated food. A behavior known as a prelude to mating.

Bloom - A white, powder-like dust found in the feathers of pigeons.

Brooding - when a hen/cock sets on eggs to hatch

Bowing - A courtship behavior of a male pigeon, like puffing out his neck feathers, lowering his head, and turning around in circles.

Breast - Crop region of the body; also includes the pectoral muscles.

Carrying Crate - A device usually made of wood and canvas with a doweled top with a door and a canvas flap type release door on its side; used to carry pigeons.

Cere (eye) - Bare skin around the eye.

Clutches - a name given to a set of eggs laid.

Condition - General health, muscular tone for racing, feather perfection.

Cooing - Pigeons make many sounds during courtship, such as "coo-roo-coo-tooo...".

Cover Feathers - The cover feathers make up most of the wing and are attached to the upper part of the wing.

Coverts - the small feathers of the wings and tails.

Crest - Reversed feathers on the back of the head.

Crooked Keel - A crooked breast bone. A flaw.

Crop - The first stomach of the bird for storing feed located in a fleshy pocket on the neck. Here, food is stored for around 12 hours inside the bird before it's passed into the stomach and intestines.

Cull - An unwanted bird or to eliminate unwanted birds. (to cull)

Droppings - Excrements of a pigeon.

Egg-bound - A hen is unable to lay a completely formed egg.

Fancier - A person who raises or races Racing Homers. A person who breeds or grows a particular animal for points of excellence <a pigeon fancier

Flights - The 20 larger feathers in the pigeon's wing. The outer 10 flights are called the Primaries.

Form - The condition used to describe pigeons' condition.

Fret Marks - Any horizontal mark or deformity on the feathers—results from lack of proper nutrients to the growing feathers or stress.

Frill - Line of reversed feathers on the neck or crop.

Girth - Circumference of the pigeon's body.

Grit - A mixture of crushed quartz, granite, oyster shell, charcoal, salt, and trace elements. Birds need to grind up their food.

Keel - Bone running down the middle of the breast to which the pectoral muscles are attached.

Keratin - The protein from which the feathers are formed.

Loft - A structure usually made of wood and housed by the Racing Homers.

Mandible - The beak or bill.

Mites/lice- a common parasite that infects a pigeon.

Moult - The yearly process of losing all feathers and systematically growing new ones. The heaviest part of the molt occurs during late summer and early Fall.

Muffs- feathers on legs

N.P.A.- National Pigeon Association

Old cock- Male pigeon over a year.

Old hen- Female pigeon over a year.

Pectorals - The large muscles lying on both sides of the keel.

Perch - An elevated place made for the birds to perch on.

Pigeonary - Dictionary of words and terminology used for pigeons.

Pigeon Club - Many fanciers who ban together with types of pigeons.

Pin Feather - A growing feather of the young pigeons that has not yet broken through the shaft.

Pipping - The young bird chipping out of the eggshell during hatching.

Plumage - General feathering.

Pot Eggs - Artificial eggs made of wood or plastic replace real eggs when hatching is undesirable. They are used most often in old bird racing season, so the birds' racing will not be exhausted from feeding the young.

Premaxilla - The beak

Racing Homer - A pigeon whose ability to return home quickly has been selectively bred over hundreds of generations.

Rank - A process in courtship when the hen is thoroughly aroused and is eager to tread with the cock.

Ring - Refers to the band we put on the bird's leg. See Band

Runt - A youngster who did not develop properly. Also, a breed of Form pigeon.

Scales - The dead skin on the body which surrounds the breastbone

Settling - The act of acclimating young birds to the loft and letting the birds go outside of the loft for the first time.

Silky - Term used to describe healthy feathers.

Sire - Father of a Pigeon.

Spraddle-Legged - A young bird with its legs horizontal to its body so that it can not stand up. This condition results from an insufficient amount of nesting material.

Squab - A baby pigeon.

Squeaker - Young pigeon from 2 to 8 weeks old.

Stockings - Feathers on the legs or feet.

Vent Bones - Two small bones directly behind and on either side of the breast bone and under its tail.

Wattle - Fleshy cover on the nostrils behind the upper beak.

Weaning - Taking the young birds away from their parents; usually done at 28 days of age, plus or minus a few days.

Young cock - A male pigeon under a year old.

Young Hen - A female pigeon under a year old.