

Pima County 4H

Pigeon Project Handbook



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Basic Pigeon Care and Useful Information

When considering purchasing/acquiring pigeons, it is best to have a home loft ready for them. An outdoor loft can be fully enclosed, or a cage consisting of small wires (1/4 inch by 1/4 inch recommended) which prevents predators and snakes from entering enclosure, access to food and water, should have at least 2 solid sides, a nesting area/box and shade from direct sun. An indoor pigeon may be kept in a large bird cage like other domestic birds. Although safer inside they may require more consistent cleaning.

Daily tasks include:

- Feeding – 14% protein feed which can be pellets, crumble and seed feed. Always ask the breeder what feed that bird is currently being fed. You can transition your bird slowly to a new brand of feed if needed. Some performing birds such as racers may breed higher than 14% protein. Free feeding or leaving food out all day, can attract pests like rodents, wild birds and etc. Avoid attracting pests to your show birds as they introduce new pests and disease.
- Water – clean water should be provided each day. Remember to scrub and wash water dishes once a week.
- Grit – you should always have grit out and available to your bird. Grit helps birds digest food and if they are caged without access to solid ground they will need grit supplement to provide nutrients.
- Observation- take a minute or two each day to watch your birds carefully to make sure the bird(s) are eating properly, drinking water and acting normally.

Weekly tasks include:

- Baths – your bird(s) should have access to a bath once a week. Put out a larger water dish that they may stand in (able to touch bottom) or swim if they like. Some birds would bath every day if available.
- Health Check – pick up your bird and inspect for illness, injury or pests etc. Treat accordingly.

Monthly tasks include:

- Spray/Treat – spray or treat your bird for bugs as preventative treatment, even when they do not have any bugs or parasites present.
- Cleaning – clean the loft/cage once a month, keep debris off floor or surfaces around loft to eliminate attracting wild birds and pests. If your birds have squabs/squeakers – only clean between clutches, leave the nest box dirty until the babies have left the nest. Pigeon lofts have good bacteria in the poop that protect pigeons and squabs from airborne illnesses.

Types/Classes of Pigeons:

- Utility** Known for their large size. Double as meat pigeons and are considered big for small exhibitors hands to handle. Kings, Giant Runts, French Mondain and Carneau are common utility breeds.
- Performing** These breeds typically “do” something interesting. Not all performing birds are required to perform at show. Some breeds will be required to demonstrate their ability, make sure to find out if your breed will be required to perform at show. For instance a Racing Homer will not be required to race at show, Parlour Tumblers however are required to tumble on the ground at a show in order to be scored and receive ribbons/placement.

Rare	Rare Breeds are breeds that have been imported to the United States and may be hard to find and/or breed. Most rare breeds are slightly smaller than other types except for doves. Italian Owls, Valencian Figurita, Budapest and Vienna's are considered rare breeds. Rare breeds are by far the largest classes of pigeon.
Fancy	These pigeon breeds are super fancy with different kinds of feather types, patterns and colors, and come in all different sizes. Modenas, pouters, and croppers are considered Fancy breeds. Some Fancy breeds are also considered Rare.
Dove	Doves are the smallest docile bird and are easy to handle if you work with them consistently. Australian doves and diamond doves are temperamental and easily become sick.

Standard of Perfection

The Pigeon Standard of Perfection features each and every purebred pigeon. The United States Standard of Perfection can be purchased directly from the National Pigeon Association. The standard explains what is most important about that specific pigeon breed, describes physical features, lists the point system for judge scoring, and provides information on origin, accepted colors and specific aspects of the bird breed.

Important points to study about your bird in the standard are:

Origin – where bird/breed is from, how it came to be etc.

General Impression – main things you should notice first as you approach the bird

Weight – accepted weights

Head – aspects of the bird's head features

Eyes – lists what you need to know about this bird's proper eye colors

Beak – very specific information about the beak of your bird

Cere – information for your breed's specific eye color and size

Neck – specific information about the features of the neck of your breed

Breast – what is most important about the curve of your bird

Back – what angles of the back is a judge looking to see

Wings – specific wing number of feathers, patterns and colors

Tail – angle color and number of feathers for your breed

Legs – color of legs, and specific information about dual legged birds

Colors – accepted colors in the current standard for your breed are listed

Markings – accepted marking patterns in the current standard are listed

Serious Faults – things you should look out for when choosing a bird to compete at breed shows

Judging Order – the order in which the judge will judge your bird (Scale of points)

Order of Importance – Scale of points for your breed

Pigeon Showmanship and Showman Competitions

Current enrolled 4H Members and FFA Members are eligible to compete in statewide small stock shows and often participate in their county fair as an exhibitor. There are also many pigeon clubs that hold competitions in showmanship and breed in the state. Each location tends to have minor differences in showmanship styles, techniques and movements. As a Pima County Pigeon project member, it is suggested that you show the way your county has instructed you to execute the showmanship moves, regardless of other techniques and movements of exhibitors in different locations.

Showmanship is about the showman, it is the moment when all the preparation, practice and study comes together. Exhibitors show their skills handling their bird and answering the judge's questions sharing their knowledge of pigeons. The judge may ask you to complete showman movements and answer questions related to general knowledge, of your breed of pigeon and/or other pigeon breeds in senior showmanship class. The judge may ask you to complete tasks as a group or as an individual. As a showman your goal is to show with confidence and exercise poise under pressure. Show your bird to the best of YOUR ability while making smooth movements and keeping good eye contact. Remember to smile, look like you are having fun! Always come in an appropriate clean uniform and remember to exhibit good sportsmanship. Showmanship is a competition where you are competing with your best self! Each competition you are trying to do better than your last. The Danish judging system is based on this concept and will reward you based on your own merit. Just remember to prepare, practice and have fun!

- During a showmanship competition an exhibitor shows all of the parts of their pigeon to the judge when prompted. Narrate or explain what the parts are and why or how you check these areas if asked.
 - Depending on your knowledge level and your showmanship experience: A novice (1st year showman) may be judged on movements, and a senior showman (usually several years of experience) should be confident and fluid in movements AND exhibit the highest level of knowledge for youth showman in that class.
 - The movements shown to the judge indicate to the judge that you have been working and practicing with your bird and, have mastered control of your bird to the best of your ability.
- Each exhibitor is asked specific questions about their bird breed and about pigeons in general. This competition is meant to show that you take the time to research your specific breed and study the Standard of Perfection.
 - Basically, you are learning to assess your bird similar to a master breeder.

Showmanship can be overwhelming and scary for some new and experienced showman, but here are a few things you need to keep in mind.

- Everyone started out knowing absolutely nothing about their pigeon—even the judge that is evaluating you. It takes years to learn everything there is to know about one breed of pigeon, so no one is expecting that in a few months you will know all there is to know about all pigeons.
- If the judge asks you a question you do not know, it is acceptable to tell the judge:
 - “I am not sure, but I will get back to you”
 - “I am not positive about the answer, I would like to research that and get back to you”
- It is also okay if the judge asks you to make a showmanship movement such as “check the vent” and it takes you a few extra seconds to get your bird into the proper position.
 - Be calm and confident. Keep smiling.
 - Slow and steady is okay, this is not a timed race and it's not necessary to be first. Smooth movements and technique matters.

Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated. Exhibitors that taunt others, call names, or generally “make fun” of an exhibitor that scored lower than them will be penalized and **can result in loss of winnings.** Exhibitors/members that intentionally share misinformation or false information with competitors and do not willingly teach/mentor others with correct information may be penalized.

Pigeon Showmanship Movements

How do I ...

1. Remove the bird from the cage

- a. To remove your bird from its cage, approach the cage and open the door.
- b. Reach in for your bird.
- c. ALWAYS remove the bird head first—humans, animals and birds like to see what's ahead of them and where they are going. Most importantly this will make sure that tail/wing feathers are not damaged.
- d. Make sure to **have complete control of the bird** before removing it from the cage. Take your time. If needed put the bird down and try again.

2. Show the head of the bird

- a. Hold the bird in LEFT hand with legs/feet secured in fingers.
- b. Raise the bird to shoulder level head facing judge.
- c. Show both sides of the head by moving placing your thumb/finger on each side of the beak to the left or right.
- d. Move birds head from left to the right while examining the head of your bird and looking at the judge.



3. Show the left/right wing of the bird

- a. Usually the judge will ask one wing at a time (a different separate move is wing splay).
- b. Hold bird in LEFT hand at waist level with legs/feet secured in fingers presenting to judge.
- c. Spread wing feathers out (make sure to choose the correct wing left/right when asked).
- d. Slowly raise and lower bird and the wing. The goal is to show both upper and lower sides of the wing, including the wing spread so judge can observe wing feather condition.
- e. Switch wings when instructed (do not switch hands-always hold bird in LEFT hand). Left wing spread is splayed over arm.



4. Show the wing splay of the bird

- a. Hold bird in LEFT hand at waist level with legs/feet secured in fingers presenting to judge.
- b. Spread and raise both wing feathers with RIGHT hand.
- c. Slowly turn bird while holding the wings splayed showing front, sides, and rear of splay



5. Show the undercolor of the bird

- a. Using RIGHT hand, lift the feathers up, then smooth down and repeat. Move up and down the entire back of the bird.



6. Show the width of body appropriate for your bird

- a. For Utility breeds, chest depth is measured with thumb and pointer finger.
- b. For Rare/Fancy breeds, hip width measured with thumb and pointer finger.
- c. Be prepared to be asked to show or explain how to show both Utility and Rare/Fancy technique at any showmanship competition.



Utility Width of Body



Rare/Fancy Width of Body

7. Show the breastbone of the bird

- a. Place the bird against your chest to show the breastbone
- b. Separate the feathers as best you can to see the actual bone.
- c. You may look while performing the movement, once bone is exposed look at the judge. With experience you should be able to do this while looking at the judge.



8. Show the tail of the bird

- a. Hold bird at waist level. Using both hands separate the feet.
- b. Tuck feet in between fingers on each hand.
- c. Use thumb and pointer to hold and spread tail feathers out.
- d. With tail feathers spread wave tail/bird up and down to show top/bottom.



9. Show/Check the vent of the bird

- a. Hold bird at waist level. Using left hand, hold the feet.
- b. Use thumb and pointer on right hand to separate feathers around vent, visibly check vent.
- c. Hold position and present to judge.
- d. Do not worry if your bird poops while doing this, it happens all the time in the show ring.



10. Show/Check the feet and legs of the bird

- a. Hold bird at waist level. Using both hands separate the feet.
- b. Move feet back and forth opposite each other, while looking at judge.
- c. Muffed (feather-legged) breeds show feet together



Clean Legged Birds



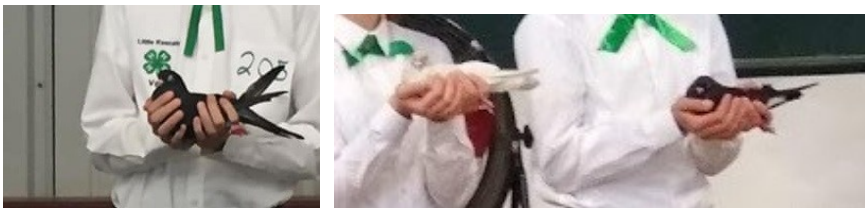
Muffed (Feather Legged) Birds

11. Pose the bird in the cage

- a. Return the bird to the cage head first.
- b. Gently place bird down and shut the door.
- c. Using a show stick (if needed), pose the bird to the best of its ability according to the standard.

12. Proper carry position/hold

- a. Hold bird at waist level using both hands.
- b. Place feet/legs between fingers on left hand.
- c. Cradle bird as though you are presenting a gift to the judge



13. Checking the mouth/beak- checking for canker.

- a. Hold the bird in LEFT hand with legs/feet secured in fingers
- b. Raise the bird to shoulder level head facing you
- c. Open the beak/mouth by placing your thumb/finger on each side of the beak spreading open
- d. Look in mouth, cheek/tongue and throat/bib area, also check the top of nostril/cere for abnormalities or disease. (Canker is a yellow cheesy color/consistency)



Showmanship Narrative of Procedures and Explanations

Exhibitors/members should know why they are asked to complete these specific showmanship movements and the purpose they serve. For example: Why do you check the head/mouth? Exhibitors/members should know for what purpose these showmanship movements serve and why they should be completed. What are you looking for when checking the eyes? Exhibitor/members knowledge of their pigeon breed is key. A judge may ask if you know the pigeon breed's proper eye color, cere color, and etc., according to their specific breed standard.

It takes time, practice, study and repetition to gain and retain this information, do not expect to be a master overnight. Practice, practice, practice – study, study, and study – it builds confidence. Sometimes a wrong answer or movement, although unpleasant, can help remind you of the proper procedures or answers – learn from your mistakes and plan for your next show competition.

1. Why does the judge want to see you remove the bird from the cage?

- To make sure that an exhibitor is comfortable handling their pigeon
- To make sure the exhibitor is experienced in catching their pigeon
- To see if the pigeon looks like it is familiar with the procedure (has practiced)
- To see if the exhibitor can remove the pigeon without dropping it
- To see if the exhibitor can remove the pigeon without damaging tail/wing feathers
- To see if the exhibitor removes the pigeon head first, which is the proper method
- To check the exhibitor's ability to hold the pigeon in proper carry position
- To make sure the exhibitor maintains control and masters handling their pigeon

2. Why do we check the head of the pigeon?

- To identify specific parts of pigeon anatomy
- To check pigeon for proper eye color
- To check for crests/hoods in certain pigeon breeds
- To check for head specific disqualifications of specific pigeon breeds
 - Example: crooked/split beaks
 - Example: cracked eyes/split cere
- To check pigeon for illness/disease
 - Blindness
 - Canker
 - Upper Respiratory Issues (discharge from nose)
- In squabs, to assure they are eating (you can check the parents for food residue to make sure they are both feeding the offspring)

3. Why do we check the wings of a pigeon?

- To identify the wing/feather parts and pigeon anatomy
- To check pigeon for injuries/damage
- To check pigeon for mites, lice, or other pests or evidence of such as pinholes, etc.
- To check pigeon for proper color/variety in specific breeds
- To check pigeon wings for balance (same number of primary feathers on each wing)
- To check pigeon wings for proper number of feathers (some breeds have a specific number according to the standard)
- To check pigeon for proper blood flow

- 4. Why do we check the undercolor of a pigeon?**
- To make sure pigeon variety/color matches the breed standard
 - To look for lice, mites and other pests common to pigeons
 - To check for feather growth in molting pigeons
 - To look for common injuries, healed older injuries and damage or disqualifications to pigeons
 - To check for pigeon for general cleanliness and health
- 5. Why do we check the width of body on a pigeon?**
- To tell the difference between cocks and hens
 - To make sure hens can pass eggs
 - To make sure hens are not egg bound
 - To check for balance or development of pigeon
 - To check for external and internal damage to pigeon
 - To see if the pigeon falls into a utility or exhibition category
 - To help determine age in some pigeons
 - For meat quality pigeon – to check for balance/distribution
 - To better understand the pigeon's overall weight
- 6. Why are there different ways to check the width of body on a pigeon?**
- Utility pigeon breeds are checked for meat development and distribution
 - Exhibition (rare/fancy) pigeon breeds are checked for body development and balance
 - Each pigeon category develops differently
 - In dual purpose pigeons, an exhibitor can choose which they are most comfortable with (pigeons entered in utility class should always be shown as utility method)
- 7. Why do we check the breastbone of a pigeon?**
- To make sure the pigeon breastbone is not crooked (signs of disease)
 - To check pigeon for heart problems (enlarged, etc.)
 - To check pigeon for liver problems
 - To look for pigeon parasites such as lice and mites
 - To check the crop and breast area of the pigeon for problems, balance, distribution
 - To check the pigeons weight and nutrition
- 8. Why do we check the tail of a pigeon?**
- To check pigeon for balance, missing feathers may indicate flight issues
 - To check pigeon for color specifics in color breeds
 - To see if the proper amount of feathers are present (pigeon breed specific by standard)
 - To check pigeon for parasites such as lice and mites
 - To check nutrition
 - Transparent feathers in tails and wings may indicate poor/lack proper nutrition
 - To check pigeon for general cleanliness and health
- 9. Why do we check the vent of a pigeon?**
- For overall general cleanliness and health of pigeon
 - To help determine the sex of the pigeon (there are both external and internal methods)
 - To make sure hens are not egg bound
 - To check if certain pigeon breeds are altered for breeding purposes (feathers cut/missing)
 - To check pigeon for worms or other parasites and diarrhea
 - To check pigeon for signs and symptoms of other severe illnesses
 - To check pigeon for prolapse of intestines (falling out of the rectum area due to injury)

10. Why do we check the feet/legs of a pigeon?

- To check for feathers in certain pigeon breeds (muffed-feather legged)
- To check pigeon for stubs in some pigeon breeds
- To check pigeon for overall condition and health
- To check pigeon for scaly leg mites
- To check pigeon for bumble foot
- To check pigeon for other injuries to feet (missing toes-etc)
- To check pigeon for loft foot (severe poop stuck to feet bottoms indicates pigeon was not cleaned properly before the show or lack of general routine maintenance)
- To check pigeon for leg and toenail color on the specific standard
- To check pigeon for an approved registered band and its number (NPA band not required)

11. How/Why do you pose your pigeon in the cage?

- To set it up to look like its breed standard to the best of the pigeon's ability
- To show the judge you know how to pose the pigeon, indicates you have been practicing
- To show the judge you know how and studied the standard pose for your specific breed

12. Why is a Parlour Tumbler pigeon REQUIRED to flip for the judge at show/competition?

- 50% of a tumbler's overall score is based on its ability to flip, which means it **MUST** flip for the judge when tasked, to be eligible or considered for award presentation.

Pigeon General Knowledge Questions

These questions may potentially be asked by the judge during showmanship competition. These questions are not breed specific, but are meant to challenge your general knowledge of pigeons. Depending on the competition level and the other competitors knowledge, you should be prepared to answer any, if not all, of these questions time permitting.

Q. What is meant by the abbreviation of NPA?

- A. National Pigeon Association

Q. What is the NPA?

A. The National Pigeon Association is an international association that is dedicated to the promotion and education of pigeon fanciers and hobbyists. The NPA compiles and publishes the standards of perfection for recognized domesticated pigeon breeds. The standard of perfection is an encyclopedia of features and characteristics of specific pigeon breeds which detail what traits a bird is judged upon. The NPA licenses judges for competitions and certifies sanctioned pigeon shows.

Q. What are the common classes in the NPA Standard? (Name 3 examples for each)

- | | | |
|-----------------|----|----|
| A. Fancy – | | |
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| B. Rare - | | |
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| C. Utility - | | |
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| D. Performing - | | |
| 1. | 2. | 3. |
| E. Dove - | | |
| 1. | 2. | 3. |

Q. What does AOC stand for?

A. Any Other Color – considered a “non-standard color”. There are some breeds AOC can only compete in a separate AOC class and cannot go beyond Best of Variety. Other breeds (Figurita) accept all AOC birds and are eligible for Best of Breed.

Q. How long does it take a pigeon egg to hatch?

- A. 17-21 days

Q. What is a baby pigeon called?

- A. Squab

Q. How many eggs does a pair of pigeons generally sit on in nest to hatch?

- A. Sets of 2

Q. If your pigeon pair has 2 squabs, which is the dominant squab?

- A. The larger one (usually the first one hatched).

Q. Do male pigeons help to take care of the young?

A. Yes, male pigeons help raise the young offspring by sitting on eggs for the mother or feeding the squab.

Q. What is meant by line breeding?

- A. Breeding which involves mating a parent bird with one of their direct offspring.

Q. What age do you band a squab with a seamless band?

A. 5-10 days, depending on the growth rate of the squab and the breed band size.

Q. What age is recommended for processing squabs for meat?

A. 27-30 days

Q. What does a seamless band tell you about a pigeon?

A. The bird's age, the year they were born, the unique identification number assigned, the band size, and what club (NPA/Racing Clubs/Clubs) they are banded with.

Q. Can adult pigeons be banded with seamless bands?

A. Once an adult, the knuckles are too big for a band to fit over. You could try to use a bigger seamless band – however, this may put them in danger of getting their legs stuck in cages.

Q. Name different color patterns for pigeons:

A. Splashes; Bars; Checks; Barless; Grizzles; and Solids

Q. Can you tell me another name for the breastbone?

A. Keel Bone

B. Sternum

Q. When a bird loses all their feathers, and they are replaced with new feathers over time, what is the process called?

A. Molt-Molting: Old feathers molt out and are replaced with new feathers over time. Low quality/protein food, can force a molt. Breeders may force a molt with proper planning to make a pigeon regrow feathers before a show.

Q. What is a frill and where is it located on the bird?

A. Fluffed feathers on the throat/breast are of certain breeds of pigeons. Lack of frill in specific pigeon breeds is a disqualification.

Q. What is a crest?

A. Feathers that point upwards on some breeds of pigeon's heads.

Q. What is a cap?

A. Some pigeon breeds feature a solid color on the top of the head which make them look like they are wearing a cap.

Q. What is a gizzard?

A. The second stomach of a pigeon which helps to process food.

Q. How often should you allow your pigeons to take a bath?

A. A daily bath is preferred, typically once a week is sufficient.

Q. What is a "specialty club"?

A. Clubs created for specific breeds of pigeons. For example: The American Pigeon Racing Association, the German Modena Club, or the American Helmet Association.

Q. What are “local clubs”?

A. Clubs created by pigeon fanciers and hobbyists that hold sanctioned shows with NPA guidelines and licensed judges. For example: TPPFFC Tucson Poultry Pigeon and Fancy Fowl Club, or the American Pigeon Association.

Q. Does a true white feather have pigment?

A. No

Q. If a bird has a yellow cheese-like substance in and around the mouth/beak, what are these symptoms of?

A. Canker

Q. What are some remedies for pests and parasites?

A. Ivermectin, garlic water, Seven (7) dust, Adams spray, and overall general cleanliness.

Q. If a bird lives outside and direct sun/sunlight stains or strips color from the feathers, what is this known as?

A. Feather bleaching

Q. What is a stub?

A. Pin feathers on the toes of clean legged breeds.

Q. Is a stub a disqualification or defect?

A. Disqualification

Q. What is wry tail?

A. Wry tail is when the tail will not sit centered. It is possible for a pigeon to have wry tail, and it will make it impossible for them to fly straight.

Q. What is a globe?

A. The skin of the throat region that can be expanded when filled with air.

Q. Name 2 breeds of pigeon where a globe can be found?

A. Pouter or Cropper

Q. What is broken eye?

A. When one iris of the bird's eye is one color, while the other eye iris is another color.

Q. What are some common pigeon parasites?

A. Lice, mites, worms, ticks (found in some areas).

Q. How often should you clean your pigeon loft?

A. Monthly, but during breeding season the loft should only be cleaned in between clutches. Pigeon poop consists of GOOD bacteria that helps protect the pigeons from airborne illnesses.

Q. What is meant by “self” color?

A. A solid colored pigeon.

Q. What is the overall quality of a pigeon called?

A. Condition

Q. Describe thread worm.

A. A type of common pigeon worm. Thin, thread-like worms that are barely visible in a pigeon's poop.

Q. What are signs/symptoms of a pigeon with mites?

A. Dark spots and/or holes in the wing and tail feathers when you hold them to light.

B. The bird's feathers are brittle, broken or bent and are thin in appearance.

Q. Should I feed my pigeon chicken scratch?

A. Not typically a good practice, but may be used to force a molt. Feeding chicken scratch to pigeons can be dangerous and can kill a pigeon if the scratch gets stuck in the throat and, over a long period of time chicken scratch will not provide enough protein to survive and thrive.

Q. Should I free feed pigeons?

A. No, feed once per day. This allows you to monitor that each bird is eating each day. Leaving food out attracts other birds and mice that can bring parasites and disease to your loft.

Q. What is the first thing recommended to do with a sick pigeon?

A. Isolate/Quarantine the bird away from other birds.

Q. What are some common pigeon diseases?

A. Canker, common colds, pigeon pox, avian influenza.

Q. What is a young pigeon called when it is ready to leave the nest, but is not fully feathered?

A. A squeaker.

Q. How many tail feathers should most pigeons have?

A. 10-14

Q. Why should you feed your pigeon grit?

A. To help digest their food and to provide them with needed minerals.

Q. How often should you feed grit to your pigeons?

A. Grit should be available at all times.

Q. How many breeds/varieties of pigeons are there?

A. There currently are 250 accepted pigeon breeds with over 100 awaiting acceptance into the standard.

Q. What is the main cause of a crooked breastbone in a pigeon?

A. Mainly bad genetic makeup, external resources like not enough bedding or nesting materials can be the cause.

Pigeon Breed Specific Questions

Based on the AMERICAN Standard of Perfection published by the NPA (National Pigeon Association), these are questions that may be asked by a judge at a competition.

Questions will vary depending on what type of a pigeon breed you are showing. Useful information is available by searching the internet and using the Standard of Perfection, Breed Clubs, and other pigeon fancier/breeder websites.

The judge may ask you any of the questions from this section and/or depending on your showmanship level and experience a judge may ask you about other breeds being shown by you or another exhibitor/showman. You most likely will not be asked ALL the questions within this section. It is a good practice to be prepared to answer any of these questions and more.

Contact a local breeder, project leader, or superintendent/coordinator for guidance if you are having trouble answering these questions.

1. What are you showing? (Your specific pigeon showbird)

Variety: _____
Breed: _____
Age: _____
Sex: _____

2. Where (what country) did this pigeon breed originate?

3. When did this pigeon breed enter the United States? (Date)

4. In what class is this pigeon found?

5. What are 3 breeds the pigeon competes against in their class?

6. What are 3 other color varieties this pigeon breed comes in?

7. How many accepted varieties of your pigeon breed are there?

8. What is the purpose of this pigeon breed?

9. What are 3 breed specific faults you can find in this pigeon breed/variety?

10. What are 3 breed specific disqualifications for this pigeon breed/variety?

11. How many tail feathers should this pigeon breed have?

12. Does this pigeon breed have a specialized breed specific club in the United States?

13. According to the Standard, what is the point scale for this pigeon breed/variety?

Most important/Most points: _____

Least important/Least points: _____

14. Does this pigeon breed mate without human interference?

15. Does this pigeon breed produce true offspring?

16. Does this pigeon breed have color specific requirements?

17. What is the proper eye color for this pigeon breed/variety?

18. What is the proper leg color for this pigeon breed/variety?

19. What is the proper beak and cere color for this pigeon breed/variety?

Beak _____ Cere _____

20. Additional "other" breed specific knowledge for this pigeon breed/variety?

Notes: _____

Pigeon Showmanship Narrative

Showmanship competition at small stock shows in the state the judge may ask you to give a narrative about your bird instead of being asked a questions by the judge.

This is an example of a showmanship narrative for reference.

My name is (xxxxx). Today, I am showing a (Variety), (Breed), (Age), (Sex) pigeon. This pigeon originated from (place) and was transported to the United States in (year). The bird was entered into the NPA Standard in (year). This breed is found in the (xxxxx) class and three birds that my pigeon competes against are (name of breed), (name of breed), and (name of breed). Three of the most common colors recognized in this breed are (variety), (variety) and (variety).

When checking the head it is important to note that the proper eye color is (xxxxx). The cere color should be (xxxxx). The beak color should be (xxxxx). Some other important things to check or know about the head of this breed are (xxxxx). The neck of the pigeon should be (xxxxx). The neck connects to the breast of the bird, and the color of the breast should be (xxxxx). In meat birds you check the width using the breast because (xxxxx). In other breeds, check width using the back/hip to indicate the bird can (xxxxx). The back of the bird should be (xxxxx). Pigeon wings have (xxxxx) parts and they are (xxxxx). It is important to check the wings because (xxxxx).

The tail should be checked because (xxxxx). The proper number of tail feathers for this breed is (xxxxx). I also check the vent of the pigeon because (xxxxx), and I check the breastbone of my pigeon because (xxxxx). A broken breastbone is a (xxxxx). A pigeon may have a crooked breastbone if the bird (xxxxx). Another name for the breastbone is (xxxxx). The leg color of my pigeon should be (xxxxx). When I check the feet and legs of the pigeon I am looking for (xxxxx). There are three types of leg disqualifications and they are (xxxxx).

According to the Standard, the three most important aspects of this pigeon breed are (xxxxx). One of the least important attributes of this bird is (xxxxx) and, common faults are (xxxxx). When I pose my bird in the cage, I am looking for (xxxxx).

Thank you for allowing me to show you my pigeon. Are there any questions that I can answer for you today?

Pima County 4H Pigeon Showman Score Sheet

Exhibitor # _____ **Showman Class:**
 Jr Jr Nov
 Int Int Nov
 Sr Sr Nov

OBJECTIVE	DESCRIPTION	POINTS	SCORE
Remove	Remove the bird from the cage	5	
Pose	Pose your bird in the cage	10	
Head	Show the head of the bird	5	
Wings	Show left and right wing splays of the bird	15	
Undercolor	Show the undercolor of the bird	5	
Width	Show the width of body based on your breed	5	
Breastbone	Show the breastbone of the bird	10	
Tail	Fan and show the tail of the bird	5	
Vent	Show the vent of the bird	5	
Feet/Legs	Show the Feet and Legs	5	
Appearance	Professional appearance in uniform with smile	5	
Knowledge	Skills and presentation of knowledge	25	
Total Points		100	Your Total Score is:

Judges additional comments and notes for showman:

Callback: Yes No

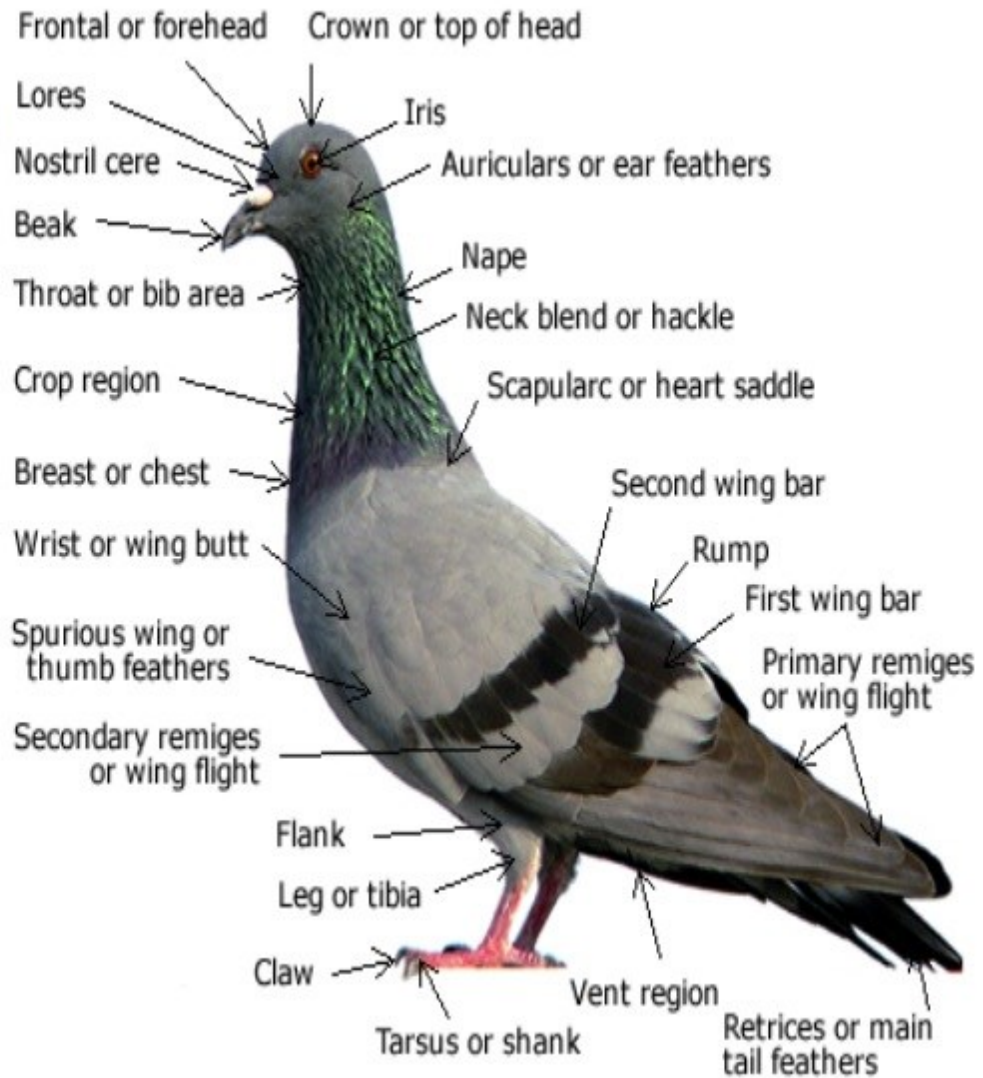
Ribbon:
 Blue (90-100 pts)
 Red (80-89 pts)
 White (79 pts and under)

Blue Rosettes/Plaques (Check One if Applicable)

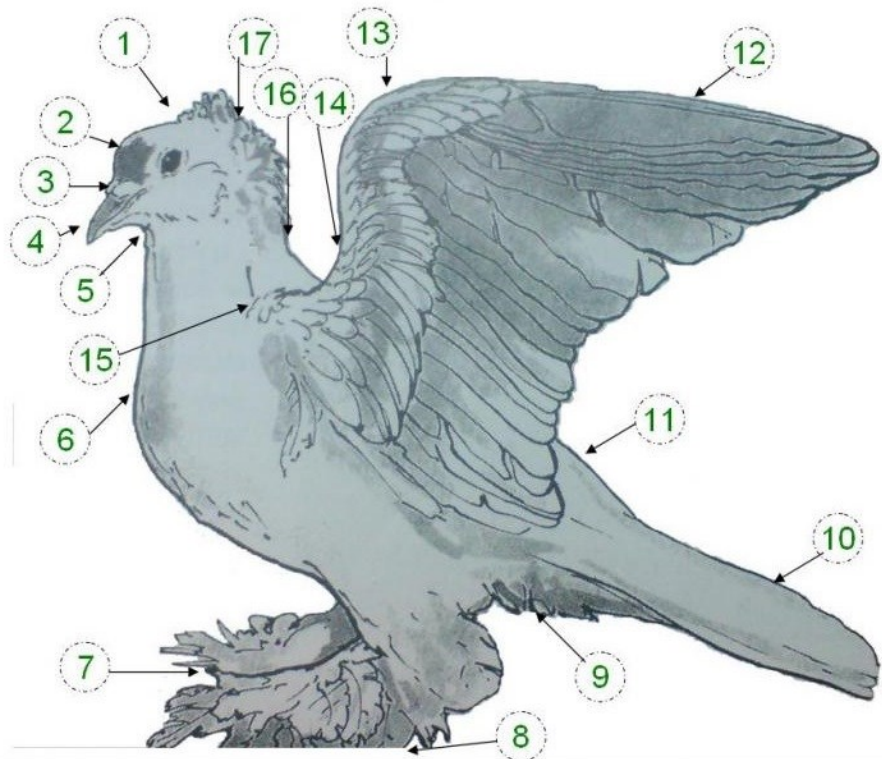
Grand Champion Showman
 Jr Jr Nov Int Int Novice Sr Sr Nov
Reserve Champion Showman
 Jr Jr Nov Int Int Novice Sr Sr Nov

Anatomy of a Pigeon

Pigeon External Anatomy 1

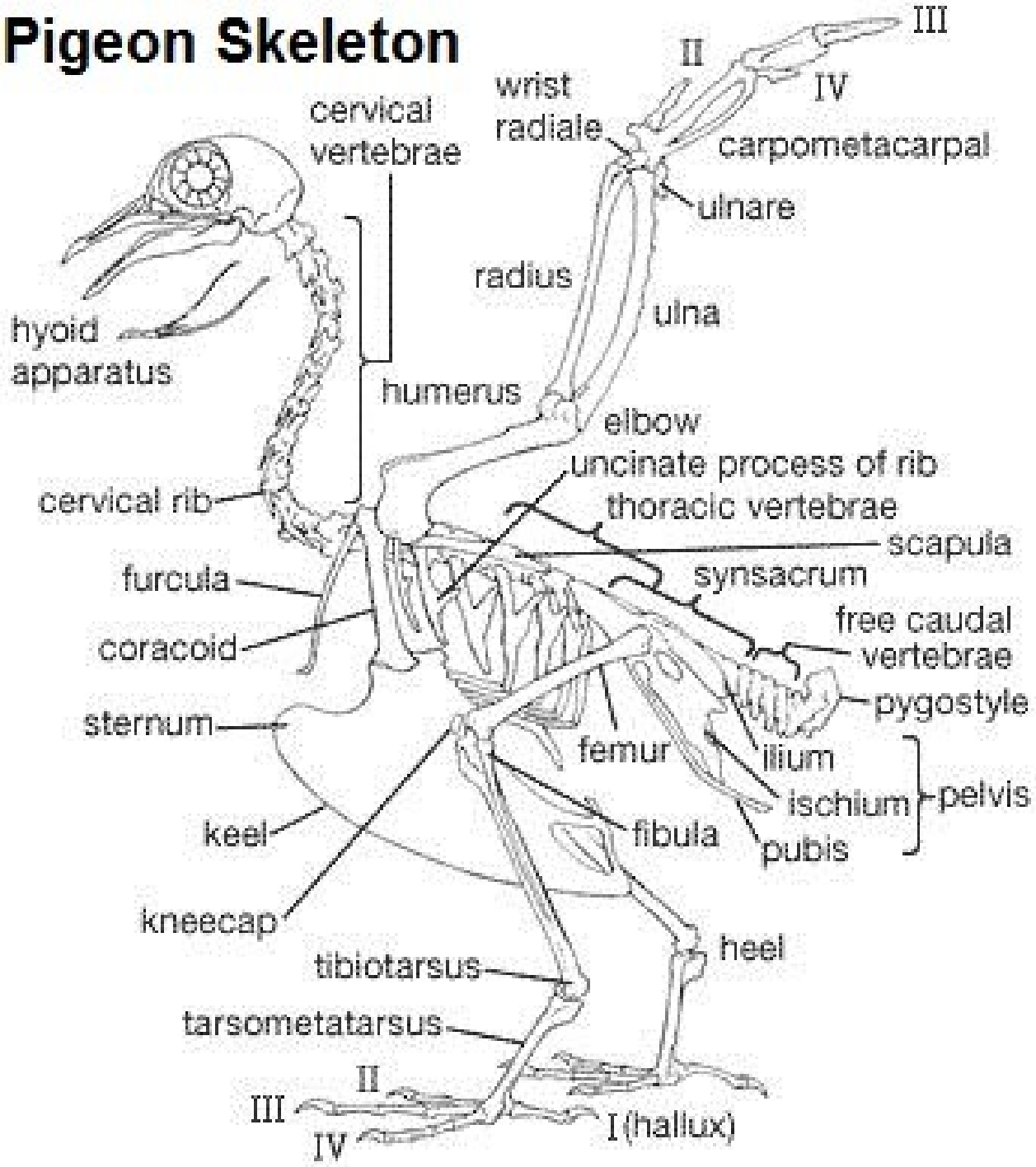


1. Crown or topskull
2. Frontal or forehead
3. Nostril cere or wattle
4. Beak (upper and lower mandible)
5. Chin and bib (throat) region
6. Crop region
7. Foot
8. Foot feathers
9. Vent region
10. Tail
11. Rump and upper (dorsal) tail coverts
12. Wing
13. Wrist or wing butt
14. Elbow
15. Shoulder
16.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



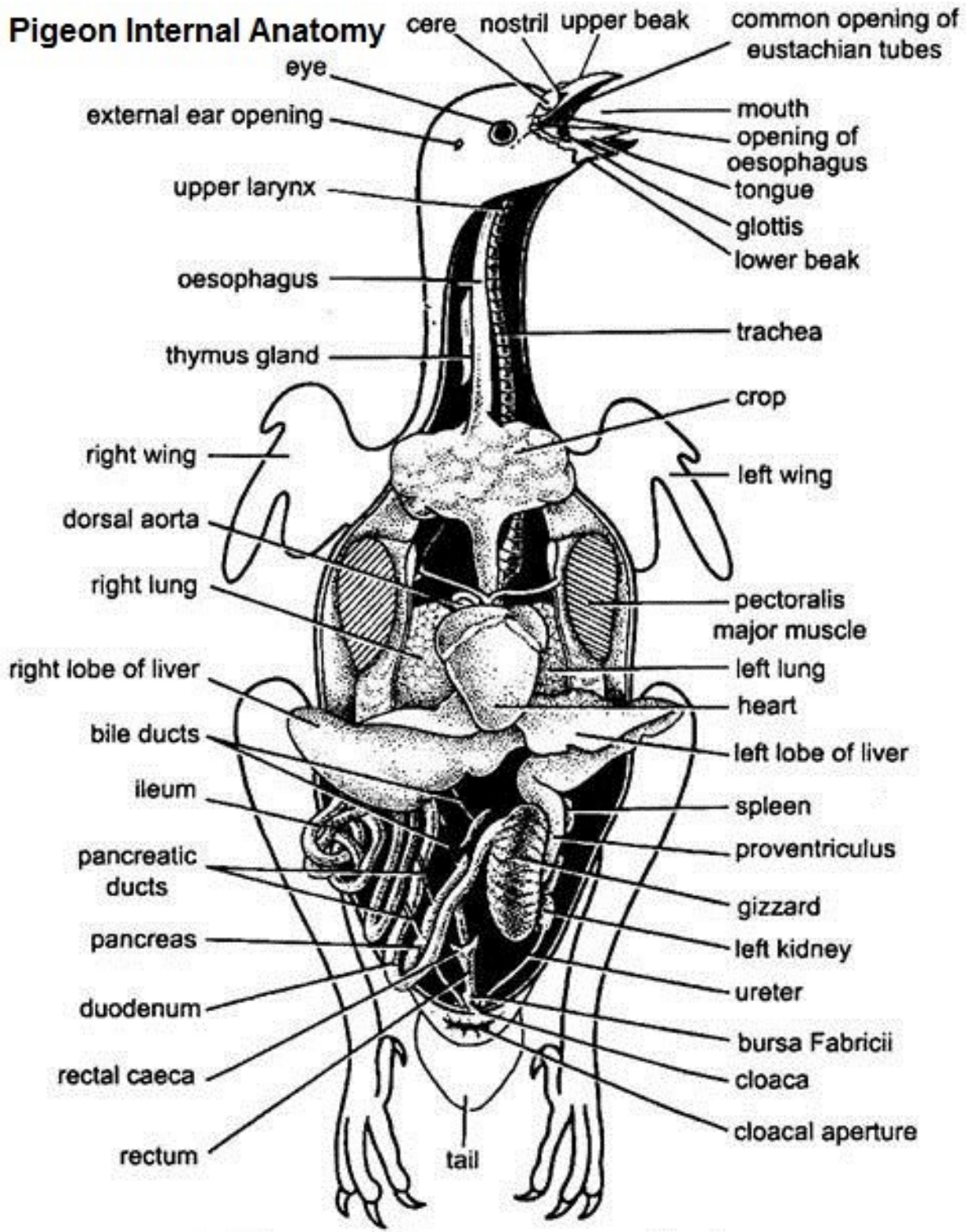
Different parts of the pigeon body

Pigeon Skeleton

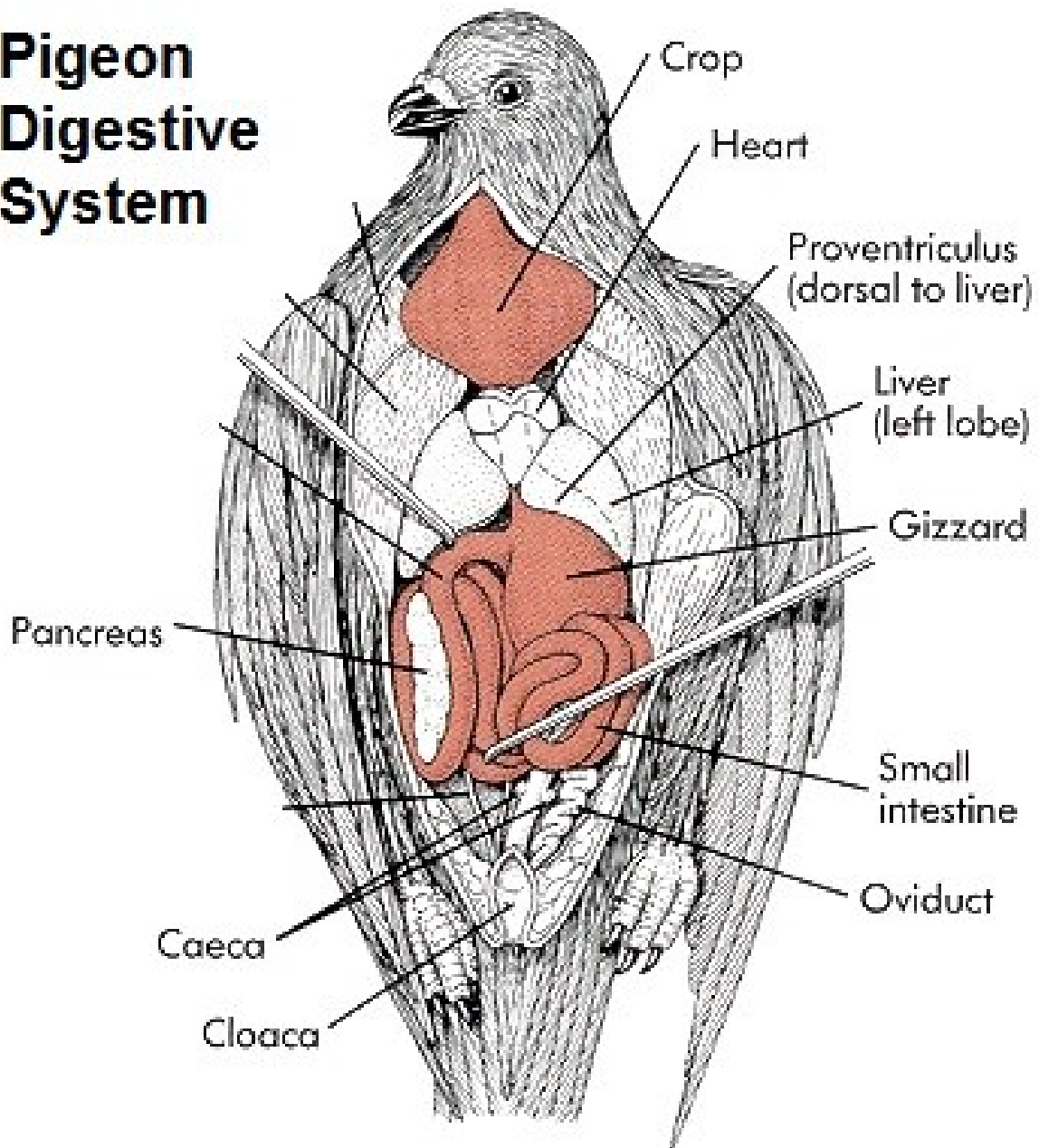


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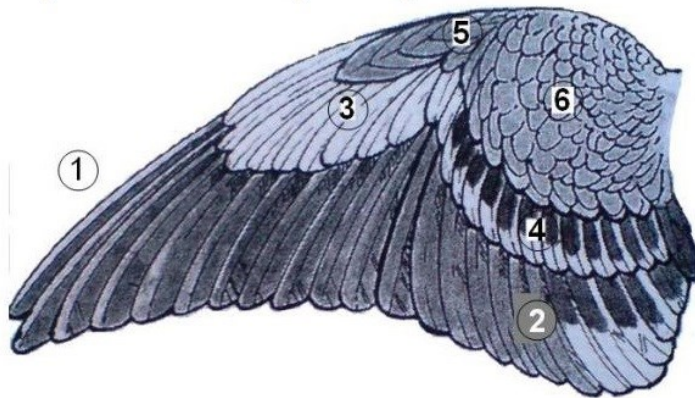
Pigeon Internal Anatomy



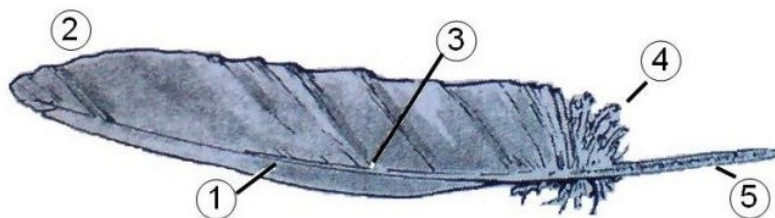
Pigeon Digestive System



Pigeon Feather and Wing Anatomy



- 1 – Primaries
- 2 – Secondaries
- 3 – Primary Coverts
- 4 – Secondary Coverts
- 5 – Alula
- 6 – Lesser Wing Coverts



- 1 – Outer web of vane (vexil lum)
- 2 – Inner web of vane
- 3 – Rachis or Shaft
- 4 – Down feathers or fluff
- 5 – Quil or Calamus

Common Diseases and Parasites found in Pigeons

- ❖ Canker – yellow cheesy substance – can be treated with medicines
- ❖ Worms, Roundworm, Tapeworm – internal parasite need wormer treatment
- ❖ Coccidia – droopy behavior/wasting – can be treated with medicines
- ❖ Lice and Mites – most common issue to treat with regular schedule
- ❖ Respiratory Infections – quarantine – contagious for other birds, needs antibiotic
- ❖ Pigeon Paramyxovirus (PMV) – fast sudden death usually in 3 days no specific treatment. Signs include: twisting of neck, head flicking, running eyes and beak, vomiting or diarrhea.