

Fancy Feathers

Official mouthpiece of the National Fancy Pigeon Association
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Editorial

While piecing together this issue of the newsletter, I couldn't help but feel impressed, yet humbled by the significant strides that the NFPA has made from very humble beginnings. The NFPA is growing and positioning itself as a permanent feature in the sporting arena in South Africa as can be seen by the events that it has participated in recent months - Participation in two Agri shows; Spring Show in the Waterfront; Show in Port Elizabeth; Exhibition Stand at ICC in Durban.....! Well, that being said; I am proud to be a member of the NFPA; and remember that this is **your** newsletter; so if you have any newsworthy items or photos, please send them to me at anthony.thebus@gmail.com There is an interview with the newly elected NFPA Vice President, Neil Raw, seen on the front cover with NFPA President, Fadiel Hendricks.

Happy reading!!

Yours in pigeons
Anthony Thebus

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Breed of the Issue - The Oriental Frill

The History of Oriental Frills



Whilst the pigeon fancier of today is strolling round his modern up-to-date lofts; noting with intent, observant eye the beauty of their names, he probably seldom, if ever, pauses to realize that the hobby which so delights him is one, the origin of which stretches away into an antiquity so remote that no authentic account of it can be actually presented. It is generally conceded that the breeding and barter of pigeons was a recognized industry several thousand years ago. Not only do references to it occur from time to time in classical writing, when a chance allusion often reveals, as in a flash, the eager striving and friendly rivalry that made the Columbaria of Greece and Rome a center of interest as keen as any that today kindles the enthusiasm of competitors in our own National Shows. It has been proved by the leading pigeon writers of all countries that the numerous varieties known to the pigeon world of today, no matter how widely divergent may be their present characteristics, both of form and colour, have a common ancestor in the wild Blue Rock Pigeon, and every type has been

slowly evolved through numberless years by the patient endeavours of a long line of breeders. The attainment of an ideal is a labour of love and it is quite impossible to fix the periods at which the various recognized types were being evolved, it is, however, certain that developments in these directions had made long strides at a very early date. Amongst the varieties produced in those far-off ages that which was the progenitor of the Oriental Frill undoubtedly took a prominent place.

Although the earliest records do not disclose any mention of Oriental Frills, even in a primitive state, being found outside Asia Minor, yet the other shores of the Mediterranean, and more particularly those of the south, have a very strong claim to be the original home of the oriental type. Not that there is any evidence to discredit Asia Minor as the producer of lacing, and the other beautiful colour properties of Oriental Frills. The first African Owls were imported from Tunis, about the year 1857, the native fanciers had apparently no knowledge of Oriental Frills as they were, and it was not until some five years later that the English fancy was introduced to the charming Satinette by Mr. H.P. Caridia, a Greek merchant, of Smyrna, who arrived with several pairs of Blue-laced Satinettes and Brunettes. For over twenty years Mr. Caridia was the recognized authority on Orientals, and he finally left for Smyrna in 1884, where he died some nine years later. He had however, written some very interesting notes in "Fulton's Book Of Pigeons" relating that Satinettes (blue-laced) were the oldest pencilled variety which he had been enabled to trace, and that, although in his researches he had succeeded in following their history as special inhabitants of Asia Minor back to somewhere about the year 1750, even then their origin was obscure, and that although he

had sought in various directions to obtain a direct clue to their original birthplace, or origin, he could not get beyond the information of an aged Presbyter in Smyrna, who was then upwards of eighty years old, and he had kept the breed all his life, and who stated that the identical variety had also been bred and propagated by his father in a like manner, and by his grandfather, too, before them and that they were regarded as of the highest type of pigeon beauty, and were described in native terms, which, interpreted, would mean Royal or Imperial pigeon, as possessing the foremost order of excellence, and thus worthy of the highest title which their owners could confer upon them.

As to the origin of lacing, the most beautiful and distinctive feature of the main branch of the Oriental family, Mr. Caridia has nothing definite to say beyond the fact that the pencilled varieties of his day revealed the wonderful embodiment of three or more colours arranged in perfect and marvelous order and regularity upon every feather which should be coloured. Therefore, in order to secure this remarkable variegation in regularity and unison, the colour must necessarily have been infused at the outset by a judicious and completer system of crossing and blending of the various coloured specimens which bore the stamp and image in points of formation of one kind.

Source:

<http://www.nunpigeons.com/www.nunpigeons.com/info.php?p=1>

Classic Old Frill Standard – The Satinette

Breed Standard as laid out by

<http://www.classicoldfrill.org>

The Classic Oriental Frill is an exhibition breed of pigeon from the Owl family. It is also known as

the Old Fashioned Oriental Frill and the Old Style Oriental Frill. It is the precursor breed from which the modern Oriental Frill was created. It is a beautiful ancient pigeon breed, which can now be seen on exhibit at major American and Canadian shows.

GENERAL IMPRESSION

A small to medium sized (average weight 11-12 oz) cobby pigeon, with a jaunty disposition. Stations at near to a 45-degree angle with the tip of the tail just clearing the floor. Typical characteristics include a breast frill, peak crest, grouse muffs, and a medium-short thick beak. Satinettes are shield marked / tail marked birds with white bars or laces on their shield and Moon Spots or laces on their tail. Blondinettes are whole colored birds which also possess white bars or lacing on the shields and Moon Spots or lacing on the tail...Some varieties have the lacing extending over most of the body.

HEAD: Roundish to slightly oval, substantial, wide. Arched forehead that flows in a smooth, continuous curve from the tip of the beak to the tip of the peak. Wattle small and neat.

EYE: Large, bright and prominent. Eye cere fine in texture and flesh colored. Bull eyes in Satinettes. The eye in Blondinettes to be yellow gravel to deep red brown depending upon the variety.

BEAK: Medium short in length, substantial/thick, blending into the forehead in a smooth, uninterrupted curve. Flesh colored in Satinettes, flesh to horn to black in Blondinettes, depending upon the variety. Wattle small and smooth. Classic Old Frills can feed their young and do not need feeders.

CREST: Needlepoint Peak Crest. Upright and central. Rising at least as high as the highest part of the head. Peak crest supported by a well-developed mane, without any sign of a mane break. (The indentation between the Peak Crest and the mane.)

NECK: Short and strong, appearing thick due to the mane at the back of the neck, and the gullet. Held proudly, and upright so that the eye is directly over the juncture of the toes with the ankle. There should be a pronounced gullet extending from just under the lower mandible down the throat into the frill.

FRILL: The frill should extend from the middle of

the gullet and continue into the breast (ideally 2" in length). It should be well developed and profuse. A shorter, more profuse frill is preferred over one that is sparse but greater in length. Feathers to grow outward to both sides uniformly. Feathers that grow only to one side or disproportionately to one side will be penalized. Rose shaped frills will be penalized.

BREAST AND BODY FORM: Breast is broad, well rounded, held forward prominently and tapering toward the rear of the bird. Size is small to medium with Body Form to be firm. compact and cobby.

WINGS: Strong, lying close to the body, covering the back, without "sails", and lying flat on the tail.

LEGS: Short, profusely covered with grouse muffs all the way to the toenails. Toenails to be white in Satinettes flesh to horn to black in Blondinettes depending upon the variety.

PLUMAGE: Well developed, tight, lying flat with the exception of the Frill and the Peak Crest.

FLIGHTS AND TAIL: Flights short, resting flat on the tail. Flights and tail to be shorter rather than longer. Tail to be no more than 2 feathers in width. Tail just clearing the floor when in show position.

STATION: Upright station at near to a 45-degree angle, which causes the tail to be held downward rather than horizontal.

COLOR: While no preference is given to any one color, all colors should be bright, smooth and even. In laced birds the lacing should be clear and distinct. In barred birds the bars should be clear, narrow. long and even. The color inside the bars or laces should be white. The color inside the Moon Spots or tail laces should be white. The factors which give the Oriental Frill its unique coloring are Toy Stencil and Frill Stencil, in combination. Toy Stencil affecting mainly the body and Frill Stencil affecting mainly the tail. Without these factors in proper combination, various shades of color will be produced, from normal coloration to bronzes/ sulphurs and a root beer coloration, in their various hues. Toy Stencil and Frill Stencil causes the whitening effect that one sees in a well marked Oriental Frill.

Recognized Colors

Blue Silver (Dilute Blue)

Brown Khaki (Dilute Brown)

Ash Red Ash Yellow (Dilute Ash Red)

Black (Spread Blue) Dun (Spread Silver)
Lavender (Spread Ash Red & Ash Yellow)
Recessive Red
Recessive Yellow

There will also be a class for AOC, for other factors which fanciers successfully transfer over to Classic Frills, such as milky, reduced, opal, etc. It should be noted that these factors must also have the telltale marks of Oriental Frills, and that is the Toy Stencil and Frill Stencil Factors, in combination, so that the same requirements stated in other parts of the standard are applicable to any new color factor added to the gene pool.

COLOR NAMES:

Bluette: Blue Bar Satinette
Silverette: Silver Bar Satinette
Brownette: Brown Bar Satinette

COLOR / PATTERN / MARKINGS:

Satinettes are white except for a colored shield and colored tail (including about half of the rump and the wedge to the vent). Ash Red birds are to have clear and obvious tail color and markings (It should be noted that it is most difficult to achieve the same quality of tail markings in Ash Red/Ash Yellow birds as in other color varieties). The shield is laced or barred. Spread birds have a laced tail. Non-Spread birds have a barred tail with white Moon Spots. The shield bars are to be White. The inside of the laces on the shield are to be White. The inside of each Moon Spot is to be White. The inside of each laced tail feather is to be White. There should be a clear delineation between the lacing and the ground color. The bars should be clear, long, even and narrow. The ideal is 10x 10 white flights, always with colored thumb feathers. White thumb feathers will be penalized. 7 to 10 white flights are allowed, with even numbered flights preferred over odd numbers of flights on opposing wings. There is to be an even line of demarcation across the rump between the colored tail and white back. This line falls about half way between where the wings first separate and the actual beginning of the tail feathers. An even line, both top and bottom, is more important than the actual location of the line on the rump. The same description applies to the Blondinettes with the exception that the Blondinette is a whole colored bird and has no solid white feathers. In Spot tail version of Blondinettes, usually just the tail and the wings show Toy and Frill Stencil. In Laced

Tailed varieties, the lacing usually extends over most, if not all of the body--these are usually the spread factor birds.

Faults

Stray colored feathers in white areas in Satinettes. White feathers in colored areas of Satinettes and in Blondinettes. Nearly white tail in Ash Reds, Ash Yellows, Lavenders and Dilute Lavenders. Peak Crest too low. Mane break (indentation between Peak Crest and mane). Split eye. Crooked keel. Incomplete or irregular tail spots. Incomplete or irregular lacing in the tail. Lack of tail spots or lack of a laced tail. Widely flared tail or scoop tail. Thinly groused legs. Bare toes. True muffs. Long or thin beak. Turbit frontal. Under-developed frill. One colored flight among the white flights in Satinettes, or one white flight among colored flights in Blondinettes. Signs of parasites. Long body or long feathers. Small, narrow, flat or angular head. Coarse eye ceres or wattle. Drooping wing (s), Horizontal station. Narrow breast. Poor color. White thumb feathers or uneven shield. White feathers under the tail in the wedge. Sails. Colored toenails in Satinettes, white toenails in Blondinettes.

POINT DEDUCTIONS

Bronze or Sulphur Bar 5 points
Root Beer Bars 5 points
Wild Type Bars (1) 7 points
Solid Color Shield (2) 7 points
Barred Tail with no Moon Spots (3) 7 points
Solid Tail with no Lacing (4) 7 points
Solid Tail with irregular Lacing 5 points

(1) Wild Type bar means there is no Toy stencil or there is only ts3. The result is: Black bars on Blues, Dun bars on Silvers. Brown bars on Browns. Khaki bars on Khakis, Ash Red bars on Ash Reds, Ash Yellow bars on Ash Yellows

(2) Solid colored shield means there is no Toy Stencil

(3) Lack of Moon spots means there is no Oriental Frill Stencil

(4) Lack of Lacing means there is no Oriental Frill Stencil

***PURPOSE FOR POINT DEDUCTIONS:**

The goal of the point deductions is to encourage the pursuit of complete Toy Stencil, without sacrificing genetic diversity. Since Toy Stencil

has three components, it is easier to breed birds with incomplete Toy Stencil than with complete Toy Stencil. But two imperfect birds, depending on their imperfections, can produce an almost perfect looking bird, so breeders can use these birds as they strive for complete Toy Stencil. . Birds that have long necks, no Gullet and small heads should not be used in the breeding program, as these faults are virtually impossible to correct when they are in a bloodline. The traits listed under Point Deductions improve with appropriate breeding choices. The goal should always be to work toward achieving the proper combination of Toy Stencil (TS) and Frill Stencil (FS). These two mutations are the hallmarks of the Classic Old Frill.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

No Frill. No crest. No grouse muffs. White, or substantial white tail. More than one colored flight mixed in with the white flights in Satinettes. More than one white flight mixed in with the colored flights in Blondinettes. Sickness. Live vermin. Deformities. Severely out of condition from dirt, disease or parasites.

ORDER OF EVALUATION

General Impression (including Station). Body Form (including Size). Head and Beak. Crest. Neck and Frill. Markings. Color.

WEIGHTING OF ELEMENTS OF JUDGING

General Impression (including Station) 20
 Body Form (including Size) 15
 Head and Beak 15
 Crest 10
 Neck and Frill 10
 Markings 15
 Color 15

Satinette Addendum

GENERAL.: Color markings in Satinettes and Blondinettes are identical except for the color white. In Satinettes the head, neck and breast, body under parts, muffs and the primary flights 10x10, not less than 5, must be white. The beak is pale flesh color, and the eye very dark brown. The wing coverts (including lesser, median and greater coverts. tertials, scapulars, and secondary wing flights) and tail feathers of the Satinette are identical to those of the Blondinette of the same color. The Blondinette, lacking the designated white areas of the Satinette, is essentially the same color throughout.

Ground color of the laced or spot feathers of both Satinettes and Blondinettes should be as clear white as possible except in the case of sulphur varieties. The laced feathers have quills of the basic color of the bird. Lacing or edging, whether heavy, medium or fine, penciled, arrow pointed or ticked, must be distinct, even regular and well defined.

Blondinette Addendum



BLONDINETTES: As stated, Blondinettes have color markings identical to those of the Satinettes, except that they have no standard white areas, each feather, laced or solid, being of the same basic color. Laced tail Blondinettes, as well as on wings and tail, are laced over entire body. Spot tail varieties are preferably laced only on wings (including primary flights), the remainder of bird, with exceptions of spot tail, being solid basic color.

Care of Satinette Pigeons

Source: <http://www.petcareqt.com/pigeons/Satinette-Pigeon.html>





Satinette pigeons are quite admired by people as a pet because of their dazzling looks and colors. Satinette pigeons are one of the oldest pigeon species. It is a breed of fancy frilled pigeon allied to the owls and Turbits. It has white body, tricolor shoulders and a bluish black tail with white spot on each feather. It has incredible complicated features of the head and beak. One can easily recognize Satinette pigeon by its small beak. Since it has small beak therefore, it faces trouble in raising and feeding its young one. Satinette pigeons have a white head. This information will help you in identifying Satinette pigeon easily. Satinette pigeon are hardy birds therefore; they are easy to care for. However, they require certain things to survive.

Requirements of Satinette pigeons:

Housing for Satinette pigeons: It is significant for one to provide proper housing to their Satinette pigeons in order to protect them from infections. They are artificial nesting spaces to live in. houses of Satinette pigeons should be according to its behavior and needs. The houses of Satinette pigeons should be big enough so that they can fly easily. While buying or making a house for your Satinette pigeons keep in mind that more than the aesthetic beauty of the house a pigeon is more concerned about its safety and comfort. The dimension of your pigeon house

should be appropriate according for the Satinette pigeons to reside in.

Food for Satinette pigeons: Correct Satinette pigeon feed with proper nutrition is one of the important factors for healthy and contented Satinette pigeons. It is always worthwhile to provide to make a little extra effort to provide as wide variety of food as possible to your Satinette pigeons. Mixture of quality grains is a good option to feed your Satinette pigeons. One can nourish the Satinette pigeon diet with things like - fruits, vegetables, pellets and seeds. It is a good idea to feed corn to Satinette pigeons in winters because corn includes fat that helps to insulate Satinette pigeons.

Supplements for Satinette pigeons:

Supplements such as vitamin, calcium, grit and gravel are essential for Satinette pigeons. You can also offer supplements such as - game bird crumbles, water soaked dog biscuit and water and milk soaked bread as well.

Nests for Satinette pigeons: It is significant for one to provide enough material to Satinette pigeons to build their nests. Essential such as perches, natural branches should be provided to Satinette pigeons. You can also provide readymade nest to your pigeon. Many types of readymade nest are available in market.

Feeders for Satinette pigeons: One can also provide feeders to Satinette pigeons. Feeders are a useful way of attracting your Satinette pigeons to your garden. Satinette feeders can be of various types, ranging from seed, and suet to syrup holders.

One should consider several things before purchasing Satinette pigeons for your home. Things like - age, sex, color, behavior, health record and diet should also be considered before purchasing Satinette pigeons.

Pigeon Shows and related articles

NFPA makes History!!!

By Yassiem Khan

After many years of hard work, dedication and uncompromising commitment 6 members of the NFPA were bestowed the highest honours any Sport can give, i.e. **NATIONAL COLOURS**.

These members were...

Fadiel Hendricks (*President*), **Otto Steinhöfel** (*Vice-President & Treasurer*), **Yassiem Khan** (*Secretary*), **Donald Bland**; (*Trophy Master*), **Reggie Fester** (*PRO-Schools Programme*) and **Gaathiq Davids** (*Junior*).



Faunty Gillmer – President of SANPO awarded **NATIONAL COLOURS** to the recipients



Otto could not attend

At a most prestigious venue - The Emerald Palace Hotel and Casino in Vanderbyl Park, a lavish and grand presentation took place. This happened on the 6 April 2013 at 18h30. Thursday, 4 April 2013 saw Donald, Reggie and I drive out of the *mother-city* and embark on a 16 hour, 1400km, road trip to Vanderbyl Park. We left at 22h30 and after a very

tiring, but fun-filled trip we arrived safely at our destination. Reggie ran off to stay with his son whilst Donald and I booked in at the local Formula 1 in Vereeniging. We slept for the better part of the Friday evening. The next day we drove around Vereeniging and were astounded with the unhygienic conditions prevalent in the main streets of the town. By 11h30 we hurriedly left and went over to the Emerald Palace Hotel and Casino. We walked around the facility, had lunch and visited the Aqua dome - what an exciting place for young and old. By 14h00 we were bored out of our minds as we sat in the car-park waiting for 18h00. At 17h00 we stripped in the car park and got dressed for the function. Much to the delight of two old 'tannies' who were most amused at us and circled the car park till we were in our suits.

As expected, we were the first to enter the Venue. A food banquette awaited us as we entered. I would like to extend special thanks from the NFPA to Loui Hough - President of the Vaal Racing Pigeon Federation who hosted the Awards Ceremony. Loui showed us that great leadership and a dedicated team will always yield success. We were honoured to have the President of SANPO - Mr. Faunty Gillmer present. He took the time to come over to us and welcome us to the function prior to its commencement. Faunty presented all the recipients with their Awards of National Colours. To Faunty and the SANPO Executive, the NFPA forwards its heartfelt gratitude to you all for the support we have enjoyed over the years. We also thank the Management of the Emerald Palace Hotel and Casino for making us feel most welcome. By 22h30 we were back in the car park changing clothes and preparing for the long drive back to Cape Town. This time there were no 'stalkers' watching us. We set the 'Garmin' and hit the road. Donald drove all the

way and got us home safely. We arrived in Cape Town at 14h00 on Sunday. When I sit back and reflect on our achievement I realized that if people were not members of a group - in our case; SANPO, they would not be human. Stripped of his group, a man becomes as helpless as if he was stripped of his nervous system. If this truism of anthropology were better appreciated, there would be less silly talk about individualism and rugged independence. SANPO is the vehicle that creates the bonds of kinship that is so vital to the harmony and goodwill that should manifest in all of our Federations and its members.



Gaathiq (Jnr) with the rest of the team.

The 2013 NFPA National Championship Show

By Anthony Thebus

The 2013 NFPA National Championship Show was nothing short of fantastic!!



Fadiel, Yassiem, Donald & Reggie enjoying the Function



Reggie, Donald, Fadiel & Yassiem with their National Colours & Certificates





Majiet Rawoot, the Show Manager, supported by the Show Secretary, Nico Venter, certainly outdid themselves with putting together such a magnificent show, once again raising the bar when it comes to how the NFPA presents itself to the public, and indeed the rest of the world, considering that our guest VIP judge was Ahmed Aldubaib from Kuwait!



The attention to detail was astounding, which is indicative of the fabric of the NFPA, clearly maintaining its image of being the most vibrant fancy pigeon organisation in South Africa.





show was for generations to come.



The City of Cape Town was gracious enough to support us by sponsoring the show for the third year in succession - such is the confidence that the N.F.P.A makes in difference in the community via what is termed "a lesser known sport". There were several dignitaries and VIP guests representing the Western Cape Provincial Government, City of Cape Town and Western Province Sports Council, not only in their respective official capacities, but also because they have taken a keen interest in our sport and the impact we have on the youth in our community via our youth development programme and most importantly, our fancy pigeons.



Our shared interest in fancy pigeons complimented by a cohesive management structure and enthusiastic members can only mean excellence!! The entire show was professionally filmed, which means that there is now a permanent record of exactly how this



Evidence of our intervention in the lives of the youth is visible by the enthusiastic participation of some learners of the Ottery Youth Care Centre, an establishment that caters for children under the age of eighteen

who come from broken homes and need state protection, as well as for children who have broken the law, i.e. "youth at risk". Who would have guessed that our fancy pigeons can extend their wings this far!!



As usual, the Annual General Meeting, (AGM), was held during the five day show in which Neil Raw from KwaZulu-Natal, (KZN), was

elected as the vice president of the NFPA - this can only enhance the NFPA's aims and objectives because Neil has a profound interest in the development of young fanciers; and it is only a matter of time before the progress in our sport can replicated in KZN.



One of the highlights of the lavish prize-giving ceremony; were the recipients of National Colours proudly donning their jackets for the world to see.





In conclusion, in the words of our guest judge, Ahmed Aldubaib, "the overall standard of the birds is very high". I can safely say this was a show that will be hard to beat.





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Thank you letter from KZN

Dear Fadiel, Madinia, Yassiem, Anthony & all the Committee & Members of NFPA

The flu put me down last week but I am now up & about. Neil has been there & done that in Ermerlo. Tonight we were able to sit down together and reminisce about our wonderful trip to Cape Town. We would like to Thank each & everyone for making our first visit to the NFPA Championships 2013 such a memorable 3 days.

"Our Son" Anthony has been an absolute Super star with receiving, collecting, transporting & penning our birds – for this & for previous Nationals.

On our arrival, and from then on, we were made to feel so welcome. It was challenging to remember everyone's names but we all had so much in common that there was always so much to talk about. We really enjoyed all the function's we attended and the visits to members' lofts.

Thank you for your nomination of Vice President of the NFPA. I will do my best to carry on building up the NFPA in KZN, especially amongst the Juniors. We were so impressed and will take a feather out of your caps.

It was a real pleasure to have an overseas judge at the Show.

WELL DONE ALL ROUND

Lots of Love

Neil & Angie Raw

Interview with the newly elected NFPA Vice President - Neil Raw

By Anthony Thebus

AT: When did you first start keeping pigeons and what made you interested in them?

NR: I was born in 1952 into a pigeon fancier's family. My late Dad, Brian Raw, was a National judge and I grew up on the farm Doornhoek outside Pietermaritzburg. I first showed pigeons as a junior in 1960 until 1984. The economics of building a farm and a family forced me to take a break. By 2002 I was ready to take up my passion of fancy pigeon breeding again. Thank goodness the KZN club had kept going and I was able to re-join a thriving, very social, group of members. I joined NFPA, as a founder member, with membership number KZN 001

AT: What are your favourite breeds of pigeons and why?

NR: I do not have any real favourite breed but would rather see myself as striving to be the owner of a pair of every registered fancy pigeon breed available.

AT: What type of pigeon activities have you been involved in over the years?

NR: Encouraging people to embrace the sport, especially the Juniors.

AT: What are some of your highlights in your pigeon activities?

NR:

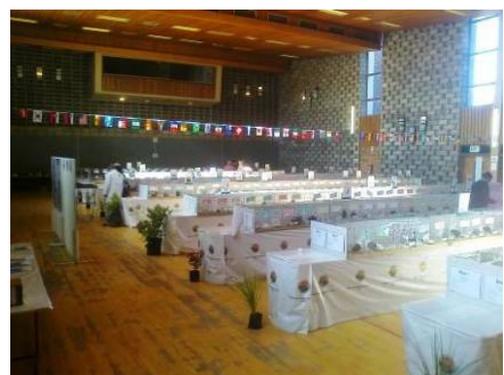
- Organising & hosting the 2009 NFPA National Show in Pietermaritzburg. We were privileged to host, in our home, many of the International judges from all over the world. It was a fabulous experience with many long standing friendships and contacts being made. The AGM was scheduled for 10.30 am. Dikkie Hammer & I were still driving around the game farm at that time; when phoned, he told everyone to "just wait till I get there!" - A special pigeon man!!

- Holding & hosting the SAFPA Nationals in PMB. I was a proud son to be part of the Brian Raw Memorial National Show, especially since the previous SAFPA National Show was held in KZN in 1954.
- Winning the prize for the "Most pigeons in a breed exhibited on the show" - 2009 NFPA National Show
- Meeting all the Western Cape people in KZN for the NFPA National Show.

AT: What were your impressions when you came to Cape Town for the 2013 NFPA National Show?

NR:

- I was greeted by a magnificent presentation of the hall entrance, cages with their brilliantly done NFPA badge on the display table skirts & mess boxes, in a brilliant Cape Town setting, as can be in these photos.



- I was impressed by the dedicated work of helpers to keep the hall

neat and tidy throughout the show for exhibitors and visitors.

- The prize giving ceremony was a spectacular affair. I was gob smacked to see how many prize winning juniors you have produced in the Cape. I did not realise how much time and effort your members have put in encouraging junior membership.
- The quality of the birds shown was excellent. The prize winners would have stood up against any national show in the country.
- I wanted to show off the Zulu White Man!



AT: Looking towards the future of the sport and the NFPA; what do you think are the most important things to develop and pay attention to? (How we can improve the existence and development of the NFPA in KZN and other regions, etc.)

NR: Nurture the Juniors with PARENTAL support!

AT: What are your visions for the sport of fancy pigeons in the future? (Provincially, nationally and internationally)

NR: With Fadiel at the helm we will always have international contacts with judges and access to birds. With Madaneer by his side they will always pull off the deal of entertaining our international visitors.

AT: As the new elected Vice-president of the NFPA, how do you think that you can make a difference to achieving your vision for the sport and the NFPA?

NR: In KZN there is a "mountain" of people with pigeons. If we can "uncover" them we will have a thriving association in KZN. It is something we are working on and we are proud to have 4 new members.

AT: Do you have any concluding statements?

NR:

In closing I would like to make the following arbitrary comments:

- If every breeder strived to win at a show with his/her young birds, then I consider them to be going forward with that breed. My sole aim in breeding pigeons has been to breed that are better than their parent stock.
- With pigeon breeding I can, in one year, breed 5 generations - testing my skills of breeding type and colour (my passion). This has given me better insight into how to better my Inguni cattle breeding herds.
- I am proud to have beaten Rob Lombaard at Worcester in the Pigmy Pouters and continued to beat him until he sold them all!!! Robertson Lofts are a legend when it comes to be able to tell tales of mischief & antics.



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Quick News

- The NFPA participated in the annual **Swartland Agri Show in Moorreesburg** from 4 to 7 September 2013 and the **Tulbacht Agri Show** from 18 to 21 September 2013.
- The NFPA made its **Television Debut** recently on Expresso which is broadcast on SABC3 and also featured the racing pigeons of Thabiet Gameeldien in a "pigeon race" against the presenter from the studio to the loft in Belthorne Estate, Athlone. Obviously the pigeon won - since it never had any robots or Cape Town traffic congestion!



The **Waterfront Spring Show** took place on 14th September 2013, which doubled up as an excellent birthday party for one of our members.



A junior member could not have had a better venue and such a lovely cake for his birthday!!



Well done to his supportive parents!!



The participation of some new members was very encouraging.



- The NFPA which is an affiliate member of the South African National Pigeon Organisation, (SANPO), participated in **The Sports and Events Tourism Exchange (SETE) conference**, which took place at the Durban International

Convention Centre (ICC), played host to 2 days of intense discussions and concluded with the sharing of key milestones for the sports and tourism industries. Sport and event tourism is a growing global industry with important economic implications for both the sport, the event and the impact of travel and tourism related benefits on host destinations. Discussions included amongst others the Role of Local Government in supporting events and one of the key outcomes was that cities must work on developing integrated sports tourism strategies sooner rather than later.

Exhibitors included, Ample Sports Travel, Birchwood Hotel, Buja Tours, Cape Peninsula University of Technology, Chess South Africa, City of Tshwane, Cycling South Africa, DEDT, Okhahlamba Drakensberg Tourism, Durban Ice Rink: Exhibition & Conference Arena, Indaba Hotel, Joburg Convention Bureau, Limpopo Tourism Agency, Marine Dynamics Shark Tours, Neils Transfer Services, Northern Cape Tourism Authority, Proudly South African, Randburg Towers, Ringball South Africa, South African Gymnastics Federation, South African National Parks, **South African National Pigeon Organisation**, Southern Africa Tourism Services Association (SATSA), Springbok Atlas, Syavaya Travel & Tours and Triathlon South Africa.

The **South African National Pigeon Organisation** is here to protect, promote and stipulate the art and interest in pigeon racing and showing of pigeons.



The pigeon Exhibition stand of SANPO and the NFPA at the ICC in Durban.

- The Eastern Cape hosted a successful show in Port Elizabeth.** 11 Members from the Western Province traveled to PE and were hosted by Faried, Ridwaan and Bertrum who organised the show. Members of the public attended and we were graced by many SAFPA members. They stayed and had lunch with us. Johnny Rudman stood out and mesmerized our Juniors with his knowledge of Norwich Croppers. He was honoured with the privilege of judging the Norwich Croppers for us. Although it is the breeding season many members did not put on their best birds; however 60 breeds on were entered at the show. Special thanks to the PE Team for a job well done.



Pigeon health

Submitted by Fadiel Hendricks

Health or its absence is the key to all results, good or bad! Regardless of the quality of your pigeons, if you are unable to keep them healthy they are doomed to perennially poor results. I believe it is safe to say that the person who has pigeons of lesser quality but has learned to keep them close to the top of their health cycle will outperform a group of superior pigeons whose critical health is little understood and has, unfortunately, been allowed to lapse.

Though this definitely is true, most fanciers haven't a clue as to what does or does not constitute good health. Good health in a racing or fancy pigeon is a 365-day activity. The old adage is in fact true: "You only get out what you put in!"

Most fanciers get excited prior to racing old and young birds. Once this is over, the birds take a back seat until next spring. Ah, yes, there is always next year! Hope springs eternal; or does it?

Well, in fact it doesn't! Unless these fanciers have a massive overhaul of their attitudes, they do not have any chance at all of ever improving. Pigeon keeping, (all bird keeping, no, the keeping of all living animals), is a hands-on activity. You learn by doing, first and foremost. You also learn by listening, by reading, and by observing; but I guarantee that you never learn by talking, and harping, and pontificating. You know the guys I mean! They let you know that they have forgotten more than you will ever know. Well, a sieve has really never been my idea of the perfect repository of the world's knowledge on racing pigeons! My partner, Jim McLean, always states that unfortunately, "You become what you are around." How can such a simple statement be so profound! Here is a very simple rule to live by: If you cannot say something good, bite your tongue and refrain from saying anything at all!

Our topsy-turvy world has always gotten things confused and it's no different in our own pigeon sport. We always assume that those who do the best also know the most and can teach the rest. This is rarely the case. In the real world, the great coach or teacher is usually the man or woman who could not physically achieve perfection, but who in turn strove to learn all they could so that they could pass it on to all those who did have the ability and could benefit from their own efforts.

In the past I have assisted many fanciers to achieve better results than had, for them, hitherto been the case. Very few ever acknowledge where the info originated, and like the sieve, they have a tendency to lose what it is that they are supposed to hold.

They Must Be Kept Clean

First and foremost your birds must be kept clean. Scrape the loft at least once per day and if you can, twice. The loft must be dry. It must be free of vermin, all vermin. If you can smell mouse, you have already lost! The loft should house less birds; never more. The loft should be adequately ventilated. The water should be changed every day. Feed should never be present after the birds have eaten. Adequate quantities of minerals, grit, oyster shell, salt, etc. should always be present.

Stop Exchanging Birds

Health cannot be achieved if you are constantly exchanging pigeons with all and sundry. Once you have a colony of birds, work with them and avoid the temptation of always bringing in other birds. The constant exchange of birds is a sure-fire way to insure disaster. Remember that everyone thinks their birds and management are excellent, but the reality is that they have not got a clue. In most cases; the greater the pomposity, the less the ability. Actually, in most cases it's an inverse proportion!

Bio-security is a Must!

Keep visitors out of you lofts. Who knows where they have been and what they will expose your birds to? As simple as these concepts are, they are in fact the key to any bio-security system.

It really is hilarious to imagine that the average chicken farmer (either layer or grower) goes to a greater extent to protect his flock from contamination than most racing pigeon fanciers do!

Pretty easy concepts, don't you think? Keep them clean, keep them fed and watered, keep them free of contaminates, do not trade birds, keep your colony isolated as much as possible, keep visitors out of your lofts. You are 90% of the way to success.

Drug Versus Antibiotic

Oh, let's not forget that we should also understand the difference between a drug and an antibiotic. Yes, yes, I can already hear the smart remarks. Well, an antibiotic is by most considered a drug, but a drug is not necessarily an antibiotic! An antibiotic works by suppressing the immune system, a drug per se does not affect the immune system at all. So you see there is a real difference. There are hundreds of fanciers misusing antibiotics like Baytril. They attempt to use this 3rd generation antibiotic as a performance enhancer. That is, you use the product, it suppresses the immune system, then as the birds come off it there is a slingshot effect as the immune system seems to go beyond the norm, and bingo, super health. Or is it? No, actually a sure-fire ticket to disaster! Do not use these mega antibiotics unless you have done adequate testing with your avian vet! In most cases less extreme older antibiotics will more than serve your pigeons' health needs.

Keep Canker and Cocci Under Control

Generally speaking, you need to keep canker and cocci under control. You will find that by treating your birds every 6-8 weeks throughout the year (you need not worry if the parents are pumping youngsters as it will in no way harm them), neither of these two conditions will ever be of concern again. Ridzol will take care of the canker and Amperol will more than suffice for cocci. These two products can be safely used together. The dosage is 1/2 teaspoon of Ridzol plus 12.55 cc of Amperol per gallon of water. You would use these together for 3-5 days depending on the original count. Remember that both of these organisms are always present in the pigeon. The point is not to eradicate but only to keep at a manageable level that does not adversely affect performance. Remember neither of these drugs are antibiotics.

Internal and external parasites can easily be controlled with Ivomec. Three drops down the throat and no more problems with either. Sixty days prior to races you can treat the entire race team with Amoxicillin capsules, dosage 5-8 500 mg capsules per gallon of water for a full ten days. The change in the birds is exceptional. This is an especially good idea if you are handling a large number of out-of-area birds for some race or another. Yes, this is the same antibiotic that your children often take.

If the need arises, Vetisulid can be used to treat for E. coli. The dosage is 1/2 teaspoon per gallon of water for 3-5 days. 2/3-3/4 teaspoons for 7-10 days also eliminates cocci. Often an elevated E. coli count will certainly mean reduced performance from your birds.

365 Days of the Year!

The reality is if you can keep canker and cocci under control 365 days per year. Keep the birds clean and dry you will improve the performance at shows or races considerably, (regardless of the quality or lack of same), of your birds.

Pigeon Nutrition

Submitted by Fadiel Hendricks

We have more things in our reach to give to a pigeon than cereals, grain, & grit. Today, many pigeon fanciers know that there's all lot more to give to a pigeon than cereals, grain & grit. Obviously, grains are a great source of power and energy, protein, and fibre, but they are very low in few important elements: the minerals, trace elements and vitamins required for the exertions of top racing and breeding robust youngsters. For a long time, fanciers have used grit to provide the minerals in the diet of the racing and breeding pigeon, but only recently have they realised that shell grit does not contain all of the minerals and trace elements

required for sustained racing and breeding success. Vitamins must also be added to the diet of the pigeon. The old timers understood this vitamin need from seeing the benefits of giving spinach and carrots to their birds. Today, most fanciers give vitamin supplements in the water (like Improver & AntiFungal as standard) or on the food like any other good feed additive supplement in the market. The theory of nutrition for the pigeon is really quite easy to understand.

The fancier **must** give:

- Grain for energy, protein and fibre.
- Minerals grits, powdered minerals and trace elements.
- Vitamins are usually given with trace elements in the water (these are usually included in the supplements added in the water).

Extra energy, vitamins and protein can be given in the form of special oils on the food during the high energy times of racing and when the adults are feeding young.

Pigeons can survive on grain and grit alone, but they cannot reach the level of health required to withstand the pressures of racing or breeding. Eventually their health will fail under these extreme physical pressures. Good feeding will control most illnesses of pigeons. For example, there is a major increase in the minerals and trace elements required when the adult pigeons are feeding babies, but grit alone does not provide all of the necessary minerals and trace elements for continuing good health. Without mineral additives the end result is often egg laying problems, canker outbreaks and other illnesses. During racing there are increased needs for energy, protein and vitamins, as well as trace elements and minerals. The race team tires easy and is more susceptible to fatigue related respiratory and wet canker illnesses when extra vitamins and

minerals are not provided. This is when natural supplements to help the immune system of the pigeons to be stronger and as well boost the power and the performance are needed. The vitamins B6, B9, B12 are crucial in this process, and not many supplements have these 3 vitamins together in the formula (see list in our website)

The feed (grain) mixes do not provide enough vitamins and minerals for top performance.

The fancier must select a feed mix that provides the energy and protein balance needed for the particular stage of the pigeon calendar. Breeding and moulting birds require a grain mix which is higher in protein, has a different essential amino acid balance than the pigeon in full training during the racing season. The feed mix requires at least six different grain types in the mix in order to get the best protein level and quality (i.e. balance of essential amino acids). The best quality of protein is seldom met and lysine (a very important amino acid for the pigeon) deficiencies are common in grain mixes with fewer than 4 grains. The protein quality of the grain mix can be improved by adding protein/amino acid supplements prior to feeding.

All grains are low in calcium (0.01- 0.20%) and sodium (20-600ppm). Phosphorous, copper, zinc, manganese, and selenium are also low in some grains. The vitamin concentrations in seeds are highly variable. Seeds do not contain vitamin A (corn provides carotenoids), or vitamin D. Vitamin E and vitamin K levels are low to undetectable. Among the B vitamins riboflavin, niacin, and pantothenic acid are often low and vitamin B12 is not present. This means that the vitamins, minerals and trace elements lacking in the grain must given to the pigeons in some form or other. Many fanciers use spinach and shell grit, but this is still not enough to balance the nutritional requirements of the athletic pigeon.

Nowadays most fanciers add products that have besides the efficient formula to treat and anticipate problems, vitamins and trace elements to the water once or twice a week and provide the minerals in powdered or block form ad lib.

Source: The Nutrition Team:
mail@pigeonvitality.com

Good food for pigeons

Submitted by Fadiel Hendricks

Although this article has been written with racing pigeons in mind, the content can be applied to fancy pigeons as well - good nutrition can only make our birds healthier, happier and better in the show hall!!!



The most important is the quality of the food given. Good quality grain is a pure grain with very low moisture content. Grains that have high moisture and/or are dirty, dusty and unclean are more susceptible to fungus & bacterial germs and poisons than dry clean grain.



The truth is that germs on and in the grains will affect the performance of your birds during breeding, moulting, showing and racing. The food used for racing pigeons must be fresh, clean and the highest quality. Very cheap food is never the best food.

The farmer receives more for the graded feed than for the weather affected, (water, heat, hail

etc.), grain sold primarily as stock food. Some produce merchants buy this food for the pigeon fanciers to keep their prices down, but fail to understand that ungraded feed is susceptible to moulds and mould toxins that destroy the nutritional content of the feed.

These moulds are a major health hazard, predisposing the race team to many illnesses. The poor quality grain simply fails to provide the required energy and nutrient needs of the competing bird. The result is poor performance and flock illness. Of course with a bit of luck or knowledge you will be able to find very decent grain at a very good price.

Today, grain merchants make a big effort to provide clean food, free of fungus, bacteria and toxins. Most fanciers now understand that the quality of the feed does have a substantial effect on performance and they purchase "farm fresh" feed guaranteed free of moulds and mould toxins. Castle Grains of Queensland and Fernando's of Melbourne have set the standard for all other grain merchants in Australia. Culture testing is the best method of checking the grain. Even if the food tested is not perfect then it can still be helped, by mixing mould inhibitors (PEP) with it. Many fanciers use mould inhibitors routinely in order to protect their mixes from the effects of moisture during storage.

If the pigeon eats more poor quality food but less of the dry clean food then this in itself makes unclean food more expensive. Here are some guidelines

- The feed must be stored correctly and protected from moisture and rodents. The correct storage of your grain after purchase is necessary if you are to preserve its culture-free status.
- If you allow moisture to infiltrate your feed then mould and bacterial contamination will most likely ensue, thereby nullifying all of your best efforts to provide your birds with the very best food.
- If your grain is very dry and culture tests clear then it must be stored in an airtight drum and elevated off the ground.

- This will protect your grain from absorbing moisture from the surrounding air during times of high humidity (e.g. rain periods and with night time high humidity).
- Grain high in moisture is best mixed with a mould inhibitor. Then it is stored with an open lid to allow it to dry out in times of low humidity and sealed in times of high humidity.
- The fungal spores resident on moist grain is more likely to become activated when stored in the dark and without air circulation to help dry it out.

Source: The Nutrition Team, mail@pigeonvitality.com
www.pigeonvitality.com

Notice Board

New Members

The NFPA welcomes all new members.

Birthdays

The NFPA extends its warmest wishes to those that have celebrated their birthdays during this issue's period:

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