

Salahaddin University
College of Agriculture
Engineering Sciences
Animal Resource Dpt.



Ornamental Birds

Pigeon or Dove

Fourth class

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Type of ornamental birds

Pigeon, Dove كۆتر الحمام



What is a pigeon?

- Pigeons are beautiful and man's closest associates for more than 4,000 years. They have had a long and colourful history in the service of humans. Doves have been found in almost every part of the world.

- Pigeons are incredibly complex and intelligent animals. Pigeons have been widely used to carry messages, especially in times of war. They can also recognize each letter of the human alphabet, differentiate between photographs, and even distinguish different humans within a photograph.
- Pigeons have different colors, shapes, sizes and abilities, which lead to the development of homing and racing pigeons



Homing pigeon 2 White pigeon



1- Rock , feral , or common pigeon (dove)



Brown Frill back Pigeon



Pink-Necked Green Pigeon



Indian pigeon

Fancy pigeon

- Pigeons are used as a symbol of peace.
- However, only a handful of doves are commonly available as pets. The diamond dove and the ring-necked dove as the most popular pet dove species.
- Pigeons are unique in the avian kingdom in that they produce crop milk for their young; the nutritional composition of crop milk is similar to mammalian milk but it is made in the crop.

- Some species are more similar to pheasants than to our classic idea of a pigeon (e.g., the common pigeon or rock dove).
- Homing pigeons, are well known for their ability to find their way back home from long distance high speed.



Homing pigeon

Fancy pigeon



Pouter pigeon

Fancy pigeon



Frillback pigeon

Fancy pigeon



Fantail Indian pigeon

Fancy pigeon



Jacobin pigeon



Nicobar pigeon



Crowned pigeon

Pigeon scientific classification

Kingdom *Animalia*

Class *Aves*

Phylum *Chordata*

Order *Columbiformes*

Family *Columbidae*

Genus *Columbida*

Species *C. Livia*

Scientific name *Columbidae*

Pigeon facts and physical characteristics.

Common Name; Pigeon or Dove

Rock pigeon, rock dove, domestic pigeon, common pigeon

Origin; Doves and pigeons occur worldwide, but the greatest variety is in Southeast Asia and Australasia

Habitat; large flock, home, forest, nests on the trees and buildings.

Most Distinctive Feature (Skin Type); colorful feathers.

Colors; are variable, but wild birds are gray.

Predators; Rodents

Diet; grainvoroius.

Main food: seed and grain with some good hard grit).

Doves, unlike parrots, need grit in their diet because they eat their seeds whole. Provide several types of grit, as well as a calcium supplement, especially during breeding.

Incubation Period; 18 days hatched chick (squabs)

Age of sexual maturity; newborn after 6 months reach S.M.

Egg: Normally 2 eggs in each brood 4 broods in a year.

Egg color: white

Lifespan; pigeons seldom live more than 2 or 3 years in the wild. Natural mortality factors, such as predation by mammals and other birds, diseases, and stress due to lack of food and water, reduce pigeon populations by approximately 30% annually. While in urban population can live more sometimes 10 years.

Today pigeons are bred for:

1. Racing and homing (sporting)
2. Meat production (utility)
3. Exhibition (fancy)

Hundreds of pigeon breeds are raised domestically for sport, hobby and food.