

Pigeon Racing Facts - Did you Know

- * Modern Racing Pigeons are descendants of the Rock Dove (*Columba livia*).
- * Pigeons (Doves) are our oldest feathered friends dating back over 5000 years.
- * Pigeons were originally domesticated by early farmers from most civilisations with records in the Middle East dating back 5000 years.
- * From the Wars of Roman times 'Caesar' to the beaches of Normandy in World War I and World War II homing pigeons have been vital allies.
- * Pigeon flown in Racing Dates back to 220AD
- * 250,000 pigeon flights were carried out during both World War I and World War II for delivering messages for Allies forces. 32 pigeons have received the PDSA 'Dickins medal' for animals which makes pigeons the most awarded animal for services in War.
- * The Most Famous lofts in the world are the Royal Pigeon Lofts at the Sandringham Estate www.racingpigeon.co.uk/product-page/the-royal-skies
- * There are approx 30,000 Pigeon Fanciers in the United Kingdom and Ireland
- * The Commercial Impact of Pigeon Racing to the UK and Eire is estimated at £125,000,000 (Source Voice Communications 2015)
- * In the UK there are various Unions representing Pigeon Racing which are all committed to protect and safeguarding racing pigeons' welfare
- * Homing Pigeons are one of the toughest birds on the planet and will voluntarily fly up to 20,000 miles a year, this includes home flights, training and racing. This is equivalent to flying completely around the world at the equator.
- * Pigeon Fanciers look after their birds with great care and are pigeons the only domesticated animal to enjoy complete freedom on a daily basis.
- * The Pigeon Raptor Alliance lobbies on behalf of UK and Ireland pigeon fanciers for a change in the protection of Racing Pigeons from Predatory Raptors, wanting a legal right to protect their birds from unregulated reintroduction birds of prey release programmes.
- * Pigeons have been part of our tradition and national Institution for generations with families treasuring the talents of these humble birds for hundreds of years.
- * Although genetically the same there is a clear distinction between Racing athlete Pigeons and a Feral street pigeon.
- * Racing Pigeons return back for the love of their home, flying many hundreds of miles.
- * Racing is a modern day sophisticated Hi Tech past time.
- * Worldwide in every country Several million people enjoy keeping pigeons of various breed and type.
- * The most Expensive pigeon ever sold was 'New Kim', owned by Gaston Van de Wower from Belgium who pigeons sold to a chinese fancier for 1.9 million US Dollars, beating the previous record set by the pigeon 'Armando', which sold for 1.3 million US Dollars in 2019.