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Racing Pigeons - The Racing Systems

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5 Racing Systems that will bring the best out of your birds



The motivation of the birds is a key factor in winning a race and very specific racing systems have been developed over the years.

It is good to know that when we decide to race our birds under a certain racing system we must choose it before the racing season starts and work under a very precise program with our birds. The training and diet of the birds must also work in completion with the racing system we have decided upon .

From the five systems presented below the darkness, widowhood and jealousy system have been developed as a consequence of a continuous observations of our birds behaviour but also through numerous testing trials which have had a very simple goal - winning the race.

The hard work and years of testing have rewarded these fanciers greatly as these three systems are the most powerful motivation ways that will bring the best out of any bird from 100 km to 1000 km races.

The experience and knowledge will help the fancier understand that he can make little changes to these racing systems and improve them even further. The beauty of this sport is that everything can be learned about it ,we do not have to be born with a phenomenal talent to achieve the highest performances .

The Darkness System

The Darkening System is a pigeon racing technique which is very often applied only to young birds right after we have separated them from their parents.



What is actually doing is accelerating the process of maturity by making it happening faster, but also delaying the moult of the pigeon's body feathers, and of course keeping the flight feathers.

The advantages of doing this is that the pigeon will become bigger, stronger, and faster on a shorter period of time than normal (when we apply this system we will be able to notice that the flight feathers (primaries) do not moult and as a consequence

there will be no gaps on our pigeons wings to slow them down on the racing season) ...this will give us an extremely high advantage over other fanciers which are not using this system.

Another fantastic advantage that this system has to offer is that there seems to be less health problems in the pigeons that undergo this system. Many fanciers have noticed that they have less health issues with their pigeons that have gone through the Darkening System, than pigeons that have not .Also their immune system will develop much faster and will be able to fight against diseases. One of the disadvantages of the Darkening System is that occasionally the pigeon will start to lose their flight feathers near the end of the season. This is not a common occurrence, but it does happen sometimes.

To make the loft dark, we will have to use blindings but also at the same time the way our loft is built should provide a lot of ventilation for the young birds. Right after we have separated the young birds from their parents we can start applying the darkening system by creating the darkness into our loft from 16.00 pm - 9.00 am the next day .

We will need to do this for around 3 months to get the full effect of it. We must also stop applying the darkening system one month before the first young birds race when we can remove completely the blindings and the birds can receive the light for the entire day length.

The Widowhood System

As a main rule the widowhood system means a certain period of celibacy that the bird is kept under (i.e one week) and at the end of it to motivate the bird in the day of basketing we will need to present a sex partner for half an hour - one hour to spend time with ...and this is how i recommend to be done:



In the beginning of the year we will start making the pairings for the widowhood cocks After mating, and the first set of eggs have hatched, the pair will rear one pair of youngsters. When the young birds have reached 3 weeks old the hen will be removed

on a different loft and the cock will be left on its own to finish the process of rearing for another week.

Letting the cock to finish the rearing is very important as this will make him very attracted by his nest .When the process of rearing has ended it is important to follow a very precised training plan with these birds as the main idea is to bring them in top form for the entire racing season. In the day of basketing the pigeons will stay inside the loft One hour before we put them into the basket we will need to place the nest bowl back in the cock`s box and then we will bring the exact hen that he was rearing the youngster with, after that we will lock them inside the box with no possibility to exit the box and let them be for an hour together.

After one hour we will need to take the cock first and place him into the basket...cocks are going ,hens are staying home. When we return home from the club we can take the hens out and put them back into their loft or we can just leave them inside the loft by opening the boxes out .

It`s the day race ...One hour before the pigeons arrival time (in normal weather conditions a pigeon can reach 80-85 km /hour speed)...we will need to take the hens back and place them inside the half box where the bowl is... and lock them inside .

The first pigeon has arrived on the landing board from the race...he steps inside ,he sees the hen - his REWARD ,he flies

right to her on the other half of the box and he starts displaying, we will need to go inside the loft and put the cock together with the hen and let them sit in the bowl for 1 hour with the box locked .

After one hour we can take the hen out and put her in her loft and let the cock out from the box .For this system we will need in the widowers section widowhood boxes which will help us a great deal in applying this powerful system. This is the widowhood system my friend and you can do exactly the same thing with the hens.

The Natural System

The natural system is very often used on both cocks and hens with very good results for hens in the long and marathon distance races.If we don t have a lot of time to spend with our pigeons then this is the system we must apply and if we apply it the right way i repeat especially on the hens , the results can be amazing.

The pigeons will be paired up and race on the eggs and youngsters .For the cocks the best position to race them is when they have been sitting on eggs for 8- 14 days maximum. For the hens the best position is on the eggs 8-14 days but even better results are obtain when raced on one youngster 5-10 days old when her parenthood instincts are at the top.

For the pigeons to arrive on this positions we will need to plan very carefully the pairings especially for the very important races. I personally use this system only for hens on long and marathon distance races on 5 days youngster .



Another good tip is to change the eggs with a plastic made ones as soon as they have been layed by the hen. The couple will sit on this eggs that you can find in the racing pigeons specialized shops offline or online because they can not make the difference between them. As soon as we see that the pair is no longer interested in sitting on the plastic eggs we must remove them from the nest and let the pair to start a new breeding cycle.

When the new set of eggs has been layed we will simply need to

replace them back again with a pair of plastic ones .

Not letting the birds to rear youngsters during the racing season will make them more competitive by saving their energy wasted in the process of rearing. The new fancier must also make precise notes about the date when the pair has start mating for the first time and also for when the hens have layed the eggs.

The new fancier must also know that we must never send to race cocks that are chasing hens to the nest or cocks that have been sitting 14-21 days on eggs. We must also never send to race hens that are about to lay eggs within three days time or one or two days after the eggs have been layed.

Pigeon racing sport demands a lot of observation and notes keeping if we want to be competitives .Pigeons that are sent to races on the above mentioned periods of time will have poor results and even worst we might lose them forever ,which is not what is wanted.

The Jealousy System

This system will require more work from our side and here is how it must be done :

To apply this system we will need to have three boxes on the shelf ,the walls in between them must be made of wire mesh or transparent plastic so the birds can see each other. On the left side will have the box for the cock nr 1, in the middle the box

for the hen ,and on the right the box for the cock nr 2.

One hour before basketing we will place the cock nr1 in the hen`s box together with the hen ...cock nr 2 will see the two together but can not enter inside the hen`s box ,leave the cock nr 1 with the hen for 10 minutes, take him out and put him back on his box... now take the cock nr 2 and put it together with the hen and let them 25 minutes together all this time cock nr 1 will see them together but won`t be able to access the hen`s box.

After 25 minutes take the cock nr 2 and put it in the basket nr 1 After that you will place in the hen`s box cock nr 1 and leave them for 25 minutes together...after 25 minutes take the cock nr 1 and put it on a different basket (basket nr 2).The reason we will need to put them on different baskets is because these two cocks will be really jealous on each other and we do not want to give them the opportunity to fight with each other and cause themselves injuries by placing them on the same basket.

We can apply the same system for the hens jealousy system. When the cocks arrive home from the race you will let them have 30 min each with the hen after that you will remove the hen and put it in her loft until the next race arrives. During the week the hen`s box remains close and none of the cocks can access it.

The Celibacy System

The celibacy system is by far the easiest system we can use to race our birds .Celibacy system requires separate lofts or compartments for each sexes - meaning hens on one compartment, while cocks will be hosted on a different compartment.

The racing team must be separated in two different teams - the hens team, and the cocks team .These birds must not be paired up in the racing season and raced every second week so for example if we choose to race the hens team this Saturday ,the cocks team must stay home and send to race only the next week when the hens team will stay home.



From this short presentation you learned how you can motivate your pigeons using 5 different methods .
If you would like to learn more in depth about these techniques please check my other writings here:

<https://www.amazon.com/author/dacianbusecan>

www.pigeonsatoz.com

More from the author

1). ***“Racing Pigeons Advanced Techniques - The Ultimate Guide”*** - Black & White - Paperback edition.

2). ***“Racing Pigeons Advanced Techniques - The Ultimate Guide Vol.II”*** Full colored & Black & White Paperback edition.

3). ***“Racing Pigeons Advanced Techniques - Young Birds Training”*** - Full coloured Paperback edition.

4). ***“Racing Pigeons Advanced Techniques - Young Birds Racing”*** - Full coloured Paperback edition .

5). ***“Racing Pigeons Advanced Techniques - Old Birds Training and Racing Systems ”*** - Full coloured Paperback edition.

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8). **“Pigeon Racing - Deep into Sport - Diseases and Treatment “** - Full coloured Paperback edition

9). **“Racing Pigeons - Natural Remedies”**- Black & white Paperback edition

10). **“Over 100 Top Tips in Pigeon Racing”**- Black & white Paperback edition

11). **“Pigeon Racing Beginners Guide”** - Black & white Paperback edition

12). **“Deep into Sport - Hand Bird Selection - Pigeon Racing”** - Full colored Paperback Edition