

Why Pigeons make Great Pets!

If you are a bird lover then you will love pigeons for pets. Pigeons are among the first domesticated birds in existence. They have been kept for centuries for many reasons such as pets, for food, for scientific study, as messengers for the military during war times, for genetic research, for sporting competition, for celebrations and ceremonial events and much more. There are over 300 breeds of domesticated pigeons. They come in a wide array of colors, shapes and sizes with feathering that ranges from the common looking to the outrageously exotic.

There are clubs and organizations both locally and internationally for people to become members of this community of bird lovers known as Pigeon Fanciers.

It is no exaggeration; there truly is a pigeon breed for any bird lover or person interested in birds. There are many reasons for this. Pigeons are friendly and docile, very hardy and easy to raise and enjoy. You can hold a pigeon with no fears of being bitten and their size makes it easy to handle them in your hands. They are very intelligent and learn their surroundings easily and can be taught to eat from your hand or come when called. They can live outdoors year round through all four seasons almost anywhere in the world. They are easy to keep fed and watered and are fairly low maintenance and self-sufficient given the right type of environment and housing. They reproduce very readily and care for their young. They make it easy to experience the wonder of nature in your own back yard.

There are many types that you can fly freely outside and they will return or “home” back to you easily. Some types perform aerobatics flips and tumbles in midair or perform death defying dives and slice through the air like skydivers. There are breeds that are strictly show pigeons in every shape and size and feather ornamentation and a wide variety of color that have been selectively bred for hundreds of years to reach their conformity. Charles Darwin kept pigeons for pleasure and for genetic studies in his scientific work. The military used them to locate sailors adrift at sea because of their exceptional eyesight and ability to be trained to peck a button if they saw a color of a life vest in the vast ocean to help search parties. They carried messages across enemy lines for the military countless times during the war and saved thousands of lives with their dependability, speed and courage under fire, some have even been awarded medals of honor for their services to history. You can keep as many or as few as you wish as with any feathered friend. Large pigeon races are held all over the world for sport. Pigeon shows are also held all over the world with people from all walks of life attending to exhibit their chosen breeds and work toward the standard of perfection of their breed, much like the world of Dog shows, Horse shows, cats shows, poultry shows, exotic birds, etc. etc. All these reasons and more are why domestic pigeons are so loved and admired around the world.

Talk to anyone in the Indiana Pigeon Club and ask questions. They can tell you more about the wonderful pigeon and the bond they feel with their own birds. Any of us can help with advice or recommendations and getting started off the right way.