

# Found Pigeons

The Indiana Pigeon Club does not sell bands or maintain a database of band numbers. If you contact us, we will direct you to the information below and recommend you contact the National Pigeon Association.

## What to do if you find a lost pigeon:

Domestic Pigeons with individually identifiable leg bands are registered with one of several National Pigeon Organizations. Below are some email or website contacts to nationally recognized pigeon organizations.

If there is No band on its leg, it is a wild pigeon and does not belong to any pigeon fancier or club. If you find an injured pigeon without a band on its leg, and it cannot be released, contact your local Humane Society.

If you wish you can contact the National Pigeon Association about a lost pigeon please be sure to include the whole band number on the pigeon that you found. This is important in locating the owner of the pigeon. The National Pigeon Association (NPA) cannot assist in locating an owner without it. Information on how to contact the NPA is below.

## Water

Most lost birds are hungry and thirsty. Water is extremely important for all pigeons/doves. Since pigeons drink by suction, any water container you provide should be at least 1 in. (2.5 cm) deep. Shallow cups or bowls with some weight to them work best but any open container, i.e., a dish, an old margarine container tub, etc., will work. The less stable or secure the container, the greater the likelihood of spillage. A thirsty bird may drink immediately, and it may not. Strange surroundings, fear, injury, or other animals in the household may intimidate or distract the bird from drinking. Dehydration is the biggest danger to a lost pigeon/dove and just like humans.

## Food

Pigeons are grain eaters. Instead of bread, the most readily available food source is a commercial blend of wild birdseed mixed with popcorn. Additionally, raw dried grain such as rice, pearled barley, split pea, or canary seed can be used. Water should be provided since pigeons normally drink immediately after eating.

## What Should I Keep It In?

Most any dry container that provides both security and ventilation will suffice as a temporary home. An old birdcage will easily house a pigeon for a few days. Probably the most readily available temporary housing is a cardboard box. If using a box, cut some holes in each side to let more air flow but make the holes too small for the bird to escape. This will let light in as well so they can see to eat and drink.

### **How you can try and find the bird's owner.**

If the bird has a plastic or metal band or ring on its leg, the owner can be traced through one of the national pigeon organizations. If the bird you have saved is a fancy show pigeon, the owner is probably very near where you originally found the bird. If the bird is a racing homer, the owner could live hundreds of miles from you and this step may not be necessary. After twenty-four to forty-eight hours rest with food and water, most non-injured racing homer pigeons will be capable of continuing their journey home. Simply release the bird in an area free of wires or other nearby obstacles and it will gratefully fly home.

### **HOW TO READ THE PLASTIC OR METAL IDENTIFICATION RING OR LEG BAND**

The letters on the band will tell you the origin of the bird. (EXAMPLE BAND BELOW)

Say... the band number reads, NPA 7 07 AT 1089

The ( NPA ) means it originated from the National Pigeon Association.

The (7) is the band size.

The (07) is the year the pigeon was born.

The (AT) is the band alphabetical sequence.

The (1089) is a unique serial number for identifying that individual bird

### **Here is the contact information for various organizations that provide pigeon leg bands**

NPA = NATIONAL PIGEON ASSOCIATION. Contact the NPA Secretary at [secretary@npausa.com](mailto:secretary@npausa.com) Please be sure to email the band number so that they can locate the original owner for you.

IF = INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION ORG. [www.ifpigeon.com](http://www.ifpigeon.com)

AU = AMERICAN RACING PIGEON UNION ORGANIZATION [www.pigeon.org](http://www.pigeon.org)

CU = CANADIAN PIGEON UNION [www.canadianracingpigeonunion.com](http://www.canadianracingpigeonunion.com)

IPB = INDEPENDENT PIGEON BREEDERS [www.foyspigeonsupplies.com](http://www.foyspigeonsupplies.com)

NBRC = NATIONAL BIRMINGHAM ROLLER CLUB [www.nbrconline.com](http://www.nbrconline.com)