

"Breeding and Culling Goes Hand in Hand"

By

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You can not breed a common pigeon and expect to breed race winners. Excellent pedigree stock especially the inbred-line bred breeding stocks with winning genes through generations is now so abundant that anyone starting in the sports has all the corner stones all laid to built upon as a fancier desires.

A fancier with limited means can now compete with the well to do and famous in the pigeon world. "Luck" can play a decisive role in the path we have to take. The very lucky few can be very successful in their 1st year of flying young birds and old birds, winning most of the top awards in their respective clubs and a big chunk of the money in the races.

We all desire the best pigeon there is. But as we finally get what we wanted, we are still not satisfied and wanted better birds, at times we are disappointed with their breeding results. Some families of birds do skip a generation or two of breeding winning birds and most of the time the birds do not have the "genetic package" as their ancestors. Winning week after week during the race season is an excellent feat a very fortunate few can even grandeur. The well to do fancier will always have the edge. It has come to a point that in our beloved sports money can buy excellent breeding stock. Thus, giving those who can afford a better chance of breeding that elusive super bird that we all dream about, dreams do come true. In our present day set up, in any humble loft there is always a good bird, the standard bearer of the loft. And in most cases such a bird is a gift bird from a special friend or a pigeon purchased for almost nothing in a close out sale of an older fancier retiring from the sports, the later is always the kind hearted fanciers all over the world who are unselfish in helping all out to deserving beginners in our sports.

Most family of birds are founded through patience and perseverance, a key factor in properly breeding your intended family of birds by proper selection and culling, eventually you will breed prize winners. Not everyone can form their winning family of birds for a simple reason that most fanciers do not have the qualities of staying much longer in our sports. Most fanciers do not win the 1st year nor the 2nd year, 3rd and 4th year of flying. At most they will have consolation prizes of either a 4th or 5th place diploma in the races. And the greatest agony of all is a fancier who wins a lot of seconds and never a 1st place winner. This could lead fanciers in seriously quitting the sports. Breeding to win is the key. Nobody is recognized if your not the 1st place winner. Specially here in the USA and in particular the San Francisco bay area, competition is very keen that only the 1st place winners will get the prized trophies during the "awards night".

We have come to a point that severe selection and culling have to be done if one wishes to take home the coveted trophies. In order to take one home, one should breed the super pigeon to do the job. There are several breeding practices that an avid fancier can indulge with, like inbreeding, line breeding or cross breeding. There has been reports of super pigeons as a result of the above breeding practices that blew the hats off of even a meticulous avid fancier. The key words will always be proper selection and culling.

A fancier's inner feeling, his gut feeling can not be neglected either. Putting up a higher standard of selection and culling to your breeders and flyers will definitely raise the standard of your loft. In turn your best flyer will be your next best breeder is just inevitable specially if their foundation is built upon winning pedigree stocks. The late Dick La grille of San Bruno, ca who was the eldest living flying member of the San Francisco Racing Pigeon Club during the early

90's , use to tell me that in the old days the cure was to cull sick birds and to cull the good ones and only breed from the very good ones. I was surprised to read the current issue of Racing Pigeon Digest , Heini Sadewater is also telling the same old ways of cure. This same cure ,I did meticulously during the early 90's and still doing so up to the present time. I will tell you now my dear friend that this is the true ways of the champions. I judiciously emphasized specially to beginners in the sports to learn the proper "Art of Culling and Selection" and should always be done to the highest standard. A great champion once told me to look for a bird to cull every time i enter the loft. There is nothing more rewarding than to breed the elusive super bird, the champion that we can only be so lucky to breed in our life time. Our quest will never stop, it is just the beginning