

"One Loft Race Entry"

**by
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Excitement goes hand in hand when fanciers around the globe prepares their pigeons for pairing the potential sire and dam of their respective "one loft race" or special race entry. The chosen breeding specimen should have minimal acceptable defect as possible. "Compensation breeding" will be a good concept in breeding a potential one loft race entry for most fanciers. In the other hand, having both perfect pigeons in their physical attributes will be a great plus that can increase our chances of breeding a contender for top prizes in a one loft race.

The importance of the sire and dam's pedigree is crucial in breeding future one loft race prize winners. The pedigree should have winning specimen through generations. A fancier should not forget that breeding a one loft race winner with another one loft race winner is no guarantee for breeding potential winners. It can only increase our chances nothing more. Hand selected specimens backed up with excellent pedigree can also increase our chances to breed the one loft race winner and nothing more.

The characteristics of our one loft race entry should be as follows.

Balance is very important. The bird should feel good in the hands and should be very buoyant. The feather should be silky and in abundance. The flight feathers should be not without the absence of "melanin". The more melanin the better. The last four flight feathers should be pliable and sturdy, not easily broken.

The tail should be one tail pin. Covered well with secondary tail feathers over half the length of the entire tail is preferable. I will not enter a bird with secondary tail feathers that barely covered half its entire tail. I prefer medium length legs but I will definitely chose a shorter legged specimen rather than a longer legged one.

The health of the squab is definitely the greatest factor in selecting your entry. Vigorous, healthy young birds should be the norm. I prefer blue bars and blue checkers with a darker melanin in their feathers. I will stay away from birds that has a faded melanin in their flight and tail feathers.

The tip of the young bird's flight feathers should not criss-cross when the bird is standing in an upright position. The wattle should be chalk white. Not unless the sire and dam is still feeding the young birds. One should know the difference between moistened wattles caused by upper respiratory disease.

The young bird should have more keel bone up front and I will rate this with the highest percentage in selecting young birds for one loft races (about 50%). You can check my website articles under "How to Gauge a Pigeon With More Keel Bone Up Front" and "Sky Warrior".

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Open the beak gently and check the throat. The throat opening should be small and not be inflamed. It should be free of canker cells. This is the time to look for the "S" vein that supplies oxygen to the brain (the thicker the better). Make sure that the curtain is neatly shaped and a divide that is no thicker than a hairline.

I would prefer a specimen with a smaller pupil. The pupil should be located higher up in retrospect to the line of the beak. I do prefer medium sized specimens but will favor the smaller specimens that don't want it's beak to be handled and a wringer in the hand. The last but not the least, the vent bones should be very strong and sturdy, not soft and pliable. Some young birds will close up their slightly open vents at three months of age. I will not take chances at this time. Their vents should be tight and sturdy at this very moment of selection for the one loft race entry. A wise fancier will stay away with badly hooked young birds.

You must put in consideration that your competition are excellent breeder and selector of fine "super sky warriors". They will not let their guards down, rest assured that they are not wasting their valuable time and hard earned entry fees either. They will send the very best bred healthy and vigorous young bird in their loft to increase their chances of winning. I firmly believe that you should do the same or better yet, find a way to be better and be ahead of your competition.

I do hope I have given potential new one loft race contestants some strength in spirit to breed and send their very best bred specimen selected to the fullest to increase their chance for the "gold". A little blessing from "Buddha" might also help increase your chances. Good luck!

