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A new phenotype-based pigeon breed in a global context

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Abstract

Developing new phenotype-based pigeon breeds is crucial for expanding breed biodiversity, preserving genetic mutations, and advancing global morphological standards. This study evaluated a newly established local pigeon breed by its traits on the basis of the eleven major recognized pigeon groups. Observation relied on phenotypic tracking, comparative profiling, and generational stability assessments within a pigeon community. Results demonstrated on locally adapted breed possesses body conformation, feather structures, and exceptional behaviors. These findings confirm the successful stabilization of a distinct regional breed, providing a standardized framework for its integration into the global pigeon community.

Keywords: Pigeon breed, NPA, declare, local breed, pigeon group, characteristics, color.

Perception on a new pigeon breed

Many papers are based to judge on a specific breed. In Bangladesh, some pigeon breeders are trying to establish a new pigeon breed through new characteristics and they showed such pigeons in the last pigeon exhibition in Bangladesh (Kabir and Hawkeswood 2023a,b; Kabir *et al.*, 2023; Kabir, 2023a; Kabir, 2023b; Kabir *et al.*, 2024). Additionally, they focused some negative markings of such breeds in order to establish their breed by invited judges from abroad. In fact, breeders of Bangladesh have much limitations to keep proper record of their pigeons. At the present context, many tumblers do not tumble, highflyers do not fly at height, so these will not be wise to differentiate existing pigeons on the basis of above characteristics. Many existing so-called different breeds look more or less the same from the very beginning. Since in the world

there are uncountable selective breeding in pigeons either beneficial or harmful but it is needed to revise a perfect breeding system to declare a new pigeon breed. Most often a locally developed pigeon is considered a new pigeon breed though lacking of new characteristics. Due to numerous selections on such pigeons, many 'new' breeds are rather a duplication of existing ones.

Phenotypic trait

Need to observe typical characteristic of that assumed particular breed. To take huge photographs with numerous postures and these are mandatory to declare a new breed. Breed consistency as well as pedigree analyses and uniform trait with stable genetic pool are considered. A written proposal especially on head type, beak, eyes,

and feather need to be submitted by the breeder. Breeder will mention serious faults of that particular breed (this will help to establish a perfect breed). Standard authorities usually classify

breeds according for shows in different groups according to some main commodities. Sometimes, one characteristic, and one specific or extraordinary color could help to stand out a breed.

Table 1. Existing criteria to declare a new pigeon breed

Group	Example	Specialty	Image
Color	*Archangel	Superb color; slender pigeon structure; fairly tight feather; clean-legged, plain-headed /needle-pointed peak crest.	
Hen/Meat	American king	Large size; round head; narrow tail.	
Voice	*Arabian trumpeter	Dove like trumpet voice; aggressive pigeon but quite familiar temperament; powerful neck makes a loud sound; shorter wings and legs.	
Structure	*Scandaroon/Bagdad of Nuremberg	Tall pigeon.	
Feather	Indian fantail	Fan-like tail; grouse leg; peak-crested.	
Cropper	German magpie muffed pouter/Czech saddle pouter/Reverse-wing pouter	Crop; plain-headed; heavily muffed (vulture feather).	

Wattle	*English carrier	Tallest breed; walnut type beak cere; triple eye cere in old pigeon; feathers are so tight that it looks small; scythe-like beak; always clean legged.	
Performing	Bangladeshi lotan	Roll on ground after shaking; high frontal; abnormal flight.	
	*Turkish tumbler	Huge tumbling while short flying.	
	*Cumulet	Good breeder; ancient of the modern racing homer; normally white plumage with pearl eyes.	
	*Racing homer	Hocky-stick type head; always clean-legged; very energetic pigeon.	

*Source: <https://www.pigeontype.info>

Global context

In the beginning in the 18th century, the today as different breeds considered field pigeons, later also called color pigeons, were considered different varieties of the same breed (Bechstein, 1795). Common was the today typical figure of color pigeons, they differed mainly in pied marking, like nuns, white-tails, white colored tails and different colors and pattern. That changed in Europe with the establishment of pigeon breeding clubs after 1850 and the upcoming of exhibitions. Soon after every city or region wanted to have its own race of pigeon carrying its name. That also happened for tumbler breeds imported from Asia (Dietz and Prutz, 1883). In Germany the country-wide association was founded in the 19th century, Europe-wide the national pigeon breeder association are organized in the European Association of Poultry, Pigeon, Cage bird, Rabbit and Cavy Breeders. At the time of pigeon exhibition, judging points are the main ingredients to

declare a new breed in Bangladesh (Kabir, 2024). Levi (1965) covered all identifying points while declaring a new breed. National Pigeon Association (NPA) of the USA pointed out pigeon groups for declaring a specific group of pigeon. Additionally, they emphasized on the popularity of such breeds, updated information or in-depth explanation of that particular breed, and sufficient photographs to declare new breed. Actually, they focused all sorts of judging points to judge a previously declared pigeon breed (NPA, 2010). NPA is in the USA the sole organization to declare a new pigeon breed through their rules and experts' decision. An official standard is only necessary to get access to official exhibition held by the association of a country. Parlor rollers are in Europe not in the official standard. Also flying tippler are not organized in the standard section for exhibitions. Nevertheless, without judgement they were shown still at pigeon show. Fanciers also used to demonstrate some flyer breeds just to attract visitors and get them interested in the flying sport. Literature review is more important to classify old and new pigeon breed than molecular genetics. Pigeon breeds have a long cultural history from

the very beginning and also cross-breeding between the traditional separated groups are common. Mostly to improve certain standard properties or in rare breeds vigor (Sell, 2026).

NPA's activities

According to the NPA Book of Standards (2010) —

Form pigeon: and popularity. NPA does recognize the Syrian breeds as representing a specific group of breeds.

Importance to declare a new breed

A breed declaration is the vital bridge that transforms a breeding project into a permanently recognized part of global aviculture history. Without this formal documentation, a new pigeon breed is dismissed as a random genetic mutation or a simple crossbreed. By publishing an article, the creator establishes an official paperwork that provides an identical blueprint for future breeders and show judges worldwide, and ensuring unique traits of pigeon. It permanently secures breeders name, location, and the foundational genetic timeline, which ultimately ensures the long-term survival and purebred status of the new lineage.

Conclusions

To establish a new phenotype-based pigeon breed in a global context requires transforming visible physical traits into a universally accepted and genetically stable standard. However, this process faces critical biological, human, and recognition challenges, including overcoming genetics, managing name conflicts, and fighting a general lack of formal record-keeping. By formally documenting these distinct characteristics through a declaration article, creators can overcome their hurdles, providing the necessary proof and documentation to secure international recognition, and preserve the unique structural identity of the breeds.

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