

## Peculiarities in Pigeons

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Peculiarities of pigeons were found from the renowned books which were written by Levi [1], Lyell [2], McNeillie [3]. Those peculiar characteristics were come through selective breeding in Egypt first. In Bangladesh, the pigeon's owner rear mainly mixed pigeons. They produced some non-selective new colored pigeons which were not economically productive and in most cases those are not good foster and not a recognized breed [4]. Charles Robert Darwin in 1868 [5] in his book 'Variation of Animals and Plants under Domestication' mentioned that all peculiarities in pigeons like tumbling or other characteristics are come by domestication. These ideas are linked to his another book 'Origin of Species' in 1859. Tumbler pigeons have been bred for exhibition purposes, as Mr Williment in his article on the Long-faced Tumbler points out, that its performing abilities have been entirely lost. Almond colored is the oldest variety of the tumbler pigeon [6]. The tumbler pigeons are very expert genius in tumbling. This is instinct behavior of this pigeons. This peculiar characteristic had been snatched by human from the very beginning. Its flying record is 3 - 9 hours.

**Breeds:** Pouters, carriers, fantails, and tumblers are most divergent variety of the world for its fancy. Huge tumbling variety is called roller and the half-breed of fantail is mookee. Both of them show tremules of the neck. The gullet of pouter pigeons is slightly enlarged which helps to swollen crop at the time of sagacious. Continuous selective breeding within this variety produced more pronounced crop of the pigeons. Short-beaked pigeons were very valued in Egypt. Excess tail feather in fantail is looked nice but very dangerous the behind attack by predator animals such as cats and dogs. Great muffed in Duchess and Swallow looks nice but very difficult for walking. In Bokhara Trumpeter, its double-crested head feather is surrounded the head so that it cannot see well. Need to cut those feathers for their normal life-style and breeding (Plate 1).

**Selective breeding:** Selective breeding in fancy pigeons were first observed in Egyptian people. They reared fancy pigeons which were maintained some selections for producing new breeds. Emperor Akbar Khan rears such nice pigeons which are collected from monarchs of Iran [7]. They kept different pigeons in a single loft and produced new variety [8].

**Tumbling/Rolling:** DNA studies identified tumbling/rolling gene of pigeons. This is morbid curiosity and if people did not care on it these pigeons cannot survive till now. Most of the fancy pigeons of the world are tumbler or roller [9] and most countries this is very ancient and favorite to the people [9]. Theses tumbler/roller pigeons roll sometime when it in grasp within hands by shaking slightly which is called Lotan (*lotna*, Persian word, means 'roller'). After shaking, its neck muscle is excited which is helpful for backward somersaulting of this pigeon [10]. In London or America, another version of this pigeon is called Parlor Roller and it shows tumble automatically when it attempts to fly. Charles Robert Darwin in 1859 [11] first observed that tumbling behavior in pigeons. Highflyer is another type of tumbler pigeon. It exhibits very high flying from the land and cannot see in the sky. At this stage, there is not enough oxygen in the sky so why pigeons fly there for a long time, it is really a mystery. Morbid curiosity, tumbling, and unnecessary long time flying are of course genetic characteristics. This is autonomous and not controlled by one pigeon's brain; it cannot control it, so exhibits this peculiarities. Only for human care this exceptional behavior is still continuing within the varieties of tumbler pigeon (Plate 1).

**Cere:** Great cere in Carrier and Barb Pigeon around the nostril and eye are source of infection and it not looks nice at all (Plate 1).

**Tremule:** When Mookee and Fantail pigeons are excited its neck tremules. For frightening or before free flying it shows these peculiar characteristic. In Mookee, sometimes its neck tremules are more rapid that exhibits backward somersault. For this tremuling activity, after hatching, it cannot care its squab. For this, we need foster parents (Plate 1).

**Crop:** In male Pouter pigeons, its upper esophagus is broad. Due to its enlarged esophagus and for continuous cooing of male excess pressure falls on crop. So that its food storage crop is pressured by esophagus and ultimately its digestion is hampered. Its jet like body is always showed in head region like a ball. For this swollen crop, it cannot care properly to its squab (Plate 1).

**Large eye:** In Short-faced Tumbler and Barb Pigeon, their short beak and head and large eye look like ophthalmic goiter. It looks peculiar appearance and really an exceptional face. Its face is monster type but for peculiarity this breed is accepted by everybody. Short-faced Tumbler is completely a tumbler but in Bangladesh the rearers do not fly this pigeon [12] (Plate 1).

**Very short-beak:** Some breeds like Oriental Frill, Owl, and Antwerp all have very short beak. At the rear sight it looks no beak. Though its base is broad and for squabs long beak they can easily care their chicks. Short beak is looked nice so people rear it vigorously (Plate 1).

**Head covered by feather:** In Bokhara Trumpeter its rose like head crests and cheek feathers are completely covered its eye. Without cutting its head feather it cannot see well and care the squab. Trimming of head feather is must for is surviving (Plate 1).

**Muffed:** Some pigeons like Swallow and Duchess have muffed which causes dirty and walking problem. It needs trimming for proper walking and sometimes for wet muff its eggs are attached to water and ultimately damaged. For this muff not only walk but also it easily catches by other predator animals. From the study, head-feathers and leg-feathers were found 8 and 5 types in Bangladeshi pigeon [13] (Plate 1).

**Erect tail:** Due to erect or expanded tail, Fantail pigeon cannot see from the back and easily catches by predators. But his fan like tail is really looks nice. For this nice tail people rear it in cage and for special caring its breeding is normal. It is well recognized peculiarities of pigeons. For getting squab, sometimes it needs to cut 3 - 4 rectrices from both sides of tail. Its rectrices or tail feather are normally 32 [14]. Most of the fancy pigeon rearers of Bangladesh preserve it. This is very common and average color is white. In Bangladesh the grading of Indian Fantail Pigeon was found 84 out of 100 [15] (Plate 1).



**Plate 1:** Peculiarities in fancy pigeons.

## Summary

Though nine peculiarities in fancy pigeons are looked nice but not good for pigeons (Plate 1). Most of the cases, these are harmful for their proper breeding. Huge feathers are looked nice but need to trim for its life saving and care for young. All peculiarities have been come by selective breeding. These peculiarities are good for research in the field of Genetics.

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