

# Maximizing Fertility and Breeding performance In Fancy Pigeons

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## Introduction

To enable a Fancy pigeon breeder to have success at showing, the libido and fertility of breeding pigeons need to be optimized so that valuable breeding pairs breed enough progeny. The success of the next show season depends on breeding and raising perfectly healthy babies that are robust and have perfect plumage. In the previous article, I discussed the importance of breeding from healthy stock and raising healthy babies to ensure the next successful season. However, it is just as important to optimize breeding performance so that each pair produces the optimal number of babies per season.

## Determining the Squeaker percentage

In the final analysis, the breeding performance is evaluated by the number of healthy and vibrant babies raised per pair of pigeons per season in the breeding loft. Farmers raising stock will refer to their success in breeding as lamb or calf percentage. This is calculated by determining the number of ewes or cows the farmer breeds, dividing that by the total number of lambs or calves bred for that season, and multiplying that figure by 100 to reach a percentage score.

Pigeon fanciers should do the same calculation by determining the number of hens used to breed from, dividing that number by the number of babies bred for the season, and multiplying that number by 100. We may refer to this number as the Squeaker percentage. Each fancier should benchmark his breeding operations Squeaker percentage against himself as many factors may play a role in this.

## Factors determining the fertility of pigeons

*The general health of the pigeons:*

My previous article covered Information on this subject in detail (Scientifically Based Pigeon Health Programs Will Optimize your Breeding Season). Please refer to this article as the health of the breeding stock and babies bred is the basis of breeding success.

*Season – Daylight length:*

Birds have a specific breeding season when nature determines that now is the optimal time for breeding. Although pigeons may breed throughout the year, limiting their breeding to the natural optimal breeding season is far better. This will follow a complete or near-complete molt and will start in spring. The determining factor for these seasons is the daylight length. Once the daylight length increases, the complex hormonal system regulated primarily by the Thyroid gland is activated, and breeding will start. It is important to consider this when artificial lights are used in the breeding loft.

### *Genetics:*

Many breeds, especially the fancy pigeons, will have an anatomical conformity that makes it difficult to mate successfully. It is also well known that some strains of pigeons have a lower libido or suffer from early onset infertility. Fanciers should consider this and take special care to maximize these pigeons' breeding performance by selecting for fertility.

### *Mycotoxins:*

The growth of certain molds on grain will produce Mycotoxins that cannot be detected without very specialized tests. One of these Mycotoxins is called Zearalenone and is well known to cause infertility in poultry, farm animals, pigs, and even dogs. **AvioEntromune** is a unique supplement that contains FOS and MOS mycotoxin binders that will prevent the absorption of these mycotoxins and should be given twice a week. Mycotoxins are cumulative toxins, and if absorption can be prevented twice per week, it prevents many of the negative effects that these have on immunity and fertility.

### *Chemical compounds and medicines:*

Several insecticides and heavy metal-containing products are known to cause infertility. As with the mycotoxins, these are cumulative in nature, and if absorption can be prevented by adding **AvioEntromune**, the negative effects of the above will be minimized. Fanciers should also be cognizant of the negative effect certain Antibiotics, such as the Quinolone type antibiotics, may have on pigeons. When pigeons are treated against Paratyphoid for the 10-day course at 4 x the dosage with Enrofloxacin (Baytril), a significantly higher incidence of early Cock infertility is noticed. The use of high-dose, long-term Baytril treatment in breeding pigeons should thus be discouraged. Preventative paratyphoid treatment should be done with the uniquely effective and safe **AvioTyphoidCure** Polybiotic.

### *Age and Nutrition:*

The optimal physiological fertile age declines in pigeons at around 8- 10 years, while many pigeons are, however, able to breed until much older than this. Ideally, the pigeon fancier should limit the number of babies bred in pigeons older than 10 years to two rounds per season. When infertility is caused primarily by age-related physiology, fertility-enhancing supplements containing specific Vitamins and Nutraceuticals such as Vitamin E, Coenzyme Q10, and certain plant extracts may successfully restore fertility to pigeons. Current scientific research explicitly done on pigeons has proven conclusively that one of the Nutraceutical compounds known as Q enzyme Q 10 will stimulate fertility in pigeon cocks by stimulating sperm production and health. Likewise, certain specific plant extracts have been proven to enhance libido and fertility in cocks and hens. Considering this research, the new generation **AvioCockFertility** and **AvioHenFertility** tablets have been formulated accordingly. These unique, scientifically formulated tablets should be dosed to valuable cocks and hens that are sub-fertile or infertile. It is important to be sure that these fertility-enhancing tablets are well-researched and contain far more than just Vitamin E, as some of the earlier Cock or Hen fertility tablets do. **AvioCockfertility and AvioHenfertility** tablets have been formulated as such.



Available Size:  
50 Tabs

**Advantages:**

By combining well researched and proven fertility enhancing elements specifically found in nature and specifically formulating different tablets for the use in Cocks and Hens Aviomed has developed two unique tablets as an aid in maximising breeding performance in Cocks and Hens. The use of Cock and Hen fertility tablets has been scientifically proven to stimulate infertile Cocks and Hens to breed again. Fertility vitamins and minerals as well as researched Nutraceuticals and plants extracts have been included to assure that the newest research is taken into account in the formulation of these highly effective tablets.

*Hormone injections:*

As a last resort, the above-mentioned Cock and Hen-specific tablets may be combined with a course of specific Cock and Hen Fertility enhancing Hormone preparations. These hormone injections are used in cases where the tablets have not been successful in stimulating fertility. Based on many years of scientific research, the author has developed two precise hormone injections for Cocks and Hens.

When supplementing breeding flock, it is mandatory to do food supplementation as Q10 and several of the other key ingredients are not water-soluble. It is always best to combine a well-researched fertility enhancement and a Calcium-containing pigeon-specific product as a general supplement during the breeding season. However, the latest research has concluded that pigeons need more than one form of Calcium salt and more bioavailable salts to ensure optimal Calcium absorption into the bloodstream. When acquiring a Calcium supplement, it is important to verify whether these higher-quality Calcium salts are, in fact, included in the formulation. **AvioFertical** is a science-based superior pigeon breeding supplement that **ticks** all the above boxes.



Fertical

Available Size:  
400g

**Advantages:**

Fertical is the most complete and well researched supplement ever developed for supplementing during the breeding season. It is the first supplement to support fertility, egg production and optimal growth and health of babies. In keeping with the latest avian research regarding Calcium metabolism it contains three of the most bio-active Calcium salts with all the co-factors needed to ensure optimal Calcium absorption. This ensures the most perfect egg shell quality and growth of babies. The unique addition of Co-Enzyme Q10, selected herbs, high levels of Vitamin E and Beta Carotene stimulates fertility in older cocks and hens ensuring that even older stock birds will breed and raise vigorous and health babies. The inclusion of the highest quality Colostrum and Whey powder imported for New Zealand ensures optimal immunity of youngsters. A first ever, truly unique, three in one breeding supplement!

## **Conclusion**

Pigeon fanciers should not accept a low Squeaker percentage as normal when breeding pigeons. If pigeons don't breed well, the fancier should try to ascertain the reason for this and rectify it.

Following

a well-researched pigeon, Pre-Breeding, Breeding, and Youngster program will ensure a high Squeaker percentage and the raising of vibrant and healthy babies.

To obtain an E-mail with the easy-to-understand Pre-Breeding, Breeding, and Youngster programs free of charge E-mail, the words "Send Show pigeon Health programs" to Foy's Pet Supplies at [info@foyspetsupplies.com](mailto:info@foyspetsupplies.com) fanciers may also visit the website [www.aviomed.co.za](http://www.aviomed.co.za) and look under programs and then download the Show pigeon health programs.

**In the final article, I will discuss the optimal management and treatment of youngsters. The goal is to ensure optimal growth, health, and survival and the best plumage and body score for their first shows.**