

Short communication

BRIEF HISTORY AND JUDGE OF KOKAH PIGEONS

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ABSTRACT

As a distinctively vocal avian species, 'kokah' pigeons stand out as an exceptional breed in Bangladesh, particularly in the regions of Rajshahi, Natore, and Rangpur. Despite their prevalence, there are currently no established standards for judging this unique pigeon breed. Following discussions with numerous breeders in Bangladesh, there is a recognized need to establish standardized criteria for future judging.

1. INTRODUCTION

The history of the laughter pigeon is known but kokah pigeon is completely unknown in any books (Kabir, 2022). Kokah is a pigeon breed of the Indian subcontinent. Levi (Levi, 1992) mentioned Abul Fazl's quote on some Indian pigeon breeds. He described some koka/kokah pigeons with their melodious voice as laughers or yahu pigeons. There are several breeds of Arabian trumpeters which are known for their vocal cooing which sounds similar to laughter or trumpeting. There was a possibility to come to this name was after Zayn Khan Kokah (c. 1542-1601), Governor of Kabul (Asian & African Studies Blog). After this Rahman (Rahman, 1999) described kokah pigeon in his book named '*Kingdom of Pigeon*' (in Bangla) with some major characteristics. Finally, Kabir (Kabir, 2022) focused on some profitable pigeon breeds with kokah breeds as well. The actual markings especially the voice quality of kokah pigeons is needed to get good offspring from them. Among all fancy pigeons, kokah pigeons are considered voice or trumpeter pigeons in the country.

Emperor Akbar kept these kokah pigeons in his court of Delhi (Kabir, 2014). Many breeders of Bangladesh cross this pigeon with other pigeons and ultimately get impure pigeons. In this way, breeders do not get benefits by rearing kokah pigeons. In this sense, there is no shortcut to collecting pure pigeon breeds through proper judging. From the champion pigeons, we could get a first-graded kokah pigeon and a pigeon show could be a good option for purchasing good-graded pigeons (Table 1; Plates 1-2).

2. OBSERVATION FOR ISOLATING QUALITY KOKAH PIGEONS

The price of this pigeon is moderately high, depending on its voice quality (Kabir, 2022). In most cases, after hatching, they fight with each other, so alternative use of parents could be a solution (Rahman, 1999).

Following disqualifications could be implemented during judging:

1. Irregular voice
2. Excessive parasites
3. Large size
4. Both eyes are different in colour
5. Tail feathers—crooked or slanted, any lacking
6. Leg-feathered

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3. SUMMARY

These kokah pigeons are the most acceptable breed for everybody, especially on their voice quality. Some breeders are rearing this nice breed with Arabian trumpeters. The market value of these pigeons always accepts the squab of adult pigeons. Some breeders do not know its standard, so they collect this bird wrongly. To get profit and maintain their genetic material without avoiding non-judicious breeding, need to settle a standard immediately.

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Table 1. Features and marking points of kokah pigeon.

| Features | Characteristics | Points |
|-------------------|---|--------|
| Voice quality | Very narrow (continuous coo-coo-coo) | 20 |
| Condition | Highly energetic bird | 5 |
| Station | Horizontal posture (45° angle) | 10 |
| Body size | Small; elongated body; light weighted | 10 |
| Primaries:Tail | Will be the same length | 5 |
| Beak | Narrow and nearly straight; blackish in colour | 10 |
| Plumage colour | Mostly brick-red; primaries and tail feathers will be yellowish; loose feathers | 15 |
| Head, eyes, neck | Frontal high; eyes are orange coloured; comparatively short neck | 15 |
| Crest | Mostly peak crested | 5 |
| Legs and toenails | Clean-legged; blackish toenails | 5 |
| | Total | 100 |



Plate 1. Pairs of kokah pigeon



Plate 2. Kokah pigeon farm at Durgapur, Rajshahi