



INSTRUCTIONS FOR TAKING CARE OF YOUR NEW WHITE RACING HOMING PIGEONS

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Congratulations on purchasing some of the finest White Racing Homing Pigeons on the market today, at an exceptionally affordable price. These young birds are descendants of long distance birds, and the lineage of these birds have flown in the middle distance to long distance races very competitively.

Please do not attempt to take these particular birds out long distances until they have been trained out properly, as needed. This process takes time and normally it will take between 6-12 months to accomplish this, granted the hawks do not pick them off in the process, as they are becoming more and more populated every year.

The last census on migratory birds was done in 1990 so any information you may find on the internet may very likely be obsolete. Please be aware that white birds are in fact the most easily seen by predatory animals and they become especially vulnerable during the migration season which usually lasts anywhere from October- Feb, late March.

I have found it necessary to include some simple bird raising tips, please follow them. Always use common sense when it comes to the feeding routine. Leaving feed in front of young birds will never harm them, but not giving them enough feed can harm them. There are many roads to Rome, and there are several ways to ensure your birds are eating properly as well as getting the nutrients they need to grow up strong and healthy. These suggestions I will provide have been found to work very well for me, as well as for the countless other customers that have previously purchased our birds over the many years we have been in business.

Please keep in mind also that these simple tips do not cover everything there is to know about the birds. The main purpose of these instructions is so that you can assist your new birds with providing an easy transition to their new home. You are still going to want to continue learning and doing your own further research into keeping birds, training, etc.

Let's get started.....

1. The birds you have purchased are approximately 35-40 days old and have just been weaned. The same day you receive the birds from your local postal office, take them home and put them in their new loft.

Please make sure the loft has a light that can be left on all night. This will help the birds get oriented with their new surroundings.

I know many may have a tendency to want to hold the birds, catch the birds inside the loft, watch and observe the birds hours on end, but please, don't do this. These birds don't need the added stress, and are currently under stress from shipping. They need quiet time, as well as a few days to recover and familiarize themselves with their new environment. This process they go through usually will take about 1 week.

Many over the years have asked about what type of floor to use for the loft, is straw bedding ok? While this is a legitimate question to ask, this is actually a question that should be asked before you get the birds, and should be considered during the planning stages of loft construction, not after.

Here is my simple answer to this question below:

The loft floor can be expanded metal, cement, plywood, etc. In my honest opinion, and having had birds now for over 30 years, Expanded Metal Floorings is by far the absolute best type of flooring to use, as this keeps the loft the cleanest for both the birds, and the air you will breathe while with the birds.

If you use plywood, just keep in mind that you will need to scrape the floors weekly. If you use straw or other materials, you'll want to turn this regularly. Some even use wood pellets for the flooring, but again, they do break down and they can hold lots of moisture which can later come back and cause problems with the birds if bacteria begins to build up in the material and droppings.

2. The loft needs to be situated so that the birds can have easy access to the feed and water. These items need to be placed on the ground so they can have easy access. The main reason that young birds die is because they are not given proper care and attention during the most critical days of being exposed to a completely new environment. Direct sunlight and access to it, is also critical. If your loft naturally faces south or west, this solves this concern.

3. Purchase some Gatorade at any local store and mix this in with their water. The ratio will be 2 Tablespoons per 1 gallon of drinking water. Do this for 1 week, then discontinue use. The Gatorade is used to replenish the birds with lots of electrolytes. This is a little known secret that we racers in the community use. It has the same effects as buying more expensive vitamin supplements that are available on the market today.

4. The feed for these young birds needs to be around 12-16 percent protein. Ideally if you can feed them a 14% Protein Mix, that's the best. You can use a bowl to hold the feed, or you can use the special feed trays we sell on our website. They serve the purpose of keeping the feed contained and clean, so that it's not sitting on the floor mixing in with their droppings. Pigeons also enjoy grit, which helps with their food digestion. We recommend that pigeon grit be made readily available to your birds at all times. These birds do not eat worms, fruit, or bread. Only feed the birds solid clean grains, and never give them cracked corn as this gives birds canker. Most feed stores across the country will carry a general pigeon mix. If a feed store doesn't carry a pigeon mix, ask the manager to see if they know of one that does. They usually can provide some recommendations.

5. During the first week you've had the birds, you may want to leave feed always in front of them so they can eat as they desire. This will help them recover from stress and after the first week, you can begin practicing portion control. Some people will feed their birds only once per day, while others that fly their birds will feed them 2x per day. Just find a good routine that works with your schedule, and the birds will learn to adapt to it. After a few weeks, you will want to begin feeding only what the birds will eat in 20-30 minutes, then take away the leftovers. This practice will help you learn just how much your flock of birds eat during a meal, and the amount will be consistent as far as what they consume.

Please note that the average bird will eat (2 Ounces of grain per day). This general rule will allow you to do the proper math to figure out approximately what your feed bill will be on a monthly basis, in case you are curious.

6. **CHANGE WATER DAILY!!** This is extremely important as this is where the majority of the diseases are passed is through the unclean drinking water. I like to give the birds Winsmore Vitamins 2x per week, and then provide the birds fresh clean water the other days of the week. We sell Winsmore on our website, and have used these natural vitamin supplements for many years with great success. We do use other supplements throughout the year, but for simplicity sake, let's keep this simple.

7. Keep the birds in their loft for at least 3 weeks before ever attempting to let them fly out on their own, outside the loft. It's best to have an aviary attached to the loft so that the birds can familiarize themselves with the outside environment.

8. These birds are all raised on some natural products designed for pigeons that we regularly use, and have seen great results. The products we refer to are called **KASTLE PIGEON PRODUCTS**, and

they can also be purchased directly on our website. These are very affordable compared to some of the other products out on the market that have similar effects.

9. Once you begin flying your birds and they are getting their exercise outside the loft on a regular basis, you will always want to practice the good habit of feeding the birds, only after they have flown. This will teach them good training habits and your experience with the birds will be more enjoyable throughout the process. Some train and condition their birds to a whistle every time they feed their birds. I personally used to do this when I was flying our birds regularly. This whistle will allow you to get the birds to trap on command, with consistency in this routine. Any whistle will work, and even a can with some feed in it when rattled will entice the birds to want to trap and eat.

10. Monitor your loft on a weekly basis. If you see any birds that look like they are going light, or a little off in appearance, quarantine them individually in a separate cage until they regain their health.

The following tips were just some simple transition instructions for taking care of your new young birds.

If you would like to learn more, we do have a lot of valuable information that we have provided for viewing on our informative website, located on the FAQ page.

In addition, we have publications available for sale that are directed more towards the other aspects of the white dove release business.

For additional questions you may have once you've received the birds, please first email our customer support team at: customersupport@whitepigeonsales.com

All email inquiries are addressed within a reasonable 24-48 hr. time frame.

We appreciate your business and wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

White Pigeon Sales