

# VARIOUS

## NEWS, MISCELLANEOUS AND 'BUY AND SELL' MARKET

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## ***A word from the editor ...***

Dear reader,

In our April issue we reached for our readers, in need of their support. The numerous reactions were heart warming and we were offered co-operation and support in various ways. The overall tendency of the reactions was mostly an appeal to continue publishing the magazine, and we will gladly comply, especially since many readers have donated a certain amount of money to help the maintenance, hosting and development of our free-to-read online magazine.



The supporters – those who revealed their names, because many of them chose to remain anonymous - are listed on our donations page. Thanks to all of you for your confidence and help.

We always try to find new ways to inform you and to stir your interest, and this means that from time to time we will change course and bring new subjects to the spotlight. But our permanent concern is to emphasize the positive and beautiful aspects of our hobby; you will not find anywhere in our magazine news on scandals, intricacies, hindering or coercive measures.

As one of the innovations and novelties mentioned above, this issue offers detailed information on the breeders working to create new (colour) varieties. They put in a whole lot of effort, going through many different ways to reach their final goal and sometimes end up with astonishing results. However, creating the colour, shape and markings at the level of perfection one aims for often takes years to accomplish. Your contributions on this subject are always hearty welcomed at [redactie@aviculture-europe.nl](mailto:redactie@aviculture-europe.nl)

Again we have tried to bring you a new issue of rich and various make-up and contents. We hope you will enjoy reading.

With thanks to all contributors and advertisers,  
On behalf of the team of Aviculture Europe,  
Nico van Bente

# THE FRAME

## Saxon Pouter

This slim, elegant Pouter, with long legs, medium foot feathers and a pear shape balloon, has been very strikingly pictured by the well-known pigeon painter and drawing master, also international pigeon judge: Jan Hatzmann from Hoogeveen (NL).



## Why choose ®Kasper Faunafood

With its products Kasper Faunafood directs at professional and semi-professional users such as Zoos, Parks, (hobby) breeders and keepers of backyard poultry hobby, who want exclusively the best food for their animals.

Being a specialist in the Animal Food branch, Kasper FaunaFood can offer a wide range of feed for various hobby animals, pets and exotic animals from diverse biotopes, providing the right nutrition in their various phases of life. A young animal has a larger need for protein than an adult animal, whereas an animal which must perform needs plenty of energy. Animals in their rest period only require a maintenance feed, still providing the daily nutritional values. The main point for developing feed is always: what does the animal eat in its natural surroundings and what are the feeding needs.

The feeding experts of Kasper Faunafood develop the compositions on a scientific basis, based on literature, knowledge of biologists, experience of users etc. The composition of the various Kasper Faunafood feeds are fixed, meaning these are no longer modified, unless improvements can be introduced.

Kasper Faunafood products are complete and balanced, which implies that in normal circumstances no expensive vitamins and/or mineral mixtures have to be provided. The pre-mixes, developed in our own management, contain largely sufficient vitamins, minerals and trace elements in the required proportions, as a result of which the animals show an even increase, have an excellent condition and have good fertility.

The high energy value in Kasper Faunafood ensures that the animals, in comparison with other brands, need less food to achieve excellent results.

Kasper Fauna food has been a constant (co)-initiator in developments and improvements in the Animal Food branch. An important development of the last years is **Faunabiobalance** ®

**Faunabiobalance** ® is an additive to the premix, based on fatty acids of vegetable origin and ensure a better stabilisation of the bowel flora. In young animals the digestion capacity must be still built. This means that they have low resistance and can catch all kinds of potential germs.

**Faunabiobalance**® improves the immunity. Particularly in the first weeks of life this is very important. The animals digest the food very well, grow better and are better protected against germs.

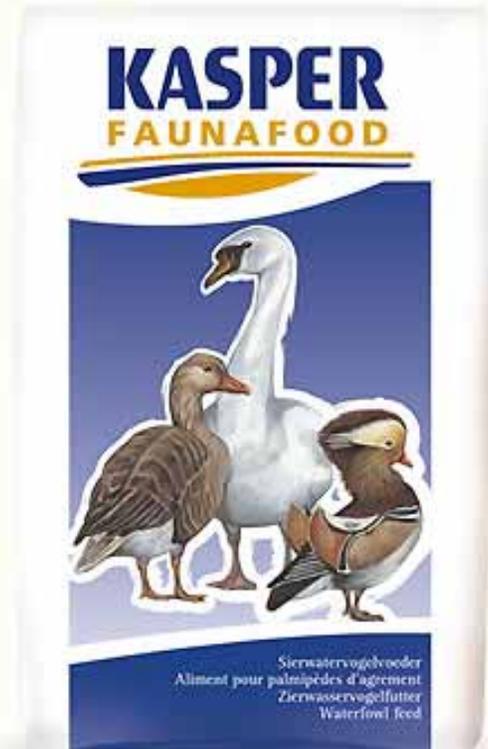
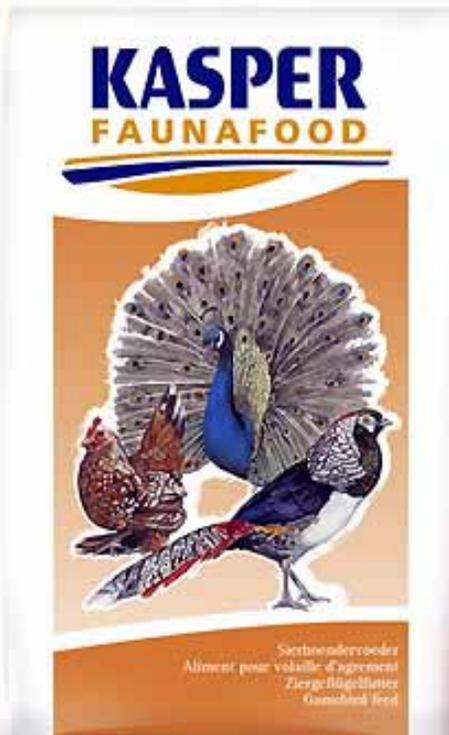
**Faunabiobalance**® ensures a strong progress in feeding area, leading to better results in raising and development of young animals.

**Faunabiobalance**® is added to the Gallus (poultry) and Anseres (waterfowl) feed series.

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[www.kasperfaunafood.nl](http://www.kasperfaunafood.nl)

[www.arielok.nl](http://www.arielok.nl)



## A wanna-have: Nice PR Towing-hook cover.

bY: Hans Heemskerk

One of the club members of the Z.O.B.K. (Rare True Belgian Bantams) is Herman van Olst, who didn't only breed the Tournaisis but also created the Appenzeller Spitzhauben bantam. For many years Herman was a board member of the Z.O.B.K. and once on a Club Day he brought a sort of Head study of an Appenzeller Spitzhauben rooster as a prize in the yearly lottery.



I was the lucky one to win the bright orange 'thing' – not really knowing what it was. Before going home Herman demonstrated what it was meant for: a towing-hook cover! However, as a true Belgian Bantam Lover I was not likely to go and drive around with an orange Appenzeller Spitzhauben at my towing-hook.

Later the subject towing-hook was discussed again and I explained that I would far more appreciate having another breed as cover, for instance the head of my beloved Watermael bearded. Herman asked me to give him a proper photo of the head of a Watermael and he would see what he could do. Then I forgot about the whole thing. Until Monday April 27; Herman had passed by and out of the blue left me a towing-hook cover in the shape of a Watermeal bearded bantam standing at the table. Only one hour later it was glittering on my car...



Herman is a product designer and has a business in Vorden (NL). On the basis of a proper head study he makes a wooden cut, from which a silicon model is made. Once the silicon model is made, he can mould as many copies as he needs. At the moment he has heads of the Appenzeller, the Antwerp bearded bantam and the Watermael bearded bantam.



The outside is made of a hard polyurethane and deliverable in all colours except white. In the inside is a rubbery polyurethane inlay to hold the cover tight on the hook. To prevent stealing it can easily be adjusted with a parker screw.

More examples of the covers can be seen at [www.spitskuifkriel.nl](http://www.spitskuifkriel.nl) and soon also at [www.hermanvanolst.nl](http://www.hermanvanolst.nl)

The price is € 8,00 without the rubbery inlay and € 12,00 with the rubbery inlay included. With larger orders the price will be adapted. This holds for the already existing models.

Breeders' Clubs or Associations that are interested can contact Herman for a personal offer. For each new model, a striking, pure breed mould must be made, and as you will understand that takes many hours of work.

This is truly a nice PR object for members of a Breeds' Club. Other fanciers who saw me driving with my Watermael Bearded bantam cover, immediately wanted to have one. And meanwhile they do have one.



# THE CHICKEN

BY ULISSE ALDROVANDI

DIGITAL VERSION IN ENGLISH

Elio Corti  
Fernando Civardi

## ALDROGALLUS



*Divo  
Alberto  
Teutonico  
atque  
Celtico*

Transcribed  
by  
Fernando  
Civardi

Translated  
by  
Elio  
Corti

The Chicken of Ulisse Aldrovandi

April 26 - 2009

We are very proud to announce that Dr. Elio Corti, from Italy, granted us the publication of his English translation of the chapters on chickens from the famous book 'Ornithologiae' by Aldrovandi.

'Aldrovandi on Chickens' was earlier (1963) translated in English by L.R. Lind, but this translation has many errors. This is why Dr. Corti also included the original Latin text by Aldrovandi, to check for those who can read Latin.

The translation took him many years and was completed in April 2009. The digital book is titled: 'Aldrogallus'.

Dr. Corti is devoted to chickens. On his website [www.summagallicana.it](http://www.summagallicana.it) you can also read an English translation of the chapters on chickens from the book 'Historia animalium' by Conrad Gessner, published in 1555. Here you can also find an extensive treatise on Chicken Genetics, partly translated in English.

You will find the book on our webpage 'Books' (click the button left on our homepage [www.aviculture-europe.nl](http://www.aviculture-europe.nl)). Downloading will take some time, as the file is rather large. This is because it contains the original (full size) illustrations taken from the book.

# GENETICS OF CHICKEN COLOURS - The Basics

*by Sigrid van Dort, David Hancox and Friends*

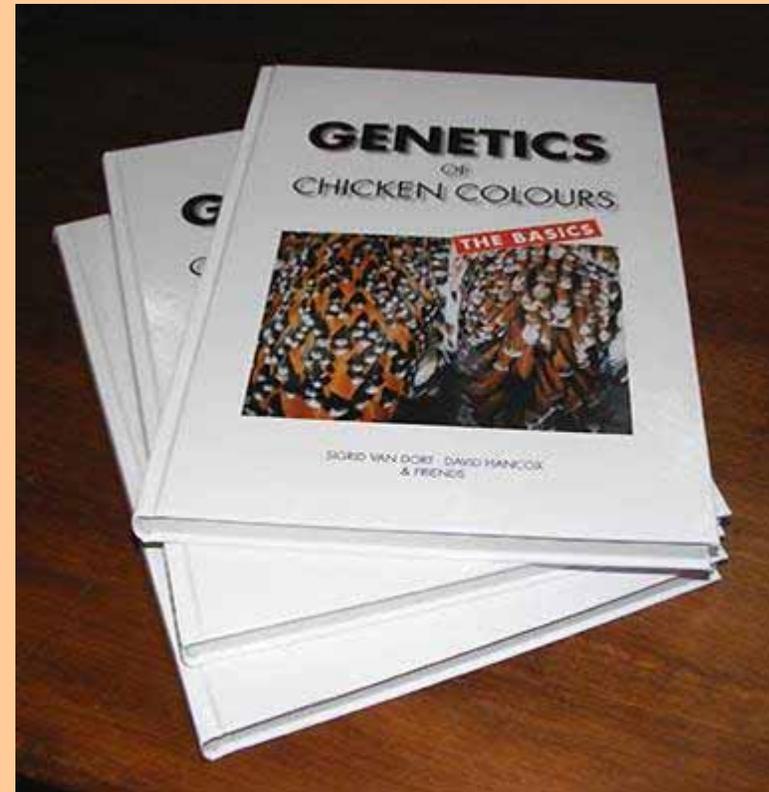
Review: Erik Berrevoets

The how and why of chicken genetics has long been a mystery to many of us amateur chicken breeders and books on the genetics of chicken colours are few and far between. The book 'Genetics of Chicken Colours - The Basics' is therefore a very welcome addition to this field.

The book was originally written in Dutch in 2007 and the English Edition was published as e-book and in hardback format in 2009. It is written by Dutch amateur geneticist and chicken breeder Sigrid van Dort with the help of her friends and is intended for amateur chicken breeders who lack a formal background in genetics.

Sigrid's co-author of the English Edition is Australian David Hancox. David's contribution is based on knowledge gained throughout his 45 years of experience in the field of chicken breeding, and he will be responsible for the launch of the English edition of the book.

One of the first things one notices about the book is the large number of photo illustrations. The author's claim that the book consists of about 2/3 illustrations and 1/3 text appears correct. The numerous illustrations of both birds and individual feathers make it easy to identify the more subtle differences in colours for example; different types of barring may look similar when seen on a bird but are quite different when individual feathers are compared. The second aspect that stands out is the 'down to earth' style in which the book is written. The author introduces genetics by comparing chicken colours to vegetable or minestrone soup and uses this example throughout the book to highlight how genetics work. For example, similar to soup, the colour and appearance of chickens can be the result of a greater or lesser concentration of say tomato paste, while at other times a colour can be the result of adding a completely new ingredient.





By comparing the daunting topic of chicken genetics to an everyday item such as soup the author demystifies the topic and makes it, excuse the pun, easy to digest.

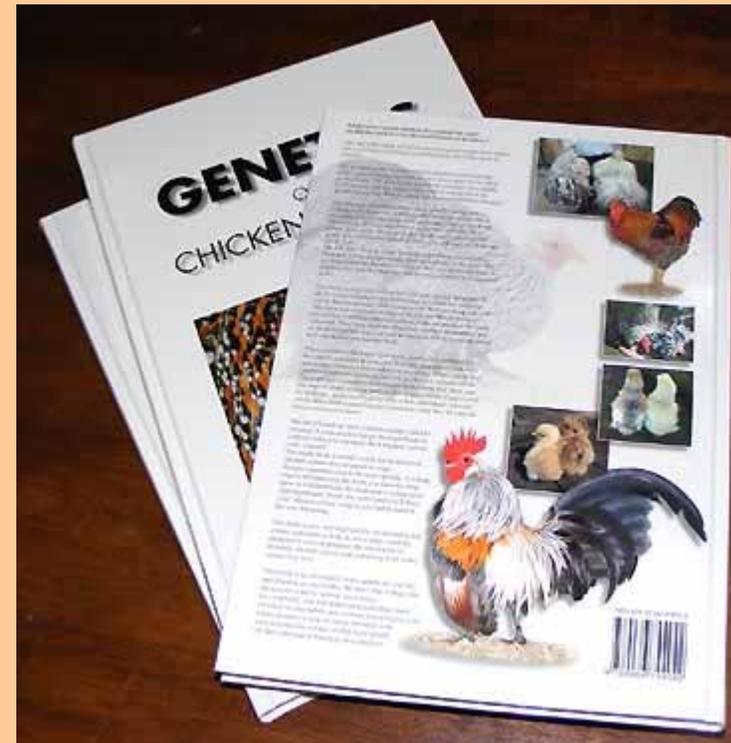
The book explains in simple terms how genetics create certain colours and the factors that influence the way colours are inherited. The author also discusses how different genetic factors combine to create colours and provides numerous examples of the results of particular crosses. The book includes special sections on topics such as: the red colour of the Yokohama breed, feather patterns, and has exercises for readers to test their understanding of chicken genetics.

About a quarter of the book's more than 240 pages describe in words and through photos of both hens and roosters the wide range of standardised colours and the genetic 'recipes' that are responsible for their occurrence.

In light of the easy to read style and the ability of the authors to explain complex material in an easy to understand manner I hope they will also expand or write a further book on chicken genetics covering aspect such as crests, beards and leg feathering and the differences that can be found in Frizzles and Silkies.

I expect that this book will be well received by the English speaking amateur chicken breeders and fanciers.

*About the reviewer, Erik Berrevoets has bred and kept chickens off and on for the last 30 years and his knowledge of genetics prior to reading the book did not exceed that of a year 12 biology student.*



For ordering see [www.chickencolours.com](http://www.chickencolours.com) or contact Sigrid van Dort [info@tuinvee.nl](mailto:info@tuinvee.nl)



**1999 - 2009**

## ***The 'Friends of the Holle Cropper' Club***

***will be celebrating their 10th anniversary  
Saturday 29 August 2009  
in Kleindierencentrum Zuiderpark in The Hague.***

*The celebration includes a large Jubilee Show with Holle Croppers only.*

*Some of our foreign club members promised to be with us that day.*

*It will be a good opportunity to buy Holle Croppers, as several birds will be offered for sale.*

*The morning activities are for club members only, but from 2:00 p.m. everyone is very welcome to visit the show.*

*For more information please contact the secretary: Mrs. Sonja van Vliet,  
Email: [sonjaenfreek@kpnplanet.nl](mailto:sonjaenfreek@kpnplanet.nl)*



# A LIFE THREATENING PROBLEM WITH A VERY SIMPLE SOLUTION...

By: Pauline van Schaik

In the first frosty weeks of last winter I found a sad little bundle of Leghorn near the chicken house. Her head was covered with blood all over, which seemed to come from a little wound on her comb, I couldn't find any other injury. While examining her I had pressed some snow over the wound and the bleeding stopped. Thinking the matter was solved I returned to the house.

Still I wasn't quite happy about it and after an hour I went out again to see how she was doing.



And there she was, lying more dead than alive under the hedge, and again bleeding like crazy....

I was shocked and would not leave her to die. Quickly I grabbed a cat bench and a towel and wrapped her. Our vet lives about 20 km distance and I feared I would never make it in time; she kept bleeding and already was lying down without moving at all.

I experienced another serious comb bleeding with two fighting cocks – not mine, fortunately – and I knew that for instance trying to burn the wounds doesn't succeed. Both cocks didn't survive this bleeding. Still I had my hopes high, although deep inside I was worried sick.



Ingrid, our vet, was also worried by seeing the amount of blood. She hardly dared to touch anything, as the bleeding now finally had stopped. The only remedy was to tie her up, so she would not bleed again. But how to bandage a chicken's comb?! It took some imagination and perseverance, but we managed to bandage her.

Back home again I arranged a large rabbit bench for her to recover and gave her vitamins. Next morning I was afraid what I would find, as she had been so terribly weak the other day! But to my big surprise she was standing on her feet again; that was one step forward in the healing process. And day 2 she produced some clucking and even something else: a shell-less egg! She probably had no energy left to finish the egg with a proper shell, so the egg was laid as it was at the moment when she was too weak to finish the job.

I never expected the bandage to stay put very long, but as if she knew – the doctor told her to, and she left it there for a whole week. I was afraid to take it off, in case the gauze would stick to the wound and I would start it bleeding again, so I asked the vet to take it off. It had cured very well.

I kept her for another week in the 'sick-bay' until the crusts had gone and then she was allowed to go outside again with the other chickens. Today she is still doing fine and regularly laying her nice white eggs. I am proud of her will to survive; from not being able to stand to happily foraging out in the yard again, in only two weeks time! A brave little chicken!





## THE PIGEON AND THE BUNNIES

These photos were sent to us by Bill Burnside (US) with the following lines: *"This information was sent to me by an NPA Director. I asked for information of the originator, but now one knows where it came from or who took the photos and wrote the story. No name and no copyright... It surely shows pigeons in a very good light. It says more about the pigeon than a human could ever present"*.

We did some searching and found the following:

### **GREAT STORY!**

**By Bob and Georganne Lenham**

**Photos: Bob Lenham.**

These little bunnies, about 6 days old, were attacked by a dog and orphaned. Two out of the litter of five did not survive, and these three were not doing very well.

Noah is a non-releasable, one-legged homing pigeon that we have here in rehab. Noah kept going over to the bunny cage and looking in... even sleeping in front of the door to the cage.

Then, 2 days ago, I only counted 2 bunnies in the cage, so I hurriedly picked Noah up from the front of the cage so I could look inside. And to my surprise... there was the tiny bunny...under Noah's wing...sound asleep! The bunny had crawled through the cage....preferring a featherbed, no doubt.





Now, they are all together, and the bunnies are doing GREAT. When the bunnies scoot underneath Noah's feathers, he extends his wings out to surround them, and they snuggle. When one of them moves and they start sticking out here and there, he gently pushes them back under him with his beak! This is amazing!

*Update on Noah the pigeon:*

We are Bob and Georganne Lenham of Wild Rose Rescue Ranch in Texas, home of Noah the Pigeon. After finding many posts online featuring Noah and the bunnies and

reading about the many lives he has touched,

(his story has been forwarded around the world) we thought we should post a follow-up and a few new photos.

We knew there was something special about Noah the moment we saw him.

Although the bunnies seem to be his favorite, now Noah helps out with many rescue babies here at the Wild Rose Rescue Ranch...

How wonderful it is to have a full-time soft-feathered nurturer here at the rescue ranch! He cuddles with all the babies as they snuggle under his warm feathers...and he "coos" as if singing them to sleep with a lullaby.

Right: Noah's first litter of bunnies, almost raised and ready for release. Photo Bob Lenham.

<http://www.arcforwildlife.com/the-pigeon-and-the-bunnies.htm>



## FOWL FACES

If you've decided to visit West France this Summer, then the photo exhibition "Fowl faces" is definitely worth a visit. The photos are intended to show another side of poultry and, in particular, chickens: to show that they are not just for eating but also can be a pleasure to look at.

Amateur photographer Marit de Haan has been living in France since 2002. It was there that she first learnt to regard chickens as pets. At the moment she has over 40 chickens wandering around, mostly Bantams and also Silkies, Houdans, Marans, Coucou de Rennes, Hamburgers, Niederheimers, Ameraucanas and some crossbreeds.



The photos will be hanging from 21st June until 20th September in a 12th Century castle, the Château de la Grève in Saint Martin des Noyers, Vendée.

Entrance to the exhibition is free.

It is also possible to have a guided tour around of the castle in the afternoons. This costs 4 Euros.

More information can be found on the castle's website [www.asso-chateau-greve.com/english.htm](http://www.asso-chateau-greve.com/english.htm)

and [www.fowlfaces.com](http://www.fowlfaces.com)



# DUCK FAT

In France (and in Chinese restaurants) duck is a delicacy and when having superfluous ducks, one should certainly give them a second look with 'culinary' thoughts in mind. Henk Kooiman, an enthusiastic duck keeper and enthusiast hobby-cook, told us: "Plucking the ducks is a lousy job. Maybe plucking is easier when the birds are matured and fully feathered? I simply skinned the birds. The famous 'duck breasts' are also very tasty without the skin. It is important to know how to cook them. They certainly must not be overdone, but just slightly rose inside. The legs and wings can very well be used in stews. After cooking the ducks there remains a whole lot of fat. Throwing away is a shame! It keeps very well when you put it into a glass jar and store in the fridge. In winter you can mix it with grain and all sorts of seeds and make fat balls to feed the little birds in the yard or even your chickens".

Our own experience: In France delicious –canned - cooked duck legs are for sale with the name 'Confit de canard'. After enjoying the tender duck meat we saved the rendered fat and used it to cook potatoes and it tasted very good!

We also used the fat to bake chicken breasts. The taste of the pure fat is fairly neutral but the results are unbelievable.

Although we don't know if it is really healthy, as the French say? After all it is an animal fat. Worth finding out, as it is a good product, maybe even used for frying.

If anyone can tell us more about this, your reactions are welcome at [redactie@aviculture-europe.nl](mailto:redactie@aviculture-europe.nl)



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# WEB-FOOT OR SYNDACTYLY

Simple syndactyly indicates joining of only skin from two adjacent toes and are classified as complete or incomplete by the degree of joining.

Web-foot is mentioned in the book: 'The Pigeon' by Wendell Mitchell Levy (1986) as a syndactism. A condition which is very rare in pigeons and is principally of genetic interest. This was mentioned earlier by Staples–Brown (1905) and Bonhote (1911, 1915). They found that a cross between two web-footed pigeons did produce some normal footed young.



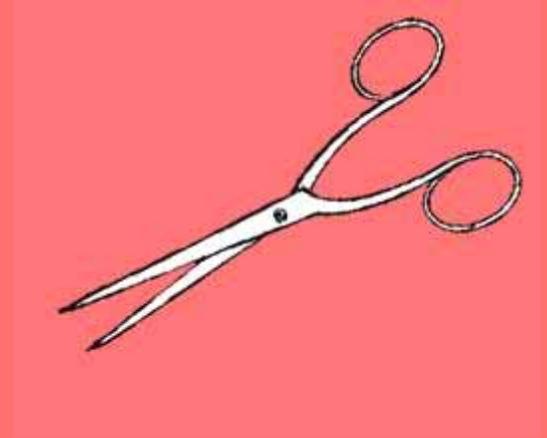
In the "Het handboek voor de duivensport" (Handbook for the racing pigeon sport) by Dr. J.W.E. Stam and Drs. J. van der Sluis, web-foot is called as an atavism and they suggest that it can be treated in young birds by means of a simple surgery. The Wikipedia - the free internet encyclopaedia - describes atavism as an evolutionary throwback, such as traits reappearing which had disappeared generations ago.

Atavisms occur because genes for previously existing phenotypical features are often preserved in DNA, even though the genes are not expressed in some or most of the organisms possessing them.

# PULLING FEATHERS

By Danne J. Honour 1982

When pulling tail or wing feathers, it must be done several months before a show, in time to grow back and even longer for sickle feathers. These feathers should be cut off about an inch and one half, from the feather socket. Then allow this stub to dry the quill out for about two weeks before pulling the stub out. This will prevent bleeding and will not damage the feather socket.

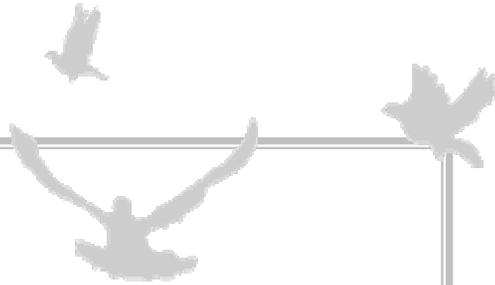


More than one bird has bled to death from pulling a fresh-living tail feather. The extra trouble and time in drying out an old feather, will be time well spent on top birds, and the new feathers pulled in this manner will have a much better chance of being the proper color too.

It is best to plan on the new feathers taking extra time in coming in, as to not have them grown in enough for a planned show.

The smaller body feathers are not likely to bleed and do not have to be dried down.

Photo: Aviculture Europe



## **A tribute to Joe Quinn - Rest in Peace**

by Jan Lombard - Gauteng, South Africa

Joe Quinn passed away on the morning of Thursday - 7th of June 2009. His daughter Nancy wrote the following about her father: "He fought a good fight but in the end he was fighting with an 80 year old body. He went peacefully with me and mom at his side. Mom is doing as well as can be expected. He made it through surgery so we thought we were in the clear. We had enough time for his kids to get into town and visit with him."

Every pigeon fancier interested in pigeon genetics will know the name of Joe Quinn. Joe was honoured when one of the Almond allele genes, namely Qualmond, was named after him. He was one of the pioneer authors who wrote about pigeon genetics. I will always treasure my editions of "A Pigeon Breeders Notebook" and "Feather, Form an Flight" - both written by his gifted writer. Both book were personally authorized for me by Joe, and are already collectors' items. These books will always fill a place of honour in my book collection.

I want to salute Joe for his contribution to the fancy and for adding to my little bit of knowledge about pigeon heredity. I hope you rest in peace and that you now enjoy all those wonderful genetic combinations (that we dream about) in the Big Lofts in Heaven. The Pigeon Fancy will miss Joe, but will always be thankful for the knowledge he share with us and left behind for the generations to come.