

FACT SHEET



FASCINATING...

- In the mid 1800's, the **Reuters News Agency** operated a live telex service using Homing Pigeons.
- There are nearly **1 million** pigeon fliers around the world today.
- The ancient Greeks used Homing Pigeons to carry messages 5,000 years ago.
- **Homing Pigeons race from 80 to 600 miles at speeds of 40 to 60 mph** over terrain they have often never seen before.
- Homing Pigeons were used extensively as a highly reliable method of communication in military conflicts during the two World Wars and the Korean War. The **saved thousands of lives** while in military service.
- Homing Pigeons were introduced to the United States in the mid 1800's. In the 1880's, the first 500-mile race took place in this country.
- Some international races award large cash prizes. **In the United States, most races are held for good, clean family fun.**

FAMOUS FANCIERS:

Walt Disney loved pigeons so much that for many years he released a flock of white Homing Pigeons as part of daily ceremonies at Disneyland and Disney World.

Terry Bradshaw, former Pittsburgh Steelers' Quarterback, breeds pigeons.

Ray Price, country singer, enjoys breeding Homing Pigeons.

Actors **Yul Brynner** and **Roy Rogers** raised pigeons.

Pablo Picasso, who also raised Homing Pigeons, named his daughter "Paloma", Spanish for dove.

Boxing champion, **George Foreman**, maintains a loft and breeds Homing Pigeons..

Actress **Joanne Woodward** raised fancy breeds of pigeons.

Maurizo Gucci is a fancier of show pigeons who is on record for paying more than \$10,000 for an American bird.

The British Royal Family has raised Homing Pigeons for centuries, and has an active racing loft yet today.

DID YOU KNOW...

- A combination of an extremely accurate internal "sunclock" and magnetic fields enable the athletes to return home.
- The ability to hear sounds 11 octaves below middle C allow the pigeons to detect **earthquakes and electrical storms.**
- The top national race, *Snowbird Classic*, awards a purse of **\$600,000.**
- The **highest priced Homing Pigeon was sold for \$225,000.**
- Homing Pigeons have pedigrees like racehorses. They are bred and trained with the same care bestowed upon their equine counterparts.

ABOUT THE "AU"

The American Racing Pigeon Union was founded in 1910 and is the largest pigeon association in the country. The AU sets race rules and provides members a code of conduct, as well as funds veterinary and scientific research to enhance the sport and assist its members.

For more information on how to join the nearly 10,000 American Racing Pigeon Union members across the United States, call 405-848-5801 or fax 405-848-5888.

Or write:

American Racing Pigeon Union, Inc.
P.O. Box 18465
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73154-0465

Visit our website: www.pigeon.org

Join the Sport of Pigeon Racing Today!