



# THE AUSTRALIAN PIGEON CENTRE

*“Where Passion takes Flight”*

## **The Benefits of Keeping Pigeons: A Family Bonding Activity**

By Barry Trewin

When it comes to unconventional pets, pigeons might not be the first choice that comes to mind. However, keeping pigeons can bring numerous benefits to a family. Not only does it provide an opportunity for family members to spend quality time together, but it also offers valuable learning experiences and fosters a sense of responsibility. Now we can explore how keeping pigeons can be good for the family.

One of the significant advantages of pigeon-keeping is that it encourages the person responsible for their care to stay home more often. In a world where people are constantly on the move, having a hobby that keeps you grounded can be highly beneficial. Looking after pigeons requires dedication and constant attention, meaning that the person caring for them spends more time at home. This helps in creating a stable and nurturing environment for the entire family.

The process of looking after pigeons introduces individuals to a wide range of skill sets. First and foremost, pigeon enthusiasts learn about genetics and husbandry. Breeding and selecting pigeons with desirable traits involve understanding the basics of genetics and applying that knowledge to improve the breed. This hands-on experience can be intellectually stimulating and provides a unique perspective on the natural world.

Training pigeons is another skill that can be developed through pigeon keeping. Teaching these intelligent birds to perform specific tasks and respond to commands requires patience and consistency. The process of training pigeons enhances problem-solving abilities and fosters a sense of accomplishment.

Understanding nutrition and supplements is crucial for maintaining the health and well-being of the pigeons. Pigeon enthusiasts learn about the dietary requirements of these birds and how to provide a balanced diet. This knowledge can extend to other aspects of life, encouraging healthy eating habits for the entire family.

Budgeting money is another essential aspect of pigeon-keeping. Setting up and maintaining a pigeon loft, purchasing feed, and investing in equipment requires financial planning. By taking responsibility for the pigeons' needs, individuals learn valuable lessons about budgeting, saving, and making informed financial decisions.

Caring for pigeons also contributes to emotional development. Nurturing and bonding with these birds can be a fulfilling experience, teaching empathy, compassion, and patience. The relationship built with the pigeons can become a source of comfort and companionship for the entire family.

In addition to the practical skills acquired, keeping pigeons can be a family bonding activity. Taking care of the birds together creates an opportunity for family members to collaborate, communicate, and share responsibilities. From cleaning the loft to feeding the pigeons, each task can be a joint effort, strengthening the family unit.

Another benefit of pigeon keeping is the importance of data and record keeping. Maintaining detailed records of breeding, health, and performance can improve decision-making and allow for tracking progress. This skill is transferable to other areas of life, such as organising personal finances, managing schedules, or planning events.

Lastly, pigeon-keeping instils a sense of responsibility in individuals of all ages. Taking charge of another living being's well-being requires commitment and accountability. Family members learn to prioritise the needs of the pigeons, ensuring their health, safety, and happiness. This responsibility can translate into a greater sense of responsibility within the family as a whole.

The keeping of pigeons can bring a host of benefits to the family. From providing an opportunity for individuals to stay home and be present to fostering various skill sets such as genetics, husbandry, training, nutrition, budgeting, caring, and emotional development, pigeon-keeping offers a unique experience. Moreover, it promotes family bonding through shared responsibilities and creates a nurturing environment for personal growth. So, consider exploring the world of pigeon keeping and unlock the potential for family enrichment.