



# THE AUSTRALIAN PIGEON CENTRE

*“Where Passion takes Flight”*

## **How did the Janssen Brothers of Arendonk Strain of racing pigeon dominate the World of pigeon racing?**

By Barry Trewin

The Janssen brothers of Arendonk, Belgium, were renowned pigeon fanciers who made a significant impact on the world of pigeon racing. From the 1940s to the 1960s, they established a highly successful strain of racing pigeons known as the Janssen strain. Here are some factors that contributed to their domination:

1. **Selective Breeding:** The Janssen brothers dedicated themselves to selective breeding, meticulously choosing pigeons with exceptional racing abilities and breeding them together. They focused on pigeons with strong endurance, navigation skills, and a keen sense of direction.
2. **Family Line:** They created a distinctive family line by carefully breeding their best pigeons. This process involved selecting pigeons based on their racing performance and genetic traits, such as strong muscles, efficient metabolism, and a robust constitution.
3. **Rigorous Training:** The Janssen brothers subjected their pigeons to rigorous training regimes. They built a comprehensive system that included extensive road training to develop their pigeons' homing instincts, speed, and endurance. The birds were exposed to various racing distances, gradually increasing the challenge as they progressed.
4. **Care and Management:** The brothers paid meticulous attention to the health and well-being of their pigeons. They provided optimal nutrition, clean living conditions, and regular veterinary care. This dedication ensured that their pigeons were in prime physical condition for racing.
5. **Knowledge and Experience:** The Janssen brothers possessed extensive knowledge and experience in the field of pigeon racing. They understood the importance of understanding the birds' behaviour, training methods, and race strategies. Their expertise allowed them to make informed decisions in selecting and breeding pigeons.
6. **Consistency in Performance:** The Janssen strain consistently produced outstanding racing pigeons over many years. The brothers' pigeons achieved remarkable results in various prestigious races, including national and international competitions. Their success generated worldwide recognition and admiration for their breeding methods.
7. **Sharing Knowledge:** The Janssen brothers were generous in sharing their knowledge and breeding techniques with other fanciers. Their willingness to help and educate fellow pigeon enthusiasts contributed to the spread and popularity of the Janssen strain worldwide.

8. **Strategic Pairings:** The Janssen brothers employed strategic pairings to enhance the desired traits in their pigeons. They carefully selected pigeons with complementary qualities, such as strong navigation skills and speed, to produce offspring with a higher chance of success in racing.
9. **Versatility:** The Janssen strain of racing pigeons demonstrated exceptional versatility. Their birds excelled in both short-distance sprint races and long-distance endurance races. This adaptability made their strain highly sought after by pigeon fanciers worldwide.
10. **International Recognition:** The Janssen brothers' achievements gained international recognition and acclaim. Pigeon enthusiasts from different countries visited their loft in Arendonk to acquire their pigeons or learn from their expertise. The Janssen strain became highly valued and sought after, solidifying their dominance in the world of pigeon racing.
11. **Legacy:** The influence of the Janssen strain continues to be felt even after the passing of the brothers. Their pigeons have been extensively bred and incorporated into other successful racing strains, further spreading their genetic influence throughout the pigeon racing community.
12. **Book Publication:** The Janssen brothers' success story and breeding methods were documented in a book titled "The Janssen Brothers Arendonk: A Pigeon Dynasty," written by Ad Schaerlaeckens. This book provided valuable insights into their breeding techniques and contributed to the preservation and dissemination of their legacy.
13. **Enduring Popularity:** The Janssen strain of racing pigeons remains highly popular among fanciers to this day. Many breeders continue to work with descendants of the original Janssen pigeons, aiming to perpetuate their exceptional racing abilities and maintain the legacy of the Janssen brothers.

In summary, the Janssen brothers' domination of the world of pigeon racing can be attributed to their expertise in selective breeding, rigorous training methods, meticulous care, and their ability to consistently produce top-performing racing pigeons. Their contributions and legacy to the sport have had a lasting impact on the development of racing pigeon strains globally.

## **Karl Mueleman's**

While the Janssen Brothers of Arendonk had a significant impact on the world of pigeon racing with their Janssen strain, it's important to note that the Janssen strain itself has influenced the development of several related strains. One such strain is the Karl Mueleman's strain.

Karl Mueleman's, a renowned pigeon fancier from Belgium, developed his strain of racing pigeons by incorporating Janssen bloodlines into his breeding program. Mueleman's recognised the exceptional racing abilities and genetic qualities of the Janssen strain and sought to incorporate those traits into his own pigeons. By selectively breeding Janssen pigeons with his own stock, he created a strain that carried the influence and characteristics of the Janssen lineage.

The Karl Mueleman's strain is known for its strong racing performance, endurance, and navigational skills. Pigeons from this strain have achieved remarkable success in various racing competitions. The incorporation of Janssen bloodlines into Mueleman's breeding program contributed to the strain's success and cemented its direct relation to the Janssen Brothers' legacy.

It's worth mentioning that there are several other strains and lofts that have incorporated Janssen bloodlines into their breeding programs, each with their own unique approach and selection criteria. The Janssen strain's exceptional racing qualities and genetic influence have made it a sought-after source for improving racing pigeon strains worldwide.

However, it's important to note that specific information about the relationship between the Janssen Brothers and other strains, such as the Karl Mueleman's strain, may vary depending on the breeding practices and individual efforts of each fancier. Therefore, it is recommended to consult specialised pigeon racing sources or enthusiasts who can provide more detailed and up-to-date information on the specific lineage and relationships between various strains in the world of racing pigeons.

## **What other successful strains can be connected to the Janssen Brothers**

Apart from the Karl Muelemans strain, several other successful strains of racing pigeons can be connected to the Janssen Brothers of Arendonk. These strains have incorporated Janssen bloodlines and have achieved notable success in pigeon racing. Here are a few examples:

1. **Heremans-Ceusters Strain:** The Heremans-Ceusters strain, developed by Leo Heremans of Vorselaar, Belgium, is highly regarded in pigeon racing. Heremans incorporated Janssen bloodlines, along with other influential strains, to create a winning combination. Pigeons from this strain have excelled in both sprint and middle-distance races.
2. **Van Den Bosch Strain:** The Van Den Bosch strain, created by Frans Van Den Bosch of Belgium, is another strain with Janssen influences. Van Den Bosch blended Janssen pigeons with his own stock to produce birds with exceptional racing abilities. Pigeons from this strain have achieved notable successes in long-distance races.
3. **De Klak Strain:** The De Klak strain, developed by Gerard and Piet de Klak of Netherlands, also carries Janssen bloodlines. The de Klak brothers acquired Janssen pigeons from the Janssen Brothers of Arendonk and incorporated them into their breeding program. Their strain gained recognition for its racing prowess, particularly in middle-distance and one-day long-distance races.
4. **Verbruggen Strain:** The Verbruggen strain, created by the Verbruggen family of Belgium, is another successful strain with Janssen influences. They integrated Janssen pigeons into their breeding program to enhance the racing abilities of their stock. Pigeons from the Verbruggen strain have achieved significant victories in both short and long-distance races.

It's important to note that the specific level of Janssen influence and the breeding methods employed by each fancier may vary. While these strains have incorporated Janssen bloodlines, individual breeders have also added their own selection criteria and expertise to shape the characteristics of their strains.

The Janssen Brothers' exceptional pigeons and breeding techniques have had a wide-reaching impact on the sport of pigeon racing, influencing the development of numerous successful strains around the world. However, it's advisable to consult specialised pigeon racing sources or enthusiasts for the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding the connection between the Janssen Brothers and specific strains in the world of racing pigeons.



More Information can be found <https://www.ejerkamp.com/ejerkamp-janssen/origin> regarding the origins of the Janssen Pigeons.