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Pigeons

What are they?

Pigeons are stout-bodied birds with short necks and short, slender bills with a fleshy cere (the waxy, fleshy covering at the base of the upper beak). The species most commonly referred to just as the "pigeon" is the feral rock pigeon, common in many cities and small rural areas.

The rock pigeon is 32 to 37 cm (12.5 to 14.5 inches) long with a 64 to 72 cm (25 to 28 inch) wingspan. Its lower back is white with two distinctive black bars on its pale grey wings. Its tail has white markings. It is a strong and quick flier, with its lighter grey rump easily seen from above.

The head and neck of the mature pigeon are a darker blue-grey than the back and wings. The green and lilac or purple patch on the side of the neck is larger than that of the stock dove, and the tail is more distinctly banded.

Pigeons come in many different colours depending on age: dark grey, light blue/grey, brown, peach, grey and white, pure white, and more. The feathers of young birds show little lustre and are duller. The eye colour of a pigeon is generally orange, but a few pigeons may have white-grey eyes. The eyelids are orange and are enclosed in a grey-white eye ring. The feet are red to pink.



Alternate Formats

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Did you know?

The pigeon's bobbing head motion helps it to keep its balance when walking. Most studies suggest that pigeons bob their heads to stabilize their visual surroundings. We humans rely more on our eye movements, not our head movements, to catch and hold images while in motion.

Should I be concerned?

Pigeons tend to breed and roost in groups. The biggest problem they cause is the amount of feces (droppings) they produce. The build-up of pigeon feces on buildings and other structures is visually unappealing and is made worse by the fact that pigeon droppings are acidic and erode metal and stonework.

More importantly, pigeon droppings may pose a health hazard to the general public. Pigeons have been associated with a variety of diseases, including histoplasmosis and cryptococcosis.

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Histoplasmosis is a disease caused by a fungus that grows in pigeon droppings. The fungus can also be found in bat droppings or in the soil, and is carried by the wind. When removing droppings, people may breathe in some of the fungus. When exposure is high, the fungus can cause infection.

Symptoms of histoplasmosis begin to appear about 10 days after initial infection and can include fatigue, fever, and chest pains. Most infections have no symptoms or appear as a mild respiratory illness. People with weakened immune systems (like cancer patients or people living with HIV/AIDS) are generally more at risk of developing histoplasmosis. The disease cannot be transmitted from person to person.

Cryptococcosis is another fungal disease related to pigeon droppings and grows in soils throughout the world. It is very unlikely that healthy people will become infected even at high levels of exposure. A major risk factor for infection is a compromised immune system.

How can I get rid of pigeons?

Physical control

Controlling pigeons permanently is hard because these birds have adapted to stress, and there are many sources of food available in urban areas. The best way to control them is to change their environment:

- Remove roosting niches and seal any crevices, large openings, and entrances in high areas to discourage pigeons.
- Screen off water sources (like rooftop air conditioners) that pigeons might drink from.
- Never leave food out where pigeons can get it.

- Keep garbage containers closed. Dispose of garbage on a regular basis.
- On flat roofs or ledges, use bristling wires, also known as porcupine wires, or sticky pastes that will discourage pigeons from landing and gathering.

Bird scaring devices

Bird scaring devices can also be bought to frighten birds away from a given area. Loud noises, flashing lights, windmills, and recordings of bird distress calls can be effective ways of controlling pigeons, but may not all be practical in urban settings. Also, pigeons can eventually get used to these types of devices and may ignore them.

If pigeons are a nuisance on a balcony, fine netting can be hung across the front of the balcony, or a combination of visual frightening devices can be used, if they can be moved around to prevent birds from getting used to them.

Products

Important!

If you use a pesticide to control your pest problem, read the label to make sure you are choosing the right product for the right pest. Follow all label directions and warnings carefully. Always look for a Pest Control Products (PCP) number on the label so you know the product has been approved by Health Canada. See [Use pesticides safely](#) for more information on using pesticides safely

- **Bird repellents** are effective in controlling pigeons around the home and garden. These products are soft, sticky substances that you apply on windows, sills, eaves, and roofs to discourage pigeons from roosting. Most bird repellents can be bought at local hardware stores or garden centres.
- Other **bird repellents and bird toxicants** are available for use in, on, or near structures used for roosting or nesting. These products are generally sold for commercial or restricted use by qualified professionals. Bird repellents or toxicants should be combined with changes to make roosting areas less attractive to the birds in a more permanent way.

For more information

- [Use pesticides safely.](#)
- [Report a problem with a pesticide](#)

[For industry and professionals](#)

Date modified:

2013-06-04

YORK REGION PUBLIC HEALTH COMMENTS

From: [Vecchiarelli, Vittoria](#)
To: [Brittany Dobrindt](#)
Cc: [Shnabel, Mira](#); [La Marca, Joe](#)
Subject: Pigeon Racing - Service Case #3381192
Date: January 19, 2023 3:24:47 PM
Attachments: [Potential Health Risks Associated with Pigeon Droppings - City of Toronto - 2001.pdf](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Dear Brittany,

RE: Request from the Town of Georgina, Development Services Department - Public health concerns if a by-law was created to permit pigeons in an urban or residential areas

Thank you for providing York Region Public Health the opportunity to comment on the potential public health impact from a by-law permitting pigeons in an urban or residential area in the Town of Georgina.

In the event that the Town moves forward with the creation of the by-law, York Region Public Health would welcome the opportunity to comment on the draft before it is presented to Council for approval.

See below, we provided a high level summary followed by some more detailed background information for your reference.

Summary

Contact with pigeons and their excreta (droppings) are associated with a few public health risks, including *Histoplasmosis*, *Cryptococcosis* and *Psittacosis*. However, the risk to human health is considered low and the greatest risk is to the caregiver of the bird(s) and can be mitigated with proper sanitation and animal health. These health risks are very similar to considerations related to other backyard fowl, such as hens. A duty to report reportable diseases of public health significance and zoonotic diseases to the Medical Officer of Health under the Health Protection and Promotion Act ensures a prompt investigation by public health to detect outbreaks, prevent further transmission and to prompt interventions.

Potential Health Impacts

[Health Canada states](#) that pigeons pose a potential health concern to humans for *Histoplasmosis* and *Cryptococcosis* found in droppings.

- *Histoplasmosis* is caused by fungus called histoplasmosis capsulatum. The fungus is found in soil and bird manure is primarily a nutrient source for the growth of H. capsulatum already present in soil. Birds are not known to become infected. Human infection occurs from aerosolized spores and the disease cannot be transmitted from person to person. Histoplasmosis is not a reportable disease.

The City of Toronto conducted research in 2001 into the health risks posed by pigeons in large urban settings (see attached report). It concluded the following:

- “While a number of health concerns have been associated with pigeons and their excreta there is little or no evidence that points to increased disease even in situations where the public is exposed to large pigeon populations. Current literature and expert opinion sets the risk for disease transmission at a very low level.”
- “If health risk was high, one would expect to see an increase in human disease. This is not the case, even in places where humans are exposed to large number of pigeons (St. Mark’s Square in Venice, Italy or Trafalgar Square in London, England)”

Relevant Regulations

There are relevant regulations that require accurate and complete reporting to public health. This triggers investigations in order to detect outbreaks, enable timely follow-up to prevent transmission, and to prompt appropriate public health interventions and education.

1. *Regulation 557 – Communicable Diseases*, under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*

Veterinarians have a legal obligation to report a suspect or confirmed case of a *reportable zoonotic disease* to their local Medical Officer of Health. Veterinarians must report animal cases of disease, including:

- Avian Chlamydiosis (which causes *psittacosis* in humans),
- Avian influenza,
- Novel influenza, and
- Echinococcus multilocularis infection

2. *Regulation 135 – Designation of Diseases*, under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*

Both *Psittacosis* and *Cryptosporidiosis* are diseases of *public health significance*.

- *Cryptococcosis* – caused by the fungus *cryptococcus neogormans* that grows in soils. It is unlikely that healthy people will become infected even at high levels of exposure and a major risk factor for infection is a compromised immune system.
- [*Psittacosis*](#) - caused by bacteria *chlamydia psittaci*. Human infection occurs through inhalation of the organism from dried droppings and secretions of infected birds. Those who have contact with pet birds and poultry, including people who work in bird-related occupations, are at increased risk: bird owners, pet shop employees, poultry workers and veterinarians. There were no cases of *psittacosis* reported in Ontario in 2021. From 2011 to 2021, one confirmed case was reported in the province.

Examples of By-laws addressing public health considerations

City of Cambridge Animal Control By-law 171-13:

- “any owner of pigeons shall dispose of all waste and garbage from pigeons and birds in a manner that will not create a public nuisance or health hazard and in accordance with the provisions of the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, R.S.O. 1990 as amended...”
- “If an owner or keeper of pigeons or other birds suspects that the pigeon(s) or bird(s) is infected with a communicable disease, the owner or keeper shall: immediately consult a

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine to diagnose the condition and if the diagnosis is confirmed, immediately notify the Medical Officer of Health and comply with any instructions given to the Medical Officer of Health.”

Town of Milton Animal Control By-Law 90-2004:

- *“Every owner or keeper of pigeons shall be responsible to have pigeons suspected of having infectious diseases diagnosed promptly by a qualified veterinarian.”*
- *“Every owner or keeper of pigeons shall be responsible to see that the lands and premises upon which the pigeons are kept are maintained in a sanitary condition at all times and that droppings are not allowed to accumulate and are disposed of in a fashion which will not create a nuisance or a health hazard”.*

City of Oshawa CORP 12-26; Schedule ‘A,2’, Regulations for Owning Pigeons:

- *“No person shall keep pigeons or doves or both in an area of the city where the zoning permits residential land use unless:*
 - *Any bird afflicted with an infectious or contagious disease is not kept, except in a licensed animal hospital or under conditions of isolation and quarantine approved by the MOH, as applicable, and*
 - *All lands and premises where the birds are kept, are kept and maintained in a sanitary condition at all times, and all waste materials from said lands and premises are disposed of in a manner that will not create a public nuisance or health hazard.”*

Should the Town proceed with a bylaw, York Region Public Health recommends it contains provisions to ensure sanitary conditions are maintained, including proper maintenance of pigeon housing/facilities. It would also be important that bylaw provisions are in compliance with any zoning requirements or other restrictions, and considerations should be given to the number of pigeons allowed (as larger numbers may increase likelihood of nuisance issues) . Lastly, it would be important to ensure the public is provided with information on handling and disposing of pigeon waste and informed of relevant reporting requirements to Public Health.

Regards,

Our working hours may be different. Please do not feel obligated to reply outside of your scheduled working hours. Let’s work together to help foster healthy work-life boundaries.

Vittoria Vecchiarelli B.A.Sc., C.P.H.I.(C) (she/her)

Senior Public Health Inspector, Health Protection Division, Public Health

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2001-12-21

Backgrounder:

Potential Health Risks Associated With Pigeon Droppings

Prepared by Irene Armstrong and Karl Kabasele

Pigeons are ubiquitous in many urban settings. A number of health hazards have been associated with pigeons and their excreta and include psittacosis; cryptococcus; histoplasmosis; toxoplasmosis; encephalitis; Newcastle's Disease; pseudotuberculosis; pigeon coccidiosis; enteric pathogens, such as salmonella; and bird ectoparasites such as the pigeon tick, pigeon fly, chicken mite, and Northern fowl mite.

Of these, the following three hazards are of interest.

PSITTACOSIS

The responsible organism for psittacosis is a gram negative bacteria called chlamydia psittaci. It is known to naturally infect almost all species of birds, including pigeons. (Schachter, MMWR 2000). Human infection occurs through inhalation of the organism from dried droppings and secretions of infected birds. (MMWR 2000) The infectious dose is not known. (Health Canada, MSDS Chlamydia Psittaci)

Sporadic cases are commonly associated with ownership of pet birds. (Schachter) In fact, data collected during the 1980's revealed that, of those with a known source of infection, approximately 70% were due to pet bird exposure while pet shop employees accounted for an additional 10%. (MMWR 2000) Workers in turkey processing plants are also at increased risk. (Schachter, Ministry of Ontario brochure 1987)

Although pigeons are ubiquitous, psittacosis is a relatively uncommon disease. For example, there have not been any cases reported in Toronto over the past five years. Review of Ontario data from 1989 to 1998 (the most recent data available) revealed 36 cases of reported psittacosis, none of which occurred after 1996. In addition, New York City, whose population exceeds eight million people, had only one reported case in 1999. (New York City Department of Health)

HISTOPLASMOSIS CAPSULATUM

Histoplasmosis is caused by a fungus called histoplasmosis capsulatum. Human infection occurs predominantly from aerosolised spores. (Chin) Although the infectious dose in humans is not known, Health Canada estimates it to be 10 spores for a lethal inoculum in mice. (MSDS Histoplasmosis capsulatum, 2001)

The primary source of the organism is soil, and wind is the most important means of spread (Lenhart). Birds, including the pigeon, cannot become infected with the organism as it cannot survive at their high body temperature. (Lenhart) However, *H. Capsulatum* may be found in bat, and to a much lesser extent, pigeon droppings as they contain nutrients necessary for growth.(Lenhart) This is especially true in humid regions where large amounts of droppings are rotting and mixed with soil. (Lenhart) It appears that histoplasmosis does not tend to reach significant levels until droppings have accumulated for several years. (Illinois Department of Public Health, Dolbeer et al) Birds and bats may, however, spread the organism with their feet. (Lenhart)

Lenhart (1994) identifies the following endemic regions in the United States: Ohio, Mississippi, Missouri, St. Lawrence and Rio Grande rivers.

CRYPTOCOCCUS NEOFORMANS

The causative agent is a fungus which has two variants: *neoformans* and *gattii*. While variant *neoformans* is found throughout the world, *gattii* is more frequently identified in tropical and sub-tropical climates.(Chin) Although the exact infectious dose is not known, Health Canada states that there is a "low level of pathogenicity for normal immunocompetent adults" (MSDS *Cryptococcus Neoformans*, Health Canada).

Cryptococcus neoformans variant *neoformans*' mode of transmission is presumed to be by inhalation. (Chin) In North America, 85% of cases occur in HIV infected persons. (BC CDC) In North America the incidence in the general population is estimated to be 2-9 cases per 1,000,000 versus 2000-4000 cases per 1,000,000 person with AIDS. (BC CDC) The infectious dose for humans does not appear to be known. (Health Canada, MSDS) However, most people will be exposed to CN at some time during their lifetime but do not show signs of infection.(BC CDC) This suggests that people have considerable resistance.(Chin) The organism is found in soil and bird droppings, including the pigeons'. (Lenhart) In addition, while pigeons are not infected with *cryptococcus*, a milky fluid in their crops may provide an ideal medium for reproduction and growth. (Dr. Styliadis) Although *cryptococcus* may be found in pigeon droppings, there has never been a human outbreak that has been traced to pigeon excreta and, in fact, the source of human infection remains generally unknown. (Harrison's)

There has been an increased number of cases of *cryptococcus neoformans* variant *gattii* identified in both humans and animals on Vancouver Island over the last 36 months. Variant *gattii* has been associated with leaves and bark of certain trees, such as the eucalyptus. (Chin) While the reservoir has yet to be identified, the BC CDC feels that it is most unlikely to be pigeon droppings. (Dr. Fyfe)

POLICY

Several large North American cities were surveyed to determine if they have established policy in dealing with pigeon excreta. Of the nine health units contacted, seven responded to our query (Ottawa, Montreal, Vancouver, Chicago, Boston, Illinois, and Cleveland). Only two units had developed specific policy.

The City of Vancouver's Health By-Law number 6580 describes pest as "all stages of insect, animal and bird life which are noxious or destructive." Sections of the By-law specify required pest-proofing, prevention of harbourage, required pest control, prohibition to the deposition of food or grain on the street, and the keeping of birds (see Appendix A).

The City of Cleveland has included sections to address pigeons as a public nuisance (203.01, 203.02, 203.03, 203.04), harbouring animals in a manner that creates nuisance (205.02), and licensing requirements for carrier and/or racing pigeons (205.03) in their Codified Ordinances (see Appendix B).

CONCLUSION

For the purposes of this document, a health hazard is defined as the adverse effect on health caused by a toxic agent. The existence of a health hazard depends upon 1) high enough levels of the toxic agent and 2) an appropriate route of exposure. A health risk is defined as the likelihood of experiencing an adverse health effect (i.e. what is likely to happen in a given situation).

With these definitions in mind, pigeon excreta does pose a theoretical health hazard. However, if the health risk was high, one would expect to see this translated into an increase in human disease. This does not appear to be the case, even in places where humans are exposed to large number of pigeons (for example, St. Mark's Square in Venice, Italy and Trafalgar Square in London, England). While the exact risk is not quantifiable, human experience and expert opinion (Dr. Styliadis) set the risk at a very low level.

SUGGESTED CONTROL MEASURES:

In an effort to minimise the risk posed by pigeon excreta, several measures may be undertaken (Chin, BC CDC):

- avoid confined areas contaminated with pigeon droppings
- reduce exposure to dust (wear protective mask or thoroughly wet desiccated droppings) especially in enclosed spaces
- removal of large accumulations of pigeon dropping should be preceded by chemical decontamination or thorough wetting to prevent aerosolization

REFERENCES

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Bylaw bl-2003-0072

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA
IN THE
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

BY-LAW NUMBER 2003-0072

BEING A BY-LAW TO REGULATE AND PROHIBIT THE KEEPING OF ANIMALS OTHER THAN DOGS

WHEREAS the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended, authorizes a municipality to pass by-laws for purposes related to the health, safety and well-being of the inhabitants of the municipality.

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. DEFINITIONS:

In this by-law,

- (a) "animal" means any member of the animal kingdom, excluding domestic dogs, other than a human;
- (b) "veterinarian" means a veterinarian currently licensed by the Ontario Veterinarian Association.

2. REGULATIONS AND PROHIBITIONS:

- (a) No person, other than a veterinarian, shall keep or permit to be kept, any animals listed in SCHEDULE 'A' other than the exceptions given.
- (b) Except on Rural Zoned Property, no person, other than a veterinarian or pet shop, shall keep or permit to be kept, more than three (3) animals not prohibited in SCHEDULE "A" except the offspring up to twelve (12) weeks from date of birth.

3. ENFORCEMENT:

The provisions of this by-law may be enforced by a Police Officer or a Municipal Law Enforcement Officer.

4. PENALTY:

Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of this by-law, upon conviction, is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine pursuant to the Provincial Offences Act as amended.

5. REPEALS:

By-law 82-12 (PWE-1) is hereby repealed.

READ a first, second and third time and passed on this 9th day of June, 2003.

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Jeffrey Holec, Mayor

Roland Chenier, Town Clerk

SCHEDULE 'A'

(Examples of prohibited animals of a particular group are given in brackets and other than the exceptions given shall not be construed as limiting the generality of the group)

1. All ARACHNIDS (such as Scorpions & Tarantulas)
2. All BATS
3. All CANIDS except the domestic dog (such as Wolves & Foxes)
4. All CROCODILIANS (such as Alligators, Crocodiles & Caimans)
5. All EDENTATES (such as Anteaters, Sloths & Armadillos)
6. All ELEPHANTS
7. All FELIDS except the domestic cat (such as Lions & Tigers)
8. All HYENAS
9. All MARSUPIALS (such as Kangaroos, Wallabies & Opossums)
10. All MUSTELIDS except the domestic ferret (such as Skunks, Martens & Weasels)
11. All non-human PRIMATES (such as Gorillas, Lemurs & Monkeys)
12. All PINNIPEDS (such as Seals & Walruses)
13. All PROCYONIDS (such as Raccoons, Coatis & Cacomistles)
14. All SCIURIDAE (such as Prairie Dogs, Giant & Flying Squirrels)
15. All SNAKES of the families PYTHONIDAE & BOIDAE
16. All URSIDS (Bears)
17. All VENOMOUS REPTILES (such as Cobras, Rattle Snakes & Gila Monsters)
18. All VIVERRIDS (such as Mongooses, Civets & Genets)

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19. All DIURNAL and NOCTURNAL RAPTORS (such as Eagles, Falcons, Hawks & Owls)
20. All RATITE BIRDS except on Rural Zoned Property only (such as Ostriches, Rheas & Cassowaries)
21. All ANSERIFORMES except on Rural Zoned Property only (such as Ducks, Geese & Swans)
22. All GALLIFORMES except on Rural Zoned Property only (such as Grouse, Pheasants, Turkeys & Common Poultry)
23. All ARTIODACTYLUS UNGULATES (such as Camels, Antelopes, Llamas, Deer & Hippopotamus) except on Rural Zoned Property only domestic goats, sheep, pigs & cattle
24. All PERISSODACTYLUS UNGULATES (such as Zebra, Tapirs, & Rhinoceros) except on Rural Zoned Property only the domestic horse and donkey

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Bylaw bl-2003-0073

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GEORGINA
 IN THE
 REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF YORK

BY-LAW NUMBER 2003-0073 (REG-1)

BEING A BY-LAW TO REGULATE AND PROHIBIT THE BEING AT
 LARGE OF ANIMALS OTHER THAN DOGS AND CATS AND THEIR
 SEIZURE, IMPOUNDING AND CONTINGENT SALE

WHEREAS the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended,
 authorizes a municipality to pass by-laws to regulate
 and prohibit the being at large of animals and to
 provide for the impounding of said animals and for
 their sale if they are not claimed within a reasonable
 time.

NOW THEREFORE THE COUNCIL OF THE CORPORATION OF
 THE TOWN OF GEORGINA ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. DEFINITIONS:

In this by-law,

- (a) "animal" means any member of the animal kingdom, excluding domestic dogs and domestic cats, other than a human;
- (b) "being at large" means being found on a highway or any place other than premises of the animal owner and not in the control of the animal owner;
- (c) "highway" means a common and public highway, street, avenue, parkway, driveway, square, place, bridge, viaduct or trestle, any part of which is intended for or used by the general public for the passage of vehicles and pedestrians and includes the area between the lateral property lines;
- (d) "owner" means any person that owns, harbors, or has permanent or temporary possession of an animal or animals;
- (e) "pound keeper" means a person or persons appointed by the town to retrieve, impound and operate an animal pound;
- (f) "town" means the Corporation of the Town of Georgina.

2. ANIMALS BEING AT LARGE:

- (a) No owner of an animal shall allow the animal to be at large within the borders of the town.
- (b) Any person having found an animal being at

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large may take charge of, detain or deliver that animal to the pound keeper.

3. POUND KEEPER:

- (a) The pound keeper may impound any animal found being at large. He may also impound an animal delivered to him by a person having found that animal being at large.
- (b) As soon as is practical, the pound keeper upon impounding an animal shall notify the animal owner and where the animal owner is unknown shall notify the Town Clerk in writing of the detaining of the animal including a description of the animal.
- (c) Upon notification from the pound keeper, the Town Clerk shall post a notice in a conspicuous place in the municipal offices for five (5) consecutive days excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Statutory Holidays, indicating the date and location of the animals finding, the animals description and the steps necessary to reclaim the animal.
- (d) After the expiry of five (5) days, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Statutory Holidays, from the day of impounding and the animal has not been restored to the owner, the pound keeper shall sell the animal. Any monies received for the sale of the animal shall be applied as follows:
 - (i) to recover any expenses incurred by the pound keeper for services rendered to impound and keep the animal;
 - (ii) to recover any expenses incurred by the pound keeper for the sale of the animal;
 - (iii) to the town.

4. PENALTY:

Every person who contravenes any of the provisions of this by-law, upon conviction, is guilty of an offence and is liable to a fine pursuant to the Provincial Offences Act as amended.

6. REPEALS:

By-law 93-18 (LI-1) is hereby repealed.

READ a first, second and third time and passed on this 9th day of June, 2003.

Jeffrey Holec, Mayor

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Rolland Chenier, Town Clerk

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JURISDICTIONAL SCAN

Municipality: East Gwillimbury	
Permits Pigeons in Residential areas	Yes
Minimum Lot Size Required	No
Number of Pigeons Permitted	6, 30 if owner is a member of a racing club
Pigeons Require Owner Identifying Leg Band	Yes
Owner Must Register Their Pigeon With a Racing Club or Become a Member of a Club	Owner Must Register Their Pigeons
Loft Location Restriction	Rear yard only
Loft Setback Requirements	Less than seven (7) metres from any dwelling, shop or apartment building, and no less than three (3) metres from any adjoining property line
Loft Cleanliness Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep the Pigeons in a building, structure, loft, pen, coop or run which is maintained by regular painting or with permanent siding; • Sanitize, lime wash, paint or disinfect the inside walls and ceilings of all buildings, structures, lofts, pens, coops and runs used for the Keeping of Pigeons other than outside runs enclosed solely with wire, at least four times per calendar year; • Remove and dispose of in a sanitary manner, at least twice each week, all Pigeon droppings and refuse within or adjacent to all buildings, structures, loft, pens, coops and runs used for the Keeping of Pigeons, it being understood that this requirement shall not apply when below freezing temperatures prevent waste removal and disposal • Store all Pigeon feed in rodent-proof containers • Keep all equipment associated with the Keeping of Pigeons under cover
Restrictions on Pigeons Leaving Owners Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure the Pigeons do not stray, perch, roost, nest or rest upon any premises other than on premises of the Owner; • Maximum of two flights per day, which no more than fifty (50) percent of the total number of Pigeons being kept shall be permitted to be At Large during any particular flight period
Flight exceptions for clubs	Above restriction shall not apply to members of a Racing Pigeon club when the members are participating in a bona fide flight conducted by the club
Loft Density Requirements	1 sq. m per 10 birds
Require licence	Yes

Municipality: Kingston	
Permits Pigeons in Residential areas	Yes
Minimum Lot Size Required	Minimum lot size of 1/3 of an acre
Number of Pigeons Permitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between November 1 in any one year to March 31 in the immediately following year, forty (40) Pigeons; and • Between April 1 to October 31 in any one year, sixty (60) Pigeons.
Pigeons Require Owner Identifying Leg Band	Yes
Owner Must Register Their Pigeon With a Racing Club or Become a Member of a Club	Yes
Loft Location Restriction	Rear yard only
Loft Setback Requirements	Loft must be located at least 6 metres from any property line and at least 15 metres from any Dwellings on an adjacent Property
Loft Cleanliness Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every Owner shall maintain the Pigeon Loft: (i) in a state of good repair at all times through regular maintenance; and (ii) in a sanitary condition at all times, ensuring that all waste materials are disposed of in a manner that will not create a nuisance or public health hazard. • Every Owner shall store all Pigeon feed in a rodent proof container.
Restrictions on Pigeons Leaving Owners Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximum of two (2) daily flight periods in a twenty-four (24) hour period, at which time no more than half the total number shall be At Large at one time. • No Owner shall permit Pigeon flights between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. between April 1 to September 30 in any one year, or between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. between October 1 in any one year to March 31 of the immediately following year. • The Owner shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the Pigeons do not perch, nest, roost, stray or rest upon any premises other than on the Property of the Pigeon Owner.
Flight exceptions for clubs	All Pigeon flights must be supervised by the Owner for the duration of the flight, other than a flight conducted by a recognized racing pigeon club.
Loft Density Requirements	1 sq. m per 10 birds
Require licence	Yes

Municipality: London	
Permits Pigeons in Residential areas	Yes
Minimum Lot Size Required	No
Number of Pigeons Permitted	40 from November 1 of one year to March 31 of the following year, 60 during the rest of the year
Pigeons Require Owner Identifying Leg Band	Yes
Owner Must Register Their Pigeon With a Racing Club or Become a Member of a Club	No
Loft Location Restriction	No
Loft Setback Requirements	Minimum of 12 metres (39.4 feet) from any school, church, public hall, store, dwelling or premises used for human habitation, other than premises occupied exclusively by the owner or keeper of such animals or members of their immediate family, minimum of 3 metres (9.84 feet) from the boundary line between property and all adjacent property
Loft Cleanliness Requirements	<p>All lofts shall have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate ventilation, having regard to the number of pigeons kept therein. • A clear space between the ground and the underside of the floor of not less than 30 centimetres (11.81 inches). • A floor with a surface which is impervious to moisture. • Be maintained by regular painting of the exterior or by permanent siding, and all loft equipment shall be kept under cover and where necessary a suitable hedge shall be planted as a buffer between properties. • Lime-wash, paint or disinfect the inside walls and ceilings of all buildings at least twice a year. • Shall remove and dispose of in a sanitary manner at least twice each week, all pigeon droppings, refuse and dropped or scattered feed • Store all feed in rodent-proof containers.
Restrictions on Pigeons Leaving Owners Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two daily supervised flights permitted • April 1 to September 30 before 9:00 am or after 5:00 pm • October 1 of one year to March 31 before 10:00 am after 3:00 pm
Flight exceptions for clubs	No
Loft Density Requirements	1.25 sq. m per pair birds
Require licence	No

Municipality: Markham	
Permits Pigeons in Residential areas	Yes
Minimum Lot Size Required	No
Number of Pigeons Permitted	30
Pigeons Require Owner Identifying Leg Band	Yes
Owner Must Register Their Pigeon With a Racing Club or Become a Member of a Club	Yes
Loft Location Restriction	No
Loft Setback Requirements	The loft is at least 3 metres (10 foot) from your property boundary and at least 7 metres (23 foot) from any other home, shop or apartment building.
Loft Cleanliness Requirements	No
Restrictions on Pigeons Leaving Owners Property	They cannot stray onto any other property; and you must contact the Manager, By-law Enforcement and Licensing, if you intend to release the birds for planned activities.
Flight exceptions for clubs	No
Loft Density Requirements	1 sq. m per 10 birds
Require licence	No

Municipality: Vaughan	
Permits Pigeons in Residential areas	Yes
Minimum Lot Size Required	No
Number of Pigeons Permitted	Maximum of 60 pigeons on a lot, maximum number of Pigeons may exceed 60 during breeding season, March 31 to October 1.
Pigeons Require Owner Identifying Leg Band	Yes
Owner Must Register Their Pigeon With a Racing Club or Become a Member of a Club	Yes
Loft Location Restriction	Rear yard only
Loft Setback Requirements	3 meters from the property line, and 10 metres from any Dwelling Unit other than the Owner's Dwelling Unit.
Loft Cleanliness Requirements	Be in a clean condition, free of any rodents, offensive odors, have all exterior surfaces painted or covered with a vinyl or aluminum cover, have all interior surfaces kept in a clean and Sanitary condition and have all droppings removed and disposed of in a Sanitary manner at least twice per week.
Restrictions on Pigeons Leaving Owners Property	Two daily 2 hour flights permitted between April 1 and September 30 from 6:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. 1 flight permitted between October 1 and March 31, from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Flight exceptions for clubs	Yes
Loft Density Requirements	No
Require licence	Yes

Municipality: Brampton	
Permits Pigeons in Residential areas	Yes
Minimum Lot Size Required	No
Number of Pigeons Permitted	2, unless a member of a pigeon club
Pigeons Require Owner Identifying Leg Band	No
Owner Must Register Their Pigeon With a Racing Club or Become a Member of a Club	No
Loft Location Restriction	A pigeon loft or poultry coop shall be located not less than twenty-five (25) feet from any adjacent dwelling, stores, shop or apartment building, and at a distance of not less than five (5) feet from boundary or adjoining lands
Loft Setback Requirements	No
Loft Cleanliness Requirements	All waste material shall be disposed of in a proper manner and no refuse or waste material shall be burned.
Restrictions on Pigeons Leaving Owners Property	Members of a recognized pigeon club may allow birds to fly for up to 4 hours a day
Flight exceptions for clubs	Yes
Loft Density Requirements	No
Require licence	No

Municipality: Caledon	
Permits Pigeons in Residential areas	Certain residential zones permit pigeons
Minimum Lot Size Required	1 acre
Number of Pigeons Permitted	60
Pigeons Require Owner Identifying Leg Band	No
Owner Must Register Their Pigeon With a Racing Club or Become a Member of a Club	Yes
Loft Location Restriction	Rear yard only
Loft Setback Requirements	Set back at least 6 metres from any lot line; (3) a minimum distance of 15 metres from any dwelling on an adjacent lot; (4) at least 15 metres from any lot on which a church, business or school is located
Loft Cleanliness Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and water containers shall be cleaned regularly and disinfected • Coups cleaned regularly and disinfected a minimum of 2 times annually • Food shall be stored in rodent proof containers Manure and droppings shall be removed in a timely manner • Coups maintained in good repair and in a clean and sanitary condition, being kept free of obnoxious odours or substances and vermin.
Restrictions on Pigeons Leaving Owners Property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 flights per day, only half of the total number of pigeons at any one time • Before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m. during the months of April to September • Before 10 a.m. or after 3 p.m. during the months of October to March • The owner shall supervise their pigeons
Flight exceptions for clubs	Yes
Loft Density Requirements	0.2 square metres per pigeon
Require licence	No

Municipality: Toronto	
Permits Pigeons in Residential areas	Yes
Minimum Lot Size Required	No
Number of Pigeons Permitted	30 typically, 50 from April to October
Pigeons Require Owner Identifying Leg Band	No
Owner Must Register Their Pigeon With a Racing Club or Become a Member of a Club	No
Loft Location Restriction	No
Loft Setback Requirements	No
Loft Cleanliness Requirements	No
Restrictions on Pigeons Leaving Owners Property	Prohibit the pigeons from perching, roosting or resting on anyone's property other than the owners.
Flight exceptions for clubs	No
Loft Density Requirements	No
Require licence	No

Municipality: Richmond Hill	
Permits Pigeons in Residential areas	Yes
Minimum Lot Size Required	No
Number of Pigeons Permitted	25, unless member of a racing club
Pigeons Require Owner Identifying Leg Band	No
Owner Must Register Their Pigeon With a Racing Club or Become a Member of a Club	No
Loft Location Restriction	No
Loft Setback Requirements	No
Loft Cleanliness Requirements	No
Restrictions on Pigeons Leaving Owners Property	Two flight periods permitted at any time other than from May 1 to September 30, when they must be before 9:00 a.m. or after 7:30 p.m.
Flight exceptions for clubs	No
Loft Density Requirements	No
Require licence	No

Municipality: Oshawa	
Permits Pigeons in Residential areas	Yes
Minimum Lot Size Required	No
Number of Pigeons Permitted	40
Pigeons Require Owner Identifying Leg Band	Yes
Owner Must Register Their Pigeon With a Racing Club or Become a Member of a Club	Yes
Loft Location Restriction	Rear yard only
Loft Setback Requirements	The birds' loft is located at a distance of not less than seven (7) meters from any dwelling, shop for apartment building, and at a distance of not less than three (3) meters from any adjoining property line
Loft Cleanliness Requirements	All lands and premises where the birds are kept, are kept and maintained in a sanitary condition at all times, and all waste materials from said lands and premises are disposed of in a manner that will not create a public nuisance or health hazard.
Restrictions on Pigeons Leaving Owners Property	None of the birds are permitted to perch, roost, nest or rest upon any premises other than the premises of the owner
Flight exceptions for clubs	No
Loft Density Requirements	1 sq. m per 10 birds
Require licence	No

Municipality: Cambridge

Only permits pigeons continuously registered and existing on residential land prior to 1987

Municipality: Whitchurch-Stouffville

- No person shall Keep or harbour any Pigeons in a residential, institutional, industrial or commercial zoned property in the Town
- All Owners of Pigeons are to keep the Pigeons enclosed within the coop except during flying times
- All Pigeon coops shall be located in the rear yard and setback a minimum of 4.5 metres away from any side or rear lot line as those terms are defined in the current Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville Comprehensive Zoning By-law