

BASIC CHARACTERISTICS OF SARAJEVO'S ROLLER

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ABSTRACT

Pigeon is one of the oldest domesticated farm animals. Their growing cradle was Mesopotamia, between the rivers Tigris and Euphrates, in the area of present-day Iraq, where the natural habitat of wild pigeons, cavers (*Columba livia*), from which all domestic breeds of pigeons originated, is. Most often they are trained for speed and distance flight competitions, rolling and other flight performances.

According to the literature, at the time of the Austro-Hungarian reign in Bosnia, roller pigeons were passed from Izmir (port in Turkey). After World War II in Sarajevo many kinds of Sarajevo trollers appeared, in different colors, with various rollover and flight movements. During the selection

time process today's type of Sarajevo Roller was bred. It is an elegant and temperamental pigeon, with proud stance and harmonious appearance of medium size, with a slightly raised tail and wings located slantwise before it. Frame is of rectangular shape. Measured from the tip of the beak to the end of the tail it is 32-36 cm. The beak is medium length and thickness, white-fleshy color with a possibility of a black spot on the top. The most common colors are black, blue, blue-check and spotted in the colors. In the spotted colour type basic color is white, with some black flecked feathers, blue or blue-check color. Apart from this pigeon in Bosnia and Herzegovina there are other known native breeds: Travnik highflier pigeon, Bihac and Zenica roller. Bosnia and Herzegovina was admitted to full membership of the European Association of Breeders of Small Animals in 2003, in Malmo. At that time Travnik highflier pigeon and Sarajevo Roller were recognized as indigenous species of Bosnian pigeons.

Keywords: Pigeon-roller-autohtonic-indigenous

Introduction

Pigeon is one of the oldest domesticated farm animals. Cradle of its growing is Mesopotamia, between the rivers Tigris and Euphrates, in the area of present-day Iraq, where is the natural

habitat of wild pigeons, cavers (*Columba livia*), from which evolved the domestic breeds of pigeons.

According to records from the literature, at the time of the Austro-Hungarian rule in Bosnia the ancestors of present-day Sarajevo's tumblers were passed from Izmir(4).

Bosnia and Herzegovina was admitted to full membership of the European Association of breeders of small animals in 2003 in Malmo. Then Travnici's highflier pigeon and Sarajevo's Roller were recognized as indigenous species of Bosnian-Herzegovinian pigeons.

After World War II in Sarajevo grow a significant number of different types of Sarajevo's tumblers, different colors, with many ways of rollovers and flyghts. During the selection work today's type of Sarajevo's Roller was bread. It is an elegant and temperamental pigeon with the specific form of the body and harmonious appearance of medium size,with slightly raised tail and the front side of the tail wings carried(2). It has not been shown how important this bread is for our country as an endangered and indigenous species.

Origin and methods of breeding

The story of the origin of the pigeon Sarajevo tumblers begins even before a new era in the fields of Mesopotamia: the legend says that it was the goddess Ishtar (Inanna) who wounded it by needles in wing, and so it began to tumble. The original form of the Sarajevo's tumbler was brought to Bosnia during the reign of Turkey. The old records from that period, in this area, has more data about the cultivation of this breed of a pigeon(4). Tumblers were then kept by local residents, citizens of Sarajevo. One of the most famous chroniclers of the time, Mula Mustafa Baseskija, in the book "The Last Baseskija's record", written in 1700.-that year, mentioned roller pigeons, which are brought to the people of Sarajevo Juliju-Bentbasa in baskets, let them, and then lying on their backs watched how their pigeon flew and turned over.

According to the notes and legends at the time of the Austro-Hungarian rule in Bosnia roller pigeons were brought from Izmir (port in Turkey).

After World War II in Sarajevo appeared many kinds of Sarajevo tumblers, different colors, with many ways rollover and flight.During the long selection, breeders have come to today's type of Sarajevo's Roller, which was standardize by the majority of fans and breeders.

Selection create different colour, blue,black and colored pigeon with a combination of these colors with white(1).

The first written record has been registered in the journal "Poultry", May 1972., by Dusan Krsic. Two years later, the same author published by the Association of breeders of birds, pigeons and ornamental fish from Sarajevo, the standard "Sarajevo's Roller", which was adopted at the session of the Board, and in 1984. the Council of Citizens for the protection and breeding of small animals of Bosnia and Herzegovina, suit for breeding pigeons, adopts a standard that in 1987. enters the Collection of European standards for pigeons (Arandelovac-1987th)(3).



**Fig.1 Black and white Sarajevo's roller-male, champion, exhibition in Sarajevo 2016.
BKC**

Basic standard and description of Sarajevo's roller

Extract from the Collection of European standard for pigeons

Homeland: Sarajevo, the original form of oriental pigeon from Asia.

General appearance:

- Elegant and temperamental pigeon, hearty attitude and harmonious appearance. Medium sized, proud figure and a slightly raised tail with the front side of the tail wings carried. The lateral view of the figure gives rectangular shape. The size of a pigeon, measured from the tip of the beak to tail, giving a length of 32-36 cm.
- Head: elongated (longer than wide), smooth (no crest) well rounded with no angles and straight, slanting brow of medium height, with lines of a beak in goods crossing. The shape of the head viewed in any direction shows reduced lines. In relation to the whole figure, the size of a head should be in accordance with the coarseness of a pigeon and not conspicuous size.
- Beak: medium length and stronger thickness at the root of the beak. Top slightly curved and should not be very slim. The color of the beak is white and fleshy, and the top can be a black spot. Nostrils are moderately developed. The line between the upper and lower beak in the extension must pass under the pupil, even down to the upper edge of the iris of the eye.
- The eye iris is bluish-white (pearl) pupil small diameter and approximately equal the width of iris. The eye is moderate in size and must not be bulging. The eyelid is a thin, narrow, white-meat color (not fat, wrinkled, red or pink or yellow.). Common in pigeons spray paint is to have an iris with dark purple. This color is not desirable, but it is tolerated.
- The Neck is drawn, almost vertical, smoothly into the line of throat and breast, and the line back in a smooth curve merges into the line head. The neck is of medium length in proportion to the body, but in relation to the chest is remotely back so proudly holding of a pigeon could be noticeable.
- Wings: long, one to two centimeters shorter than the tail. With long and rather wide feathers, worn underneath the tail. The lateral view of the chest shows strong and broad, towards the end of the tail sharp shape of the wings. The length of wings must not exceed the tail, and in motion, should not touch the ground.
- Tail: contains 14-18 wide feathers arranged in two rows and widespread forms provide a wide range. The complex is at the root of the tail is reduced and must contain normal tail feathers. The underside of the tail is straight from the coverts of the same color as the tail. The width of the tip of the tail is equal to the width of the chest. The frequent occurrence of the double feather, which is slightly longer than the other feathers, and it is considered as a sign of good quality. At the tissue must not be oil gland. The tail must not be grooved like Gdansk's highflier.

- Feet: low to medium height, in accordance with the pigeon. The lower half of the lower leg and toes must be no traces of fins. Toes are short with short nails flesh-white. The color of a leg is red meat.
- Color: black, blue and in the combination of these colors with white. Basic color is white, with some feathers sprayed with black, or blue. It is considered as a fault in color if colorful pigeon in the first year has some feathers completely black or blue. The basic color may be grayish-white. Colorful pigeon, after the first and every change of feathers, becomes darker, so after a few years, we see only traces of white paint. This phenomenon is called "darkening of color".
- Flight: light, vibrant, attains a height. Trained pigeons flying in a group, but not in a tight formation. During the year, the individual tumble backward 2-3 times or more. Tumbling is more frequent at the end of the year, which can last several hours. Any other exhibition in the air is considered to be faulty (spiral, drill, etc.).
- Faults: Existence of oil gland, dark eyes, large pupils, red and fat eyelids, angular head, short or black beak, wearing skirts above the tail and feathers on the lower leg (the traces of pants) are considered as great faults.



Fig.2 Blue Sarajevo's roller-female, champion, exhibition in Sarajevo 2016. BKC.



Fig.3 Black Sarajevo's roller-female,in Sarajevo 2016. BKC.

Conclusion

Sarajevo's roller is recognized indigenous breed of a pigeon in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Joined to the Collection of European standards for pigeons (Arandelovac-1987.). The highest concentration of Sarajevo's tumblers is in the city of Sarajevo, but in smaller numbers it is spread throughout the country. Current total population does not satisfy European standard which places him in a critical group of breeds, so it is necessary to take urgent measures for the protection and thus survival of this indigenous and interesting breed of pigeon, as well as other native species of domestic animals and poultry, and in particular it is necessary to adopt the Act which will treat the cultivation and protection of native species of domestic animals and poultry in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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