

NEURENBERG - VDT 2006

(Verband Deutscher Rassetaubenzüchter)
German National Fancy Pigeon Championship 2006



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Nurnberg VDT and Leipzig Europe 2006 were two World Record Breaking Shows!
The 55th VDT Show was held in Nurnberg 24th – 26th November at the massive Messezentrum Halls.

Left: The Chinese Tumblers aviary display.



The VDT Shows seem to get bigger and better each Year! From their start in Nurnberg 1952 with 2,562 pigeons to this year's Show with 35,000 birds from 3,500 exhibitors. From the beautifully designed and produced Catalogue, containing all details of the Show, prizes, grading, prices of birds 'For Sale' from the show pens and much more, to the planning and layout of the Show and to the now yearly event of the Pigeon Auction; birds 'presented' by Top breeders and donated by invitation only! They are auctioned in Aid of Children's Cancer Charities. (This year 10,000 Euro from 16 pairs of birds.)

Right and below: Display of the Polish Lynx club.



Right: The workers of the 'Thüringen Rassetauben Club'.





Display stand of the Flying Pigeon Club.

This always attracts a lot of interest from the public.



A 'First' this time was also a *Tauben Börse*; a separate 'For Sale' facility within the Halls, again with all the strict control on health and 'vaccinated only' birds allowed into the Halls. And there was 'The Pigeon Boulevard'; an impressive avenue of display Aviaries and Display Stalls between the Exhibition Halls.



To give some idea of numbers: 2,800 German Beauty Homers, 2,000 Strasser, 900 Show Racers (American), 600 Exhibition Fantails, and so on. Many Clubs were taking the opportunity to hold 'Centenary' and Club Shows at this Exhibition, so you had the opportunity to see these Breeds in all their variety of colours and markings as at no other Show.



Left: Display stand of the German Runt breeders Club.

The only 'Champions' at this Show are those selected from the 'Groups' and carry the Title '*Deutsche Champion*' (German Champion, a 'National' Award)

Right: Oriental rollers in various colours in an aviary.

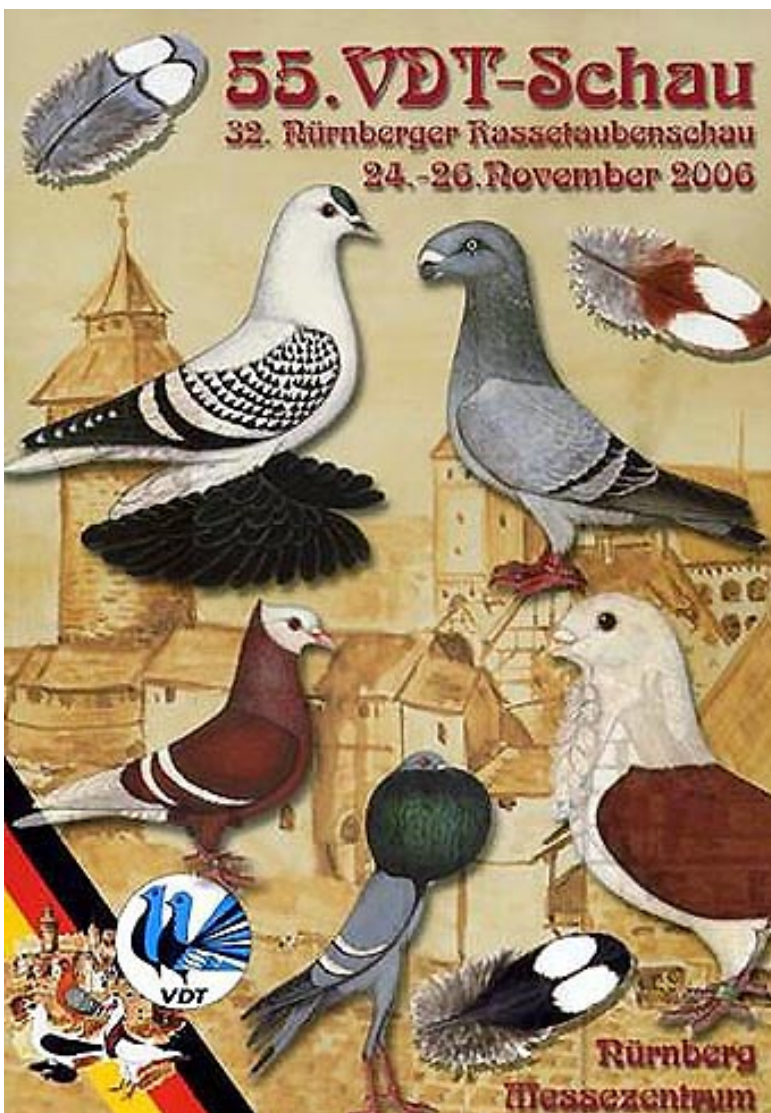




Left: Saxon Shield pigeons, white barred.

Right: Saxon Priest Pigeon

Below: Poster of the VDT-Show



Birds are to be 'Nominated' for selection but the actual Results are not announced until Sunday. (See list of the 'Nominated Birds' below).

From groups with 6 nominated birds, 2 Champions may be chosen, from Groups with 3 nominated Birds, just the one! Many of these birds will have been nominated over thousands of others!

Nominated birds:

- 6 from the Form Pigeons (Utility)
- 3 from the Wattle Pigeons
- 6 from the 'Hen' Pigeons
- 6 from the Croppers
- 6 from the Colour Pigeons
- 3 from the Trumpeters
- 3 from the Structure Pigeons
- 3 from the Owls
- 6 from the Tumbler and *Spielflüg* Pigeons (Ringslagers/Beaters)

So the Show Awards 14 *Deutsche Champions* in total. Added to this are the important Junior Champions and Best in Show. This has the same strict attention to detail as the Adults and ALL birds must be 'Owner Bred' and banded only with the special 'Junior' closed leg ring; this is the same colour and 'Make' (Firm) over all of Germany, differing only in the respective size for the breed and ID numbers.

Right: Head study of a Hungarian Giant in the colour blue pied. Due to the loose feathers of this breed, it does not look "tight".

Below: Hungarian Giant.



The Ring/Band numbers from all these birds are then put into a drum and a 'Best in Show' is drawn from the drum, as it is considered totally illogical (even arrogant on the part of the Judges!) to even attempt to compare all these Top winning birds to decide a 'BIS' Winner.

Right: Carrier with a nice type and stance. Ideal head shape and beak length. The wattle structure will develop still further as the bird matures. Hopefully the inner eye cere edge keeps tightly enclosed around the eye.

If a comparison with 'Champion' quality is wanted, then any bird obtaining the coveted "VDT Ehrenband" would be rightly considered a 'Champion'.

Apart from the obvious spectacle of this Show it is also an important 'Meeting Place' for fanciers from all around the World. For some, a once in a lifetime visit, for others a regular trip, a chance to meet old friends and form new acquaintances. Thankfully in Germany at least, the younger generation are present at the Shows from pushchair age upwards!

I have been often asked about prices at this Show; obviously some fanciers over-price and over-value their birds! That is Human Nature! But a quick look at the catalogue and if possible old catalogues, will soon give an idea of these bird and breeders worth! A lot also depends on the breed, some are usually more expensive than others and it is important always to remember what 'breeding' is behind those birds, their grading and their prices, as the 'Grading' is done to the Standard and totally irrespective of the price of the bird in the catalogue.



Right: Hungarian Tape Runt blue white barred.

Pigeons generally in Germany are 'valued' not from a purely monetary aspect but for the years and often generations of effort that has been put into breeding them. As in all things 'human' there are those of course where 'money' rules all!

Luckily that is not too prevalent here, with plenty of dedicated 'hobby' breeders where stock at respectable prices and more importantly LOTS of good advice can be freely obtained.



Left: Pratchna Kanick in the colour lightblue white barred.



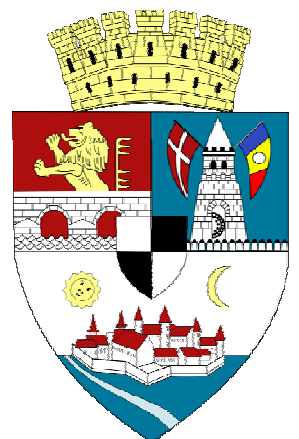
Below: Polish Lynx in the colour red white spangled.



Below: Temeschburger Schecken in black, but actually the correct name of this breed is Timisoara tumbler.



The coat of arms of the Romanian City Timisoara.



Right: Montauban, a real French pigeon breed.

Below: A Runt in blue blackbarred. This is one of the largest pigeon breeds.



Below: The Romagnol is a pigeon breed of Italian origin. In former days it was bred for meat production.

Below: A Mookie in the colour Brown. One of the most elegant fancy pigeon breeds, showing here a good typical stance without exaggeration.



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