

Dutch Cropper

Text and photos: Aviculture Europe
(Unless otherwise mentioned)

The Dutch Cropper is the oldest and largest National fancy pigeon breed in the Netherlands, which was already here in the 16^e century. The Dutch Cropper has a large body, lively and display natural confidence. The Specialty Club in the Netherlands describes the characteristics of the breed as follows:

**The Dutch Cropper is a calm, quiet and friendly pigeon
It is one of the biggest blower Croppers.**

Right: Oil painting of a Dutch Cropper, by Joh. Lentink. This is a Blue black barred Pied.



History

As C.A.M. Spruijt points out in his book 'De Kropperrassen' of 1929, the origin of the Dutch Cropper is not very clear. As many authors have done, he refers to Ulyssis Aldrovandi (1522-1605), who wrote in the year 1600 about "the great Croppers with muffs at the Batavians" (Holland and Belgium). In English literature it is mentioned the English Pouters came from Holland and Germany, which Neumeester describes the Croppers in his first book of 1837. This book was republished in 1876, adapted by Prütz and features colour illustrations including a number of well known German muffed Cropper breeds, which he called 'Hollandische Kropf Tauben'.



Above: Oil painting by Joh. Lentink.
Photographed by D.J. Hamer.

Left: Aquarel (water colour) of a Dutch Cropper, made by Joh. Lentink, early in the '40.

This is obviously an old picture; the Dutch Croppers are now desired to be deeper, with a larger and more flexible blowing Crop. This bird shows a little to stiff.



Left: Blue-silver dark barred Pied, an old hen, which was graded 96 points at the EZHSV-Show in 2006. Owner: M. Struik. Photo: D.J. Hamer.

The relationship between the various larger Cropper breeds is clear. That is, in particular between the Dutch Cropper, the Ghent Cropper, Pomeranian Pouter, English Pouter, French Pouter and Saxon Pouter there is a strong resemblance in a number of main breed characteristics. In fact we are talking about the ancestors of all present Cropper/Pouter breeds; the fundamental ancestors in Europe back at least 400 years ago.

Because of this relationship it was possible to make use of the related breeds, when one of the breeds mentioned above was in danger of becoming extinct. For instance, in the years immediately after the Second World War, the Dutch and Ghent Croppers were reciprocally used to bring both breeds back to their standard. In addition the Pomeranian and English Pouters were also used. Although this sometimes could produce a surprise when even years later, suddenly from a good stock Dutch Cropper, a perfect Pomeranian Pouter is hatched. This happened to Jac. Beljaars, a famous Dutch Cropper breeder, who's Dutch Croppers after eight years of breeding, hatched a Pomeranian Pouter.



Above: A copy of a painting by Joh. Lentink is printed in the Book of Spruijt: "Onze Duivenrassen in woord en beeld" 1954. Clockwise, starting above left: Self yellow, red pied, black pied and black (dark) tiger.

Character

In the magazine *Avicultura* of August 3, from 1921, C.S. van Gink wrote of his experiences with the Dutch Cropper. After initially having a number of other Cropper breeds, he decided one day to start with the Dutch Cropper. In particular because of the very confident nature of the blue-black barred pied Dutch Cropper. It is striking that the confident nature and tameness is so stuck on that colour. In the article he wrote when as a boy he already had a good bond with the blue-coloured Dutch Cropper; he just had to call them and put out his hand and the birds would fly to him with loud wing clapping and land on his hand. This childhood experience always remained with him.

Right: An old Yellow (dark) tiger hen, graded 96 points at the 2004 *Avicultura* show.

Owner W. ten Brake.

Photo: D.J. Hamer.



Left: A Yellow (light) tiger Dutch Cropper from 1995; a very rare variety. The bird shows some mottling in the head which is tolerated allowed.

Photo: D.J. Hamer.

In high school van Gink was studying in Amsterdam. He had a room near the Jordan district. All around the area were pigeon lofts. All of his friends loved pigeons. They had to sneakily smuggle their recent pigeon purchases into their homes though, because their parents did not like the dirty pigeon mess. One day Van Gink came under the spell of a yellow Dutch Cropper that he saw in the window of a pigeon shop. The price was 7 guilders which was weeks if not months of savings. One day the pigeon was gone, he had found a new owner and the hopes of Van Gink to ever come into the

possession of a yellow Dutch Cropper vanished.

Breeding Pies

Ultimately, the breeding of the Pied marking is not as easy as it may seem. The Dutch Cropper has the disadvantage that it is not allowed to show wing rosettes, which unlike the English Pouter where it is required. Actually, the English made a virtue of necessity, because wing rosettes are an 'overflow' of the white colour, with a possibility to correct. When not many, you are allowed to remove some white feathers. However, when the white is too far 'retracted' it will often result in the pigeon showing coloured muffs and a coloured belly. Of course this cannot be corrected.

Conclusion: a colourful pied pigeon with (unwanted) wing rosettes usually has the wanted white underbelly and white muffs.

The moon marking on the crop is a real eye catcher, yet this is not the most important factor of the Dutch Cropper. Even if it has a small moon marking. Whatever its size, it is preferred that it be in the regular crescent shape.

Right: Old red Dutch Cropper cock. Photo: D.J. Hamer.



Stance

The Dutch Cropper has an almost horizontal stance, the body underline from the lower breast to the tail being almost level, with the back gently sloping to the tail at a 45° angle.

The correct 'stance' also includes the depth at which the Dutch Cropper is positioned, that is caused by the slight bending of the leg at the hock joint.



Left:

**A self red Dutch Cropper.
Oilpainting by Joh. Lentink.
Photographed by D.J. Hamer.**

Eye colour

Eye colour of this breed is a point of attention because all twenty two colour varieties of this breed must have the same dark red/orange coloured iris, which also applies to the white coloured ones.

Blowing and globe (crop) form

A smooth and long neck, together with enough crop skin and inflated volume, gives the right and ideal head shape. The Crop should not inflate into the rear of the neck.

It is said that pigeons who received too much attention when they were very young, tend to 'over blow' when mature. It is recommended to wait activating the inflating until the young birds are at least five month old.

Right: This nice book with 168 pages and hard cover; with coloured drawings and photos was published in 1989 by the Dutch Cropper Breeders' Club.

Specialty Club

The Specialty club for the Dutch Cropper was founded in January 1914 at the exhibition of the 'Leidse Poultry Club', by C.S. van Gink and A.I. van Baarle. During the following years the Club was supported by many prominent breeders, such as Joh. Lentink, J.B.W.A. Giesbers and C.A.M. Spruijt – all are famous Dutch pigeon fanciers from the past.

- At the 25-year's Anniversary of the Specialty Club, held at the Cypria Show in Rotterdam in 1939, at least 300 Dutch Croppers were entered.
- At the 21th Cypria Show in January 1951 - also housing the NBS Championship Show and the Club show from the Dutch Cropper Club - held in the Riviera Hall of the Blijdorp Zoo in Rotterdam, 228 Dutch Croppers were entered.
- At the 50-year's Jubilee Show of the Specialty Club in January 1964, held at the Avicultura show in the Houtrusthallen in The Hague, 212 Dutch Croppers were entered.
- At the 65th Club Show of the Dutch Cropper club, housed at the 100-year's Avicultura Jubilee Show in January 1986 at Houtrusthallen in The Hague, 300 Dutch Croppers participated.

Hollandse Kroppers



Hollandse Kroppers
Holländische Kröpfer
Dutch Croppers
Boulants Hollandais
Gozzuti Olandesi

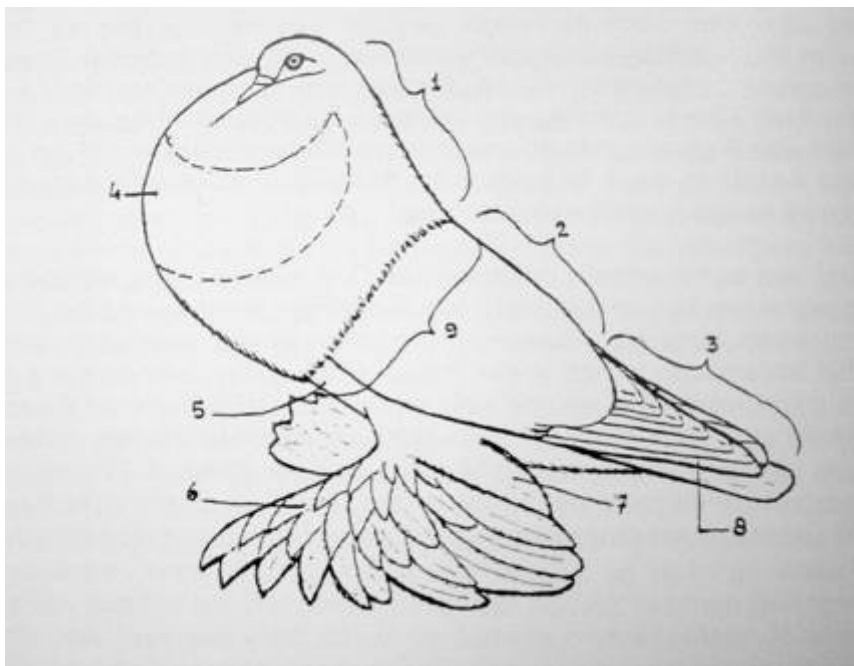
It is a challenge for the 2014 100-year Jubilee of the Dutch Croppers Club!

In the anniversary booklet of the Pigeon Club 'Het Zuiden', published on the occasion of their 40-year Anniversary (from 1940 to 1980), Henry Walraven wrote how things were with the pigeon hobby during the years of the War 1940-1945. "It was mandatory for each pigeon breeder to make his own inventory lists of the pigeons that he kept, which led to in 1942 that all pigeons were ordered killed, and there was a perfect way to check on the base of the breeders' self made inventory lists. For some breeders there was the alternative to house their best pigeons in the Pigeon Park of Spruijt in Gouda. But not all breeders were eligible to bring their best birds to Gouda. For instance, my good Dutch Croppers were of no value, as Spruijt had enough of this breed. He accepted only two pairs of my white Show Homers. The Exhibition Homers that were send along, were immediately killed by Spruijt because - as he told us – they looked too much like English Racing pigeons., Also they had English NPA rings and that was a bad thing.

There was only one white Show Homer that came home after the war. Moreover the fanciers were very surprised they had to pay so much money when they collected their birds after the war. Although the Park in Gouda had adequate food available due to the government allocation, it seemed as if the food had to be paid in gold. It was very expensive for the fanciers that had brought a few birds to be housed. Moreover, one was told later after the war, that many birds in the park had died as a result of paratyphoid".

For more information please contact the secretary of the Dutch special club:
Secretary: F. van der Ploeg. E-mail: ploeg.vd.f@hetnet.nl

Website <http://hollandsekropperclub.sierduif.nl/standaard.html>



Drawing by Jan de Jong 1990

- 1- Neck length.
- 2- Back length.
- 3- Tail length.
- 4- Crescent, as regular as possible
- 5- Breast, long and deep.
- 6- Muffing, large and filled.
- 7- Vulture-hocks, long and directed (Pointed) inside.
- 8- Wing and tail carried downwards.
- 9- Body deepness.
- 10- Legs, long and deep.
- 11- Globe, large and well rounded.
Pouting to the front, tapering to the back, with overflowing feathers over the shoulders.

Standard Dutch Cropper

Country of Origin

The Nederlands (Holland), related to the Gent and Pommerian Croppers. It is a parent breed of the English Pouter.

General impression

One of the biggest blower pigeons. A very large, deep standing Cropper. The under-line should be near horizontal, the shoulders extra ordinarily broad. It is very heavily feathered on the feet with developed muffs. The Pigeon should have the same proportions before and behind the legs. The crop or globe is large and well rounded.

Characteristics

Type: Broad, with a deep breast. The body has the same proportions before and behind the legs, which are positioned and centered exactly under the body.

Stand: Deep, belly and hocks free from the ground; angle of back line a slightly less than 45°.

Head: Longish, well rounded, with a filled higher forehead.

Eye: Dark orange-red iris including the Self-Whites.

Eye cere: Small and fine; colour matching the feather colour.

Beak: Medium length; colour matching the feather colour.

Wattle: Small, not prominent and smooth.

Neck: Very long. Crop well developed and full blown.

Ballon: Carried forward, rounded and slightly tapering towards the shoulders, where the crop is blending over the shoulders and upper back. No visible break or 'waist' between the crop and the back-part from the pigeon.

Breast: Broad, deep, well fleshed and with a long breast bone.

Back: Very broad, flat across its width, slightly sloping in a straight line.

Tail: Long, broad but well closed, not to touch the floor. Should be unbroken, straight line from the rear of the head.

Wings: Broad, well closed, covering the back well, almost reaching the tail tip, but not crossing.

Legs: Medium length. With a deep stance, what is caused by the sagging slightly in leg position of the hock joint. Thigh and muff feathers well developed, thickly layered and from the front rounded and sweeping to the side and back, blending with the plentiful thigh feathers.

Feathers: Opulent and broad, smooth and well closed. (not loose and open).

Colours:

Self in white, black and yellow,

Barred in blue black barred, blue-silver dark barred, mealy and cream, blue-grizzle.

Pied in black, (dominant) red, and (dominant) yellow; blue black barred, blue-silver dark barred, mealy and cream,

Tiger (mottled) in black, red and yellow. (In the Netherlands in light- and dark tigered).

Colour and marking:

All colours deep, rich and pure.

Blue Grizzle (schimmel) with dark bars.

Pied: White 'heart' or half-moon marking on the crop which should not reach to the eyes or at the rear of the neck. The black and blue 'heart'-marked have the lower breast, belly, muffs, thigh feathers and at least 7 primary/flight feathers white and the rest a solid colour.

The red and yellow 'heart'-marked have lighter colour tail feathers.

The (dark) tigers should have evenly marked white feathers over the entire bird, except for the tail, primaries and muffs, which must be a solid colour.

The (light) tigers have not only evenly white feathers over the entire bird, but also in the tail, primaries and muffs.

Major Faults:

Small or thin body. Posture too high (legs too straight); stance too upright; too deep, sitting on the hocks and lack of action; crop too little; backline rounded; insufficient muffs; bare heels; poorly covered back by the wings; dark, spotted or pearl eyes; dark beak at the Whites.

With piers on one or both sides; with less than 7 primary/flight outside feathers; missing half-moon marking on the crop or wing rose at heart (moon) marked birds.

Judgement:

In addition to the general appearance, the following characteristics of the breed are of importance, in this sequence:

- Type and stance
- Action
- Neck length
- Globe or Crop
- Back-line and coverage of the wing-coverts
- Colour of the eyes and the beak
- Muffs and vulture-hocks
- Colour and marking

Ring size: 13 mm ('F' in GB)

Added characteristics

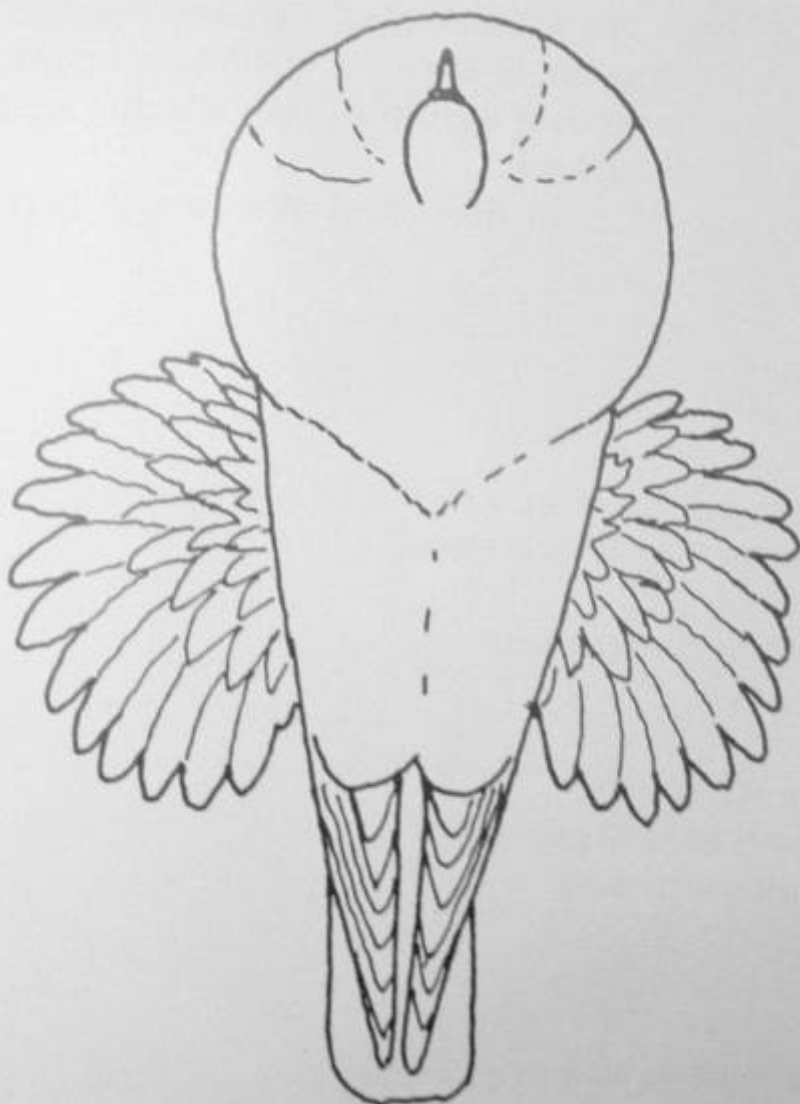
The Dutch Cropper is a calm, quiet and friendly pigeon.

One of the biggest blower Croppers.

It is the largest National fancy pigeon breed of the Netherlands.

Left: A standard drawing of a Dutch Cropper, viewed from above.

By: Jan de Jong, in 1990.



**Copyright ©2010 Aviculture-Europe.
All rights reserved by VBC.**