

# Exhibition Homer – something for idealists

Text: Uwe Held (D), photos by Marc Weber (F)



Anyone who has read about Homer Pigeon Breeds in the last 15 years must admit that the Exhibition Homer has not only made great advances in Breed Type but also has become very popular and widespread with many Breeders and Fanciers.

This is primary due to the Breeds Beauty but also to the dedicated Breeders and the idealistic breeding programmes followed and not lastly to the Judges that have correctly assessed the breed without pandering to personal agenda of either themselves or individual breeders.

**Left: An Exhibition Homer with very good type and stance, a fantastic head length and massive beak.**

**Below: A Blue Chequer Exhibition Homer, with a good breast, but the Head shape is a bit short and rounded.**

If you wish to write a History of the Exhibition Homer Breed, you would need to mention many outstanding Fanciers, with many cross breeding and many failed attempts to bring about a stabile Breed in the UK at the Turn of the 1900's by British Fanciers, but I will try to avoid that here. However here we should confirm the exceptional Art of the English Breeders of that time, who created a Masterwork with this Breed.

We come now to what is demanded of a Breed Typical Exhibition Homer; first and foremost it is a Form Pigeon, so first, leaving aside the unusual and distinctive Head properties, an overall Balanced Exhibition Homer should resemble a powerfully built Racing Pigeon, with however a more markedly elevated Stance. The Feature however the Creators of this Breed altered the most is the uniquely shaped Head that is the main focus of assessment and calls for all the skill any Breeder may possess.





**Left: A mealy Exhibition Homer with a good stance and massive short beak.**

The Head should be carried almost horizontal and in form give the appearance of a blunt wedge. The Skull can only be described as correct for type when it is the required length and depth and straight lines of the fore-face and skull which behind the eye becomes a flattened curve into the Neck. Seen in profile, with only the very minimal curve/indentation between the Beak and Eye and the minimal narrowing of the



upper Neck, without which the Head would lose the clean hard lines desired.

When looked at from above, the Skull should display a wedge shape with no indentations. The underline of the Face should join the Neck cleanly; a Dewlap would devalue an otherwise promising Bird.

**Right: This mealy Exhibition Homer is too horizontal in stance and the skull line is showing some indentation.**

The Eye of the Exhibition Homer should be Pearl White, the purer the Iris the more beautiful and typical for the Breed; one description used is a 'Tumbler Eye'.



**Left: A very pale coloured mealy Exhibition Homer female. The skull line behind the eyes is very good.**

The Eye of the Exhibition Homer should be Pearl White, the purer the Iris the more beautiful and typical for the Breed; one description used is a 'Tumbler Eye'.

The Eye is surrounded by a fine and narrow eye cere, that depending on the feather colour of the bird may vary from Flesh colour to Blackish Grey.

Strict evaluation is called for with the Blue colour series of birds, here the cere colour must be Blackish Grey, the beak colour for these birds must be Black, a pale edge should be penalised, even if only a part of the edge is not correctly pigmented, that is a fault.

The Dilute/Pale colours, Cream, Cream Cheq' and Dilute Blue, Dilute Blue Cheq'(Silver) will show a pale edging to the beak. For these Colours the beak is pale horn colour.

**Right: A black Exhibition Homer; a rare and difficult colour. More upright stance is wanted.**

The Neck of the Exhibition Homer is strong at the shoulders and tapers elegantly to the head. The Chest must be of adequate width and carried slightly raised and should appear rounded and muscular; narrow chested birds are Breed untypical and should be evaluated accordingly. They should show an upright



posture with a definite slant from shoulders, back to tail; the tail should be as narrow and well closed as possible. A bird with a broad or 'Fan Tail' is plainly ugly, however now and again an otherwise excellent bird appears with long feathering and is heavily penalised because of it, the fact is that such birds often have a long and very Breed Typical Head and Skull shape. In practise, the correlation of Short Feathering and a long Head/Face is rarely achievable, similar experiences have been made time and time again with some long face Tumbler Breeds.



**Left: A red chequer with good type and stance.**

Exhibition Homers in Germany are recognised in all Racing Pigeon Colours without white markings, however at the moment attempts are being made to breed Birds in White and Red Grizzle. Both colours should exhibit Dark Face Masks. The following years will show if these efforts have been successful, or not.

The Exhibition Homer for Breeding, is a very peaceful and calm Bird and each pair can with ease breed 4 to 6 young in a season, provided the breeding birds have the necessary condition.

**Right: Exhibition Homer in dark blue chequer. Stance is too horizontal.**

Those who decide on Exhibition Homers as a Breed will never be disappointed; the Breed is extremely vital, has good homing and parenting abilities. They are equally at home in free flight or in a large aviary/flight.





**Left: is a Red Chequer and right, a Blue, Black Bar, both birds are very good type, with fantastic head shape, but in the Picture, standing too horizontal/low.**

Those who wish to breed Exhibition Homers will not be disappointed in the number and quality of Birds on offer in this Homer Breed, you must however have an 'Eye' for a Good animal, as with any Breed, there are also enough sub quality animals to be found. You should read all the relevant Literature available to have a good background knowledge of the Breed, then set yourself achievable Goals and avoid the tendency to value Birds higher than their true worth and minimise any errors you may make.



**Left: Exhibition Homer in cream. In this colour variety the blue in head and tail is always a problem.**



**Right: Exhibition Homer, Mealy in Red Schimmel (grizzle) very rare but a good result for this breeder.**



Left:  
Red chequer Exhibition Homer. Nice short and stout beak. Good head-shape. This eye cere is very typical for an Exhibition Homer. The stance is too horizontal.

Anyone who wants to learn more about this 'Exquisite' Pigeon Breed can do no better than turn to the Specialist German Show Homer Club established 1900.

Deutscher Show Homer Klub von 1900  
Vors.: Hubert Scheuer, Neue Strasse 13, 39264 Kleinleitzkau,  
Germany, Tel.: +49 (0)39248-590

Nederlandse Schoonheids Postduiven Club  
Secretariaat: Sytze de Bruinem Burg. Dusarduynstraat 7, 4551 SV Sas van Gent.  
The Netherlands, Tel.+31 (0)115453003 [e-mail:sdebruine1@zeelandnet.nl](mailto:sdebruine1@zeelandnet.nl),  
website: <http://spc.sierduif.nl/>

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



With thanks to Uwe Held (Germany) and Marc Weber (France)