

# THE BREEDS OF THE BEAUTY HOMER PIGEON CLUB OF THE NETHERLANDS

By: Sytze de Bruine



Edited by Frank Povah.

**The Beauty Homer Pigeon Club (SPC) is a Dutch specialty club for the breeders of the many and various Beauty Homer breeds. Every year, the club organises a breeder's day on which the pigeons are assessed and discussed by a judge and / or the 'breed coach' of the breed in question, together with the breeders. This is very instructive for the breeders and is important to keep an overview of the status of these breeds in the Netherlands. The points awarded to the assessed birds also count towards the annual Club Championship for each breed. The pictures in this article were taken on the 2017 breeders' day.**



## **The Dutch Beauty Homer**

As with 10 of the 11 recognised breeds, the Dutch Beauty Homer first of all has to show body type and stance. When assessing type and stance we do not pay attention to other characteristics; it has to be the overall impression that counts. An outstanding Dutch Beauty Homer is much more than an amalgam of certain sizes and proportions; it must be an aesthetic whole by which every observer is immediately impressed. Naturally, the Dutch Beauty Homer will have to meet the requirements described in the standard in order to be able to display that desired image.

**Left: Dutch Beauty Homer, Andalusian, cock.  
Owner: Th. van Dooren.**





**Left: Judge A. Brouwers discussing his assessment.**

In the standard, the body type is described as sturdy and short. That requested robustness must not degenerate into coarse or crude. The size of a large racing pigeon is just right for a Dutch Beauty Pigeon. What we want are pigeons with a full, broad and deep breast that turns into a well-filled belly. Breast and abdomen must come out

generously in front of and under the wing arches. Seen from the front, the breast feathers must cover the wing arches.



A fixed horizontal position; no concession is made here. In a horizontal position, the back line is still slightly sloping, but an imaginary line from the middle of the wing arch to the tail should run parallel to the bottom of the show cage. Judges are always impressed by pigeons that constantly show a fixed position.

**Left: Blue chequer cock.  
Owner: H. Bosma.**

However, no pigeon can be expected to pose in the desired stance for 24 hours per day. A simple tapping with the judging stick or briefly opening the cage door should be enough to put the Dutch Beauty Homer in position.

**Right: Silver dark barred hen.  
Owner: Team Hartkamp.**





### **The German Beauty Homer**

Type and position (60% of the assessment) are always easy to judge, provided the pigeon is used to the show pen.

The head and the stance are also very important in a German Beauty Homer. We desire birds with a good length in the front head, well curved. Seen from the side, the head line forms a clear uninterrupted curve between the tip of the beak and the skull. A powerful beak is an absolute must, especially for the ones selected for breeding. But too much "down-faced" is not breed-specific and reminiscent of the Scandaroon.

**Right: German Beauty Homer, blue grizzle hen.**

**Owner: P. Wijnacker.**

**Below: Another of P. Wijnacker's blue grizzle hens.**



Birds of slightly more than average size are the best show birds. The legs are generously sized and just slightly angled, the chest slightly in front of the wing arches, the neck medium (but certainly not too short) and slim.

In reality, the ideal image as pictured in the German standard will probably never be fully achieved. Long in the neck, legs and forehead, and short in the back is simply not going to come together.

And so a compromise must be accepted. The trained eye of breeder and judge determines whether the bird as a whole can charm us.



Although colour and marking come last in the assessment of the German Beauty Homer, the demands are only going to become stricter.

**Right: Judge D.C.J. van Doorn and breeder J. Kort listen attentively.**







### **The Genuine Homer**

A somewhat robust pigeon, but certainly not big, hardly bigger than a large racing pigeon, with an erect posture. A good Genuine Homer is difficult to hold in one hand due to its short wide flight feathers, short tail and wide wing shield, combined with a broad, deep chest. It will try to wrench free and escape.

**Left: Genuine Homer, blue chequer hen. Owner: J.S. Brandsma.**

**Below: Judge W. de Wal (white coat, to the right of photo) discussing his assessment.**



**Above: Black hen. Owner: R. Bosma.**

**Right: Ash red barred cock. Owner: J.S. Brandsma.**





The back, along with tail and body posture, is sloping. The head is carried almost horizontally, if possible slightly raised, but not nearly to the extent of for example, the Dragoon, though they can be so in the show pen.

A good Genuine Homer has a strong medium-long beak with the upper and lower mandibles equally strong and fitting together like a box. A down-faced beak is a fault and creates an undesirable flat front head. The rising front line emphasises the striking 'dip' - a flat spot of 1 to 2 mm above the beginning of the beak. Each wattle is small, smooth and V-shaped; best seen when looking at the head from above. Not one closed, heart-shaped wattle as in the German Beauty Homer. Fine eye ceres complimentary to the feather colour surround the beautiful pearl white eyes. The feathering is super tight but still generous and must round out body shape. It will be clear to everyone that the harmony of the whole and the total of the various breed characteristics make up the final assessment points. With this breed, body type and stance is the most important, the head comes after.

### **The Show Homer**

The most important points of this pigeon are the head and its powerful beak. Nevertheless, the type and stance remain very important, in the way that the



overall picture has to be correct. A Show Homer with an excellent head that is only posing horizontally can never get the highest award. In practice, the Show Homer breeders first look at the head, especially in England, where the rest is of lesser importance. But if we want to have a beautiful Show Homer, it will have to have a correct stance. This is already the problem with many birds, because they are too horizontal. An excellent bird will always show its sloping stance, even after taking it out of the pen.

**Left: Show Homer, ash red barred cock.**

**Owner: J.D. van Doorn.**

They are powerful, heavy pigeons with excellent chest depth and width; not too long in

the rear and sufficiently high; strong thighs with sturdy legs. The 11 mm ring must be well filled by the leg. A pleasure to see.

The Show Homer's head line is from the tip of the beak to the back of the head, which is nicely long, curved, and rounding without interruption, and with a wide and powerful lower and upper mandible fitting that rounding. The wattles should not break the curved line. With older cocks this is not always possible, so we have some tolerance for that.

The Show Homer is less tightly feathered than the Exhibition Homer. It should not be rumped, loose feathering, but it is a fact that the plumage is somewhat looser. Of all the English Homer breeds, the Genuine Homer is the most tight in its plumage, followed by the Exhibition Homer. The Show Homer and the Show Antwerp generally have slightly looser feathering.

### **The Exhibition Homer**

In the Exhibition Homer, the head / head line determines quality: massive, powerful, long, with a perfectly flat skull is what we want. The ideal is of course a lot of length and a lot of substance. We want the beak as short and blunt as possible. Seen from above and from the side, the head must show a wedge-shaped line. The desired completely flat skull forms a whole with the beak. The back head must be at a sharp angle to the neck. A clean cutoff at the throat is also important.

**Right: Exhibition Homer, blue black barred cock.  
Owner: J.D. van Doorn.**



**Right: Ash red barred cock.  
below: AOC-White cock.  
Owner of both birds: S. de Bruine.**



Yet an Exhibition Homer is more than just a head and a beak. They are the most important breed characteristics, but type and position must also be correct. The standard speaks of a medium-sized

pigeon with a fixed, sloping position, a nicely lengthened neck and smooth feathering. , However, breeders and judges give preference to powerful, somewhat larger types. The adult cocks, especially, are only slightly smaller than Show Homers. However, everything must be in proportion, including the beak; this must be substantial, but we should not exaggerate. The assessment focuses on the head shape and beak, followed by wattles, eyes and eye ceres (the complete head) and then the body type, position and posture. But this does not alter the fact that type, position and posture are less important. A pigeon with an 'excellent' head and a 'good' body type and stance will never get high points.







### **The Show Antwerp**

The Show Antwerp served as a starting breed for all English and American Beauty Pigeon breeds. In the Netherlands and in England you can still see the real Show Antwerps. But it is a breed for specialists and perseveres; that is the reason why the number of breeders remains low and new breeders unfortunately often give up after a few years.

**Left: Show Antwerp, ash red barred hen.  
Owner: D.C.J. van Doorn.**

In terms of behaviour, the Show Antwerp is very similar to its cousins, the Show Homer and the Exhibition Homer. Furthermore, it is striking that the physique of the

Show Antwerp, especially the beak and the legs, have the same coarseness as the other English Beauty Homer pigeon breeds. The feathering feels the same and in the Show Antwerp we often see the typical, somewhat wider wing bars and the chequered marking showing the same irregularity as in the Show Homer.

The Show Antwerp is a medium-sized pigeon, which should not be too long in the back. Like all English Beauty Homer breeds they have to stand with a sloping back line and show a well-developed breast. The striking head is carried horizontally and has a full, thick and blunt beak. It will take a year for the body type to completely develop and the head to be completely 'filled'.



**Above: Chairman of the Club, J. de Poel (red waistcoat), club members and interested fanciers.**





### **The (American) Giant Homer**

The Giant Homer has a strong, broad, short and wedge-shaped body (compact and muscular) with a narrow, short tail and a deep chest and full underline. The stance will always be horizontal. The head is desired with a short face (this is the distance between beak angle and eye) with the headline rounded (not round) from beak point to the back of the head, then descending in an unbroken line to the neck.

**Left: Giant Homer cock, Andalusian.  
Owner: K.W. de With.**

**Right: Hen,  
dun.  
Owner  
K.W. de  
With.**



**Below: AOC Opal barred.  
Owner: J. Suk.**



A short forehead with rounded head line has not yet been generally achieved. A horizontal position, together with the rounded and full breast, tapered neck and smooth feathering, give the Giant Homer the desired nobility. The colour variety showing the average best quality is blue black barred, but in almost all colours, top animals are shown. The upper limit of the size has been reached in some birds.

**Right: Dark chequer cock.  
Owner K.W. de With.**







### **The American Show Racer**

The type we desire is powerful, so the breed is visibly bigger than the racing pigeon. Often there are over-exaggerated demands on the size, but it is all about the harmony of the whole. A beautiful Show Racer must show an erect, fixed position. The legs are barely medium long, well angled and placed well back.

**Left: Show Racer, blue blackbarred cock.**

**Owner: H. Bosma.**

**Below: Indigo barred cock.**

**Owner: J. de Poel.**

Breast and abdomen must emerge generously in front of and under the wing arches. A strong powerful neck, mid-long. And last but not least short in the back. Also the head is very important for the appearance; ideally a head with a straight set beak, with the beak point only slightly lower than horizontal. Show Racers have an abundance of feathers but the plumage has to look super smooth and tight. Loose feathering in the neck or back, or neck creases will lead to a lower total of points.



### **The Dragoon**

The Dragoon is a powerful, deep pigeon. The chest and abdomen are generous and under the wing arches. The most striking feature is the rather short, strong 'bull neck'. The transition between head and neck deviates from almost all other pigeon breeds, particularly due to the somewhat up-facing head and the curve of the back head descending almost without interruption to the neck. This boldly widening neck from head to body gives the Dragoon a streamlined look that we see in otters and seals.

**Right: Dragoon, Andalusian cock.**

**Owner: J. Kort.**







The Dragoon has virtually everything in front of the legs; this means that the legs are placed well back and the rear part must be short. The position of the body is slightly sloping, and the tail is not allowed to touch the ground. The head is broad and well curved, tapering to the beak. The beak is blunt and powerful; the lower mandible, if possible, even more so than the upper. The wattles must be as long and as firm as possible, with typical ridges in the longitudinal direction. The beak and the wattle largely determine the overall point score. This robust and extremely vital breed can rear its own youngster without problems.

There is much more to tell about the Dragoon. We hope to return to this breed soon.

**Left: Blue chequer cock.  
Owner: J. Kort.**



**Above: Judge J. Spaepen (middle) discussing his assessment.**

### **The Belgium Beauty Homer**

As a direct descendant of the world famous Belgian racing pigeon, this breed has been selected for the beauty of the plumage (a rich soft feathering), head line and colour. It is an old breed, but in Dutch standards it is still young and therefore less known. It can be established that the present pigeons stand out because they are really firm with a good vitality, and that physique, appearance and elegance are present in the body type. Cocks and hens sometimes differ remarkably in size. Points of attention are the stance, which should be horizontal with a sloping back line. The wings must be properly aligned. And the head is emphatically shaped in such a way that the beak follows the headline.





**Above, left: Belgium Beauty Homer, red chequered cock.  
Right: Belgium Beauty Homer, pied cock.  
Owner of both birds: J. Olie. (Photos taken at the Club day in 2016)**

### **The Coloured Racing Pigeon**

The Coloured Racing Pigeon is the youngest breed in this special group, recognised by the Dutch Pigeon Association NBS in 2013. It is immediately recognizable by its powerful racing pigeon type, medium high stance and slightly erect posture. The front head forms an almost straight line with the beak and the wattles; the top of the head is rounded, with the highest and widest point above the eyes and merges into a smooth line in the back of the head and neck. The feathering is rich, smooth and tight.



**Above: Coloured racing pigeon, ash yellow chequer cock. Owner: B. Croes.**



**Left: Judge D. Admiraal en R. Joosten discuss the chocolate colour of a Coloured Racing Pigeon.**



The order of importance in the assessment is as follows: General appearance, type and stance, colour, head shape, feathering, marking, beak, eye colour and eye ceres.

Because it is a form pigeon, type and stance come first, but the colour must always be in second place. A colour racing pigeon with excellent type and stance but with a lesser colour, can never reach more than 96 points; this in contrast with the other beauty homer breeds..

**Left: AOC  
Rubella hen.  
Owner:  
S. de Bruine.**



**Right: Black  
sprenckle cock.  
Owner:  
S. de Bruine.**



**Left: Hen, dun.  
Owner:  
R. Bosma.**



**Right: AOC Blue  
grizzle hen.  
Owner:  
W. Rosseel.**

*Fanciers who want to start with one of these breeds can contact the secretary of the SPC in the Netherlands, Sytze de Bruine, e-mail [sdebruine1@zeelandnet.nl](mailto:sdebruine1@zeelandnet.nl) Website for more information: <http://spc.sierduif.nl/> (Dutch language)*

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