

MORAVIAN STRASSER



ORIGIN: Moravia (in Czechoslovakia).

OVERALL EXPRESSION: Refined pigeon with distinguished body type, color, gloss and pattern.

BREED CHARACTERISTICS: Originally a utility breed of Field Pigeon type with a balanced body form and a fairly short posterior. Broad and deep chest which protrudes beyond the wing butts. It has the typical Strasser markings plus high quality, deep and shiny color, pointedly defined gloss with observable shimmer. Type is just as important as plumage color and markings.

BEHAVIORAL CHARACTERISTICS: Temperamental and rigorous pigeon with very good homing and flying ability. They are very fertile with excellent parenting skills. Utility use is closely tied to exhibition and breeding value.

TYPE: Robust body, wedge-like; with short hind quarters. Breast wide and deep; protrudes beyond the wing butts. The back is wide and short. The ideal weight for adults is 700 - 750 grams. Minimum weight is 550 grams and this includes young birds. Maximum weight is 800 grams.

POSTURE: Proud, elegant, with gentle, rear downward slope.

HEAD: Relatively large, high, wide forehead and expresses an even,

unbroken arch toward the neck.

EYES: Bright red, sparkling and, if possible, without a yellow rim around the pupil. False pearl eyes in Brown.

EYE SERE: Narrow and fine textured and wider only on Recessive Red and Recessive Yellow. On Blacks it is black, on Blue it is grayish blue, on Recessive Red and Recessive Yellow it is intense red and on other colors it is in harmony with plumage color. Feathering around the eye sere should be smooth and tight fitting.

BEAK: Broad at the base, somewhat short, wedge shaped, with the tip slightly down turned. On the light beaked birds good blood flow should be visible; especially at the base. No dark spots or streaks. The axis of the beak is in line with the middle of the eye. Beak color of Blacks and Blues is black. On Duns and Silvers it is horn colored, on Recessive Reds and Yellows light pink, on Ash Reds it ranges from horn colored to black and on Ash Yellows and Browns, again horn colored.

BEAK SERE: Delicate and smooth with no outgrowths and furrows. Powdered white. Forehead positioning must be centered and sharply defined.

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NECK: Positioned broadly on body, medium in length, tapered bowling pin-like toward the head with the gullet nicely cut out.

WINGS: Strong, muscular with good secondary wing cover over the back, flights resting on tail and not crossed. Wide flight feathers arranged tightly and rounded at the extremities.

TAIL: Short with feathers locked in a narrow arrangement (1½ to 2 tail feathers in width), carried in line with the back and extends beyond the flight ends by 2 centimeters.

LEGS AND TOES: Medium in length, strong, slightly bent, clean legged and bright red. Knee joint readily visible. Toe nails on Blacks and Blues are black, on Recessive Reds light horn, Recessive Yellow white and on other colors they match the beak color.

STANCE: Wide and at attention.

PLUMAGE: Smooth, pliable with feathers that adhere properly. On the wing shields they are broader and larger without fluting or furrows. On Recessive Red and Yellow; no powder. Always glossy.

COLOR, SHEEN AND MARKINGS: Color is just as important as type. All colors must be deep, rich, pure and even. Every color shows itself through typical luster and gloss which results in higher quality. Intense gloss is required on Black and Recessive Red. On other colors the luster is found on the neck front and portions of the head. These feathers have full sheen. Ground color is white with typical Strasser markings (gazzi) evenly and sharply defined. The head, medium sized bib, wings, back, tail, rump and the vent wedge are all colored. For genetic reasons colored hocks and pants are fully tolerated but not preferred. Bib depth reaches 2/5 the length from beak base to the breast bone and at the rear it reaches the neck. Color is evenly distributed on all plumage including flights and tail. On dilutes we try to establish an evenly distributed color tone. Full color and gloss manifest themselves after the first molt. BLACK is deep and rich and evenly distributed. Gloss on head and bib is blue-green; on wing shields, back and vent wedge, green. Bronze and shiny pink are not wanted. BLUE is darkened (Dirty Factor) to a darker than normal Blue but even in this shade it is pure and shiny. Head, bib, back and tail, if feasible, all in the same color tone resembling the wing shields. The head should not appear to be black. Gloss on head and bib blue-green. Flight feather ends and tail bar are black with no white showing on the two outside tail feathers. RECESSIVE RED is very rich, pure, even and deep on all feathers; including flights and tail. Gloss on head and bib is red, on wing shields, back and vent feather edges it is green, intermingled with red and blue-violet. Glossy bronze is unwanted. RECESSIVE YELLOW is shiny yellow, pure, rich and even, including flights and tail. Gloss on the head, bib and vent wedge feathers are pink and this also includes the wing shields. Gloss on DUN and SILVER (dilute Blue) is greenish and on other colors is corresponds to those colors.

COLOR VARIETIES: Black, Dun, Brown, Khaki, Recessive Red and Recessive Yellow.

BARLESS, BAR AND CHECKER: Blue, Silver (dilute Blue), Ash Red, Ash Yellow, Brown and Khaki. Bronze patterns are also possible among these. The patterns are of medium color depth but outlined nicely and arranged properly.

WHITE BAR: (Dominant Opal) Blue, Silver (dilute Blue), Recessive Red, Recessive Yellow and Dun. Overall color is lighter; tail bar and flight feather extremities are whitish. (Toy Stencil) Blue, Silver (dilute Blue), Recessive Red, Recessive Yellow, Black, Dun, Brown and Khaki. Colors are rich and pure.

SPANGLED: Comes in all of the above color varieties (Dominant Opal and Toy Stencil) but only seldom.

PENCIL: Black, Dun, Blue, Recessive Red and Recessive Yellow. Head and bib are solid colored. Feathers of the wing shields and back are white with evenly colored lacing on the feather edging. Flights and tail are of the same length and are without pepper.

WHITE TAILED: Comes in all of the above color varieties. Tail, tail cover and under tail wedge are white.

DISQUALIFYING FAULTS: Pearl or black eyes, extended crop, white flights (on adults), faulty plumage color of the penciling and bronze factor birds due to wrong color factors at work.

MAJOR FAULTS: Narrow, flat or small head; flat part and forehead, back of head too extended and there should be no eyebrows. Weak, long, downward pointing or pale beak that does not represent the plumage color; crude, blemished or unbalanced sere. Yellow, brownish, greenish or dark flecks in the iris; too light, feathered, wide or wrong colored eye sere. Long neck with noticeable, protruding gullet and/or feather frill. Too narrow, small or long body. Underweight, cradle-like body posture; underdeveloped breast; long, low hanging or crossed flights or open back; long, wide, raised or A frame shaped tail. Legs too long, grouse legged, white toe nails on dark plumage colors; dry, frizzy, broken or loose feathers. Bib too short, too long or not proportionate; colored feathers on white areas or white feathers on colored areas; white back and rump (on those with colored tails); colored thighs; irregular, undefined or merging of colors on markings; hint of third bars; irregular, unclean or gray color; slate in flights and tail; light outer tail feathers; unwanted or unevenly distributed gloss and shimmer.

EVALUATION: Body type, color, markings, gloss and shimmer, eye color, leg length and neck.

POINT SCALE

Body and Type	17
Head	10
Color	17
Markings	10
Beak	5
Beak Sere.....	3
Eyes	6
Eye Seres.....	6
Plumage.....	5
Gloss	7
Wings	5
Tail	5
Feet	4
Total	100

BODY AND POSTURE: Type and color are equally important. Weight of the birds, between 550 - 800 grams and includes all of the color varieties. A young female weighing 600 grams will weigh around 700 grams in one year and with cocks it is exactly the same except that they are heavier at 700 grams and at one year 800 grams.

When size and weight are ideal this breed is only banded with 9 mm bands and should not be banded with 8 mm or 10 mm band sizes. Body posture is always tilted toward the tail.

HEAD: The head characteristics have always been one of the most important features of this breed. The head is noteworthy in that it is wide and has a broad beak base. A broad and robust head is more important than frontal height. The beak should by no means give the impression of being small and long.

COLOR: Is as important as type. Should be pure, saturated and intense with noticeable gloss. In the grouping of "form" pigeons the color and gloss on Moravian Strassers must be of the highest quality in the pigeon world. The color is darkened when the hereditary factor Dirty is present and this means that Blue is modified to steel blue. The Blue on White Bars is not lightened as on other breeds but rather is darkened. Red and Black are extremely intense and rich in sheen.

MARKINGS: These are also very important and above all it must be noted that the colored back is a breed characteristic. All markings must be sharply outlined. Visually noticeable plucking is not acceptable. Some Whitetails are entered who deserve more leniency when being evaluated.

BEAK AND SERE: Beak should be wedge shaped and broad looking at the base with the head being nicely arched and fairly wide. Excessively down turned beak is faulty. The line between the beak halves extends to the middle of the eye. A down turned beak is linked to a flat head which is not wanted. The beaks of reds and yellows are red at the base and lighter at the tips. On old birds the base of the beaks can be less red. Seres are smooth and narrow. On reds and yellows clear without black flecks.

EYES: Should be bright red with the exception of Brown colored birds on which false pearl eye color is accepted. Should still look reddish. Deformed pupils or yellow specks in eyes are unacceptable.

EYE SERE: Color and form of the seres is very important for overall expression. Should not be crude, light colored nor look detached. Ideal sere on blacks and blues is smooth, narrow and dark. On reds and yellows seres are very noteworthy, are double, and intensely red colored.

PLUMAGE: Loose plumage is often seen and that is disturbing. Compared to other Strassers the plumage on Moravian Strassers is much more compact and smooth. Black and red color varieties show no powder and that is why one can see intense gloss on the total plumage. Feathers on these colors should be well developed so as to achieve ultimate gloss. Wing shields should never have disheveled feathers. On yellows and blues the feather density can be a little less developed. Powder is wanted but too much powder can create a gray color tone. Loose feathers on the neck are not tolerated.

GLOSS: The gloss and shine is an integral part of the color. The gloss is by black pigeons in green on all the color parts at the edge of each feather (= pen) and the center of the feather (= pen) is shining. Undesirable is the purple gloss on the head and the bronze on the shields of wings. By red pigeons there is a two-component gloss, especially on the shields. The perimeter of the feathers (= pen) is green and the center of the pen should have a red gloss. The gloss on the head and the collar is red not the green one is undesirable. The other colored parts should have a gloss on the edge green not bronze. In blue pigeons the gloss should be blue-green only on the collar, the other color parts should be just light. The purple gloss on the in the part between the back and tail is undesirable. By the yellow pigeons should be gloss pink on the collar, and the other color parts should only be shiny without a gloss. It applies to all other colors and varieties even though it is judged slightly because there are other more visible problems.

WINGS AND TAIL: Excessively long wings cause a long body and tail. Back should be covered well and flights are to gently rest on the tail. An open back and low hanging flights are major faults. The tail and back build an even line. An ideal tail width is 1½ tail feathers wide.

FEET: Medium in length with weight resting mainly on rear toe. No feathers present and toe nail color which represents the plumage color. White toe nails are not allowed. Also the neck is medium in length.

BAND SIZE: 9 mm.

English translation by Gene Hochlan