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**“Rats and Pigeons
are quite similar in
terms of disease and
damage”**

“The POOP ON PIGEONS”

by Meyer Turken
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Not often, but from time to time, we find an article regarding a real estate topic that goes beyond an anecdotal resolution to a problem. With the permission of Meyer Turken, Turken Industrial Properties, here is a reprint of his July 2002 article, “Here’s The Poop On Pigeons” and most recent article (May 2006), “Pigeons are Flying Rats”. We hope you find the information useful or, at the very least, informative.

July 2002 I wrote my first pigeon article about how to get rid of those filthy, disease carrying, disgusting and repulsive “rats with wings” that we call pigeons.

Since then we here at TIP have been contacted by people who want to know how to get rid of pigeons. I have compiled information and stories from some of my readers.

DISCLAIMER: No claims of legality.

Much of this summary is merely information that I am passing on that was given to me by a few of my fellow pigeon haters. I make no claims on the legality of the various methods described in this article. The information is hearsay, and the reports are anecdotal in nature and are not, in any way, to be considered “scientific” in nature.

LEAST EFFECTIVE:

Briefly, the first three methods, **fake owl, reflective strips and aluminum pans, and cut up strips of cassette tapes are not effective with pigeons**. Please note that these are the most socially acceptable of the methods I am describing. They may work with other birds, but don’t waste your time using these methods on our common enemy, the pigeon.

EFFECTIVE:

These methods are all worth trying. I tried to judge this information by quantity as well as quality of the sources.

Rice: The thinking behind this is that the pigeons will eat the rice, then it swells up in their little tummies and you know the rest. I have had several people tell me that this is very effective, especially if you use instant rice.

Mothballs: This was reported to me as exceptionally effective with limited usage. The pigeons do not eat the mothballs. The odor chases them away. This is effective for those areas where there are lots of small spaces for access. An example is a roof with mission tile. Just get the golf ball sized mothballs and stuff them around the accessible areas. My assumption is that it will keep moths off of your roof also.

Sound Emitting Machine: I have been using a sound-emitting machine called Super BirdXPeller PRO. It is available by looking up www.birdx.com.

This requires regular attention in order to change the sounds occasionally; otherwise our filthy friends will get used to any particular sound and come back to roost. This also requires an electrical outlet on the roof.

Here are the eleven methods of getting rid of pigeons that I have discovered through my research.

Least Effective:
Fake Owl, Reflective Strips &
Aluminum Pans

Effective:
Rice, Mothballs, and
Sound Emitting Machines

Most Effective:
Alka Seltzer, Crazy Corn,
Pellet Gun,
Rat Poison mixed with birdseed
Pigeon Relocation

"The POOP ON PIGEONS" (cont)

MOST EFFECTIVE

Alka Seltzer: This sounds crazy. I was stunned when somebody called and said that when he was in the Navy they had a pigeon problem when they docked. They crumbled up Alka Seltzer and spread it around. He said that pigeons do not have the ability to burp and when they eat it, they expire from gastrointestinal problems. Actually he said that they explode, but I think he was exaggerating. When I asked a few other people, they all said that it worked on both pigeons and sea gulls. Once again, I am only repeating anecdotal information. Please read the disclaimer above.

Crazy Corn: Crazy corn is the common name for a product called *Avitrol*. This is a legal product, but it can only be purchased and used by a licensed pest control company. It works extremely well. I have used it many times and I vouch for its effectiveness. It does not poison the pigeons; it makes them lose their sense of homing and they fly away and get confused and go somewhere else. Also, this takes three to six weeks to work. Be aware that eventually other pigeons will start to roost on your building, so this may have to be repeated every six months.

Pellet gun: This is a foolproof method if you are a good marksman and if you have plenty of time to waste. However, it is illegal to shoot pellet guns in the various cities here in the Valley. Another thing, most pellets are made of lead and this is bad for the environment. One more thing to think about is that you may be putting holes in your roof if you miss and hit the roof with the pellet. Basically pellet guns and BB guns, although not as dangerous as a .22, are still very potentially dangerous. This may sound like fun, but I do not recommend it.

Rat poison mixed with birdseed: This reportedly really works. It is quick and cheap. Mix it up and put it on the roof. That's all. Quick and easy. Bye-bye pigeons. It may be illegal, but on the other hand it may not be. I do not know, I am just reporting what I have been told. See the disclaimer above. This method uses over-the-counter rat poison, the kind that dehydrates the rats. A similar product is a very common product for controlling household mice. It can be purchased at Home Depot.

Here is the formula: Buy one box of Tom Cat Rat Poison. Pour all of the contents of the packets into a bowl and liquefy into a paste by stirring vigorously with water. Mix with 10 pounds of wild birdseed. Place in clumps in various places on the roof. Go up on the roof in two weeks with an empty 5-gallon bucket and remove the dead pigeons.

Pigeon Relocation: I have found this to be the most effective way, which is non-poisonous and non-offensive to tenants. Very simple, Pigeon Relocation consists of setting wire cage traps with common bird seed. The pigeons will go into the cage to eat the seed and they can not get out. Twice a week remove the live pigeons from the cage traps and relocate them. Very simple and very effective.

Pigeon Relocation Service: The Pigeon Relocation service, which I started out of self defense, has become a large part of our business; we now have one tech that does nothing but drive around setting cage traps and relocating pigeons. We now have over 135 traps in our inventory. I consider pigeon relocation to be a public service as much as a profit center.

One more thing, I hate pigeons so much that I will, and often do, free of charge tell people how to do this service by themselves with their own personnel. I have even sold customers their own traps.

Diseases Caused by Pigeons: I realize that this subject may be objectionable to some people. But this really is a big problem. For those of you who want information on just how bad of a health problem pigeons are, type "Diseases Caused by Pigeons" in your favorite search engine. You will be amazed at what a problem these birds are. It makes interesting reading.