

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. What methods are used for pigeon management?  
The City is implementing an integrated pigeon management plan that will include citizen education and involvement. Both permanent and temporary control methods will be integral components of the plan.
2. Will the City be using poison?  
At this point in time, the City is not considering poisoning.
3. How is trapping done?  
Trapping is conducted in places where pigeons are known to congregate. Initially, the pigeons are prebaited and encouraged to eat both in and around the unset traps. When the pigeons are comfortable entering and exiting the doors, the traps are set and checked daily. Any trapped birds are euthanized. Before trapping begins, the daily movement patterns of the birds should be determined. If you know of any areas where pigeons are congregating, please provide us with the information using the Pigeon Watch Form that may be accessed using the following link:  
<http://cityoflaramie.org/cityservices/communitydevelopment/documents/Pigeon%20Watch%20Form.pdf>
4. What is “food control?”  
Food control is a basic means of population control through habitat modification. It is important to discourage people from feeding pigeons. Food sources should be limited by covering garbage and compost containers. Grain must be cleaned from around elevators, feed mills, and railcar clean-out areas. Standing water sources should be eliminated. Pet food should be protected from pigeons. In some municipalities, ordinances control the feeding of wild pigeons.
5. What about birth control?  
Birth control is a relatively new and unproven technology. It has been implemented in some cities, with unknown efficacy. A current study designed to evaluate the efficacy of this chemical has shown limited potential; at its conclusion (in Fall 2009), results of this study will hopefully indicate whether or not birth control is an effective means of population reduction. At this time, Laramie will not be implementing birth control due to cost and unknown efficacy.
6. What about shooting the pigeons?  
The City of Laramie has an ordinance prohibiting the discharge of firearms within the city limits without a permit. Permitted City and United States Department of Agriculture: Animal and Plant Inspection Service personnel will shoot pigeons as a component of the management plan. Consistent shooting can be an effective element of an integrated pigeon control plan.
7. What will the City do when the Fox Theater is demolished and the resident pigeon population is displaced?

It is the responsibility of property owners to “pigeon proof” property to discourage pigeons from moving into new areas. The City will attempt to eliminate as many pigeons as possible from the theater before demolition commences.

8. How is a building “pigeon proofed?”

Begin by patching/repairing any openings that are large enough for a pigeon to enter. Exclusionary techniques can be used to block or modify all surfaces so that pigeons cannot roost or land on them. For more information about exclusionary techniques, please review the Williams and Corrigan document on pigeons by clicking on the following link

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/ca/prevention\\_and\\_control\\_factsheets/wildlife\\_damage\\_and\\_control\\_handbook\\_pigeon.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/ca/prevention_and_control_factsheets/wildlife_damage_and_control_handbook_pigeon.pdf).

9. What can citizens and business owners do to deter pigeons from roosting, loafing, and feeding on their property?

A. Limit access to food – People should not deliberately feed pigeons as it leads to dependence—if human dependence is decreased, the population will be reduced to a number that is supported naturally. Food sources can be limited by covering garbage and compost, protecting pet food from pigeons, and cleaning up and removing spilled grain.

B. Exclusionary techniques will limit access to these areas. Please use the following link for more information:

[http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/ca/prevention\\_and\\_control\\_factsheets/wildlife\\_damage\\_and\\_control\\_handbook\\_pigeon.pdf](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/ca/prevention_and_control_factsheets/wildlife_damage_and_control_handbook_pigeon.pdf)

10. Who is responsible for property damage related to pigeon roosting, loafing, or feeding?

The property owner

11. What diseases do pigeons carry?

For information about the health effects of pigeon-related diseases, call your doctor. If you have any questions regarding the health effects of the removal of pigeon feces, you may contact National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) at 1 (800) 35-NIOSH, or visit <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/homepage.html>.

More information on specific diseases can be found at the CDC website,

<http://www.cdc.gov>.

12. What can people do to protect themselves when cleaning areas that pigeons frequent?

Use of personal protective equipment and precautions to reduce dust aerosolization may be necessary. <http://www.nyc.gov/html/doh/html/epi/epi-pigeon.shtml>

13. Is it possible to outlaw feeding the pigeons?

Some cities have ordinances prohibiting the feeding of wild pigeons. The City of Laramie is considering such an ordinance.