

“TERMITE” TERRY’S INSIDER INFORMATION

TOP SECRET

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Inside This Issue...

- Are Pigeons Making A Mess? 1
- Rave Reviews! 2
- Felony Charges In Cover-up 3
- President's Economic Stimulus 3
- The Boston Marathon 3
- A Huge Difference In Philosophy 4

Are Pigeons Making A Mess Of Your Property?

Many people find pigeons to be interesting and even attractive. But, when their populations become numerous, they often become a pest. That is because of the damage they do to our properties and the potential health problems they present.

What Should We Know About Pigeons?

Pigeons are not native to our country. They are descendents of domestic homing pigeons brought over from Europe and released here in about 1606. These pigeons originated from the sea cliffs of Europe and were domesticated by the Romans over two thousand years ago.

They have several traits that have allowed them to dominate our urban landscape. Because of their history, pigeons are not afraid of man and they will readily roost and nest in man-made structures. They also have a diverse diet which consists of seeds, grain, some fruits and human food scraps. When their preferred foods become scarce, pigeons are known to eat a relatively wide variety of other foods.

Pigeon droppings deface our structures and foul areas where people walk or work. This can easily create an image of a dirty, unkept building. These droppings are at times very slippery and may increase your risk of a slip and fall accident.

Their droppings are high in uric acid which is very corrosive. This acid can eat away at many substrates, especially tar-based roofing materials. Did you know that

the life expectancy of a warehouse roof can be cut in half with just a light and continuous application of pigeon droppings? These droppings can also cause extensive damage to air conditioning and other roof-top machinery.

Roofs and other parts of the structure may be damaged when debris from roosting flocks builds up and clogs rain gutters and drains.

The serious health problems pigeons create are unmatched by any other bird. Ornithosis, encephalitis, Newcastle disease, histoplasmosis, cryptococcoses, toxoplasmosis, pseudotuberculosis, pigeon coccidiosis and salmonella food poisoning are just some of the diseases they are known to carry and transmit.

What Can You Do To Help Solve Problems With Pigeons?

Before any control measures are taken, you need to determine the “pigeon pressure” in your area. Here are a few examples of pigeon pressure:

- A. **High Pressure.** This means that the pigeons are very determined to return to the site. Perhaps they were born in a specific location or may have raised their young there and they consider this to be their home. A site with heavy pressure will always provide them with shelter from the elements.
- B. **Medium Pressure.** In sites like this, the pigeons are a little less committed to the area. A medium pressure

(please turn the page)

500 years ago, on April 2nd 1513, Juan Ponce de Leon discovered Florida. He named it *La Florida* in recognition of the green landscape and because it was the Easter season, which the Spaniards called *Pascua Florida* (Festival of Flowers).

Celebrating A Great Newspaper Publisher

*“Don’t be afraid to make a mistake,
your readers might like it.”*

William Randolph Hearst, born April 29, 1863

Rave Reviews!

“We brought Termite Terry in to inspect a residence we were interested in buying. An inspection had been done earlier but we had concerns that the report might not accurately reflect the extent of the damage we were seeing.

We had used Termite Terry’s services in the past and trusted them to be detailed and honest. We asked them to come out and reinspect the property. Termite Terry’s inspection was thorough. There were numerous problems identified. He backed up the initial report but gave us some additional information regarding the structure. He explained what needed to be done in regard to repairs on the house and made some recommendations regarding other vendors who could do the work. He did not even charge us for the inspection.”

Wiley Ehrke
San Clemente

“Termite Terry Pest Control has been providing semi-monthly pest control service at our home for one year now. His crew is professional and courteous, always calling the night before they are coming. They inspect the property thoroughly each visit, even making recommendations on trimming plants and bushes away from the house for maximum coverage of their pest control product. Since using Termite Terry Pest Control, no little pests are to be found in our home.”

Val Schepens
Costa Mesa

“Thank you so much for the gift card for recommending your company to my friends. They had a colony of bees build a hive under their eaves and inside a column. My friends said your company did a great job of removal at a very reasonable price and they were very pleased. So again, thank you on behalf of all of us!”

Lynn Bianco
Costa Mesa

area may have food nearby or they may simply find it to be a safe and comfortable place to rest during the afternoons. Pigeons will be fairly committed to areas like this, but they won’t roost or nest there.

- C. **Low Pressure.** These areas are places where pigeons will stop by to rest after a meal or take in the sun. Good examples of low pressure sites are park benches, patios, ledges, structural beams, and utility lines. These areas don’t provide food or shelter, so they are just a casual place to stop and loaf.

Here are three behavioral traits you need to understand when dealing with pigeons:

- Pigeons are flocking (their offspring stay with them). They don’t migrate so they aren’t going to go anywhere else.
- The number of pigeons is determined by the amount of food and shelter which is available.
- Pigeons that are established residents will fight harder to reclaim a site. The problem is even worse when you have nesting birds with their young.

7 Steps You Can Take To Gain Control

1. **Sanitation.** Start by removing spilled food or refuse. Remove their nest and clean up nesting areas.
 2. **Build them out.** The best solution is to make your building pigeon-proof. Openings in buildings, exposed rafters, structural braces, overhanging roof docks, etc., should be screened with rust-proof wire mesh or specialized bird netting.
 3. **Pigeon-proofing products.** There are many different products available to help keep pigeons off your structure. Some of the products in use today are bird spikes, bird wire (small wire that is stretched over an area, about 3 inches above the control surface), wire coils, “Daddy Long Legs” (stainless steel wires extending from a rotating base that looks sort
- of like a spider), electric shocking devices (wires or tracks) and slanted plastic or metal flashing for ledges. If installed properly, these can provide very effective results.
4. **Bird gels.** Some of these gels are made to be sticky so that pigeons will feel discomfort when they land on them. Other gels contain ingredients which deter pigeons with various taste and smells. These gel products only offer short-term control and do require repeated applications.
 5. **Reproduction control.** This method is like “birth-control” for pigeons and is done by feeding them with a specially treated bait. They do not harm pigeons but, if applied on a regular basis, these products will substantially reduce the population size.
 6. **Poisonous baits.** These baits can be very effective but must be applied carefully by a highly trained specialist. Please be aware that many in our society disapprove of killing birds and special permits may be required.
 7. **Don’t feed pigeons.** There are more pigeons on earth today than at any time in history. Besides the damage to our properties and the health risks, pigeons are also harming many of our native birds. Pigeons have proven to be resourceful and they don’t need your food.

Feral pigeons are not protected by federal law but you should contact your state and local agencies before attempting any method of population control.

These seven steps are a great place to start but there is no one answer that will work every time and everywhere. You’ll find that a substantial amount of ingenuity and imagination will be required because these pigeon problems vary so greatly from one place to another.

Felony Charges In Salmonella Cover-up

The former head of a peanut-processing company recently had felony charges brought against him by the federal government. This was in connection with a deadly 2008-09 salmonella outbreak where hundreds of people got sick and nine died after eating peanut butter or other products that originated from his company.

The Justice Department alleges that Stewart Parnell, the former owner of Peanut Corp. of America, along with other employees, engaged in a multi-year conspiracy to cover-up that many of their products were tainted with salmonella.

The prosecutors say the company failed to notify its customers, including several national food companies, when the presence of salmonella was revealed by an independent lab.

Wire fraud, obstruction of justice and introducing adulterated food into the market are included in the 76-count indictment against Mr. Parnell and his ex-employees.

In 2009, the Food and Drug Administration found the company had not cleaned adequately or taken proper precautions to prevent food contamination. They also say the plant had roof leaks, poor ventilation and **inadequate pest control**.

Over 2,000 products were recalled and the company filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection in 2009.

"Termite" Terry says, "Everyone in the food industry should take stories like this seriously. Please don't cut corners on pest control services. An effective pest management plan may have prevented many of these problems. And, when you consider this company's enormous financial losses and the legal fees they face, an effective pest management program

could have saved them a fortune!"

The President's Economic Stimulus Plan

All of our politicians are back in Washington D.C. and fighting over the sequester, tax increases and budget cuts. Meanwhile, President "Termite" Terry is here in Orange County, creating jobs, improving our local economy and giving our citizens real financial relief. He is doing this by implementing his economic stimulus plan. Hundreds of people have had their gas tanks filled up for **FREE** and he is encouraging everyone in Orange County to take advantage of his plan.

Here are just a few of our local citizens who have received a **FREE** tank of gas:

- Theresa Dolan of Los Alamitos referred our service to Sharon Jones, also from Los Alamitos.
- Dan Scobell of Fountain Valley referred us to one of his neighbors, John Cook of Fountain Valley.
- Kirk Preston of Huntington Beach referred our fumigation services to Don Wittenberg of Huntington Beach.
- Amy Sonash of Costa Mesa referred our services to Kay Bogeajis, also of Costa Mesa.
- Tammy Frias of Santa Ana recommended us to Ross Alcalá of Santa Ana.

To participate, all you have to do is to refer us to your family, friends or neighbors. And, if they have us do termite treatments, wood repairs or start a regular pest control service, you'll get your **FREE** tank of gas, too!

The Boston Marathon

The Boston Marathon is the world's oldest annual marathon and is one of the world's best-known road racing events. It is an annual event that is always held on Patriot's Day, the third Monday in April. The Boston Marathon first started in 1897 and was inspired by the first modern-day marathon competition in the 1896 Summer Olympics.

Amateur and professional runners from around the world compete in the Boston Marathon each year. The event is New England's most widely viewed sport and attracts 500,000 spectators each year. In 1996, during the Centennial Boston Marathon, they established a record as the world's largest marathon with 36,748 starters and 35,868 finishers.

Women were not allowed to enter the Boston Marathon until 1972. In 1966, Roberta "Bobbi" Gibb became the first woman to run the entire event. She had to disguise herself by wearing her brother's Bermuda shorts and hooded sweat shirt over a black tank-topped swimsuit. Bobbi hid in the bushes until the starting gun was fired. At that point, she jumped into the race. The men running in the event soon realized she was a woman. Encouraged by their friendliness and support, she pulled off her sweatshirt. The crowds cheered when they saw a woman running – the gender barrier had been broken. Bobbi finished ahead of two-thirds of the pack. She came back to win two more times. Today, over 40 percent of the runners are women.

Ernst van Dyk, of South Africa, holds the record for most wins with 9 victories and he did that in a wheelchair! Clarence DeMar, of the U.S., has the most wins in the men's division with 7 victories. Catherine Ndereba, of Kenya, tops the women's division with 4 wins.

The fastest marathon (2:02:03) was run in 2011 by Kenya's Geoffrey Mutai. Margaret Okayo, also of Kenya, set the women's record in 2002 (2:20:43).

"Termite" Terry's Insider Information is Published by:

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****At Termite Terry, We'll Get Rid Of All Your Termites Or
Your Treatment Is FREEEEEE!!****

There Is A Huge Difference In Pest Control Philosophy

We're currently expanding our business and are looking to hire some new technicians. While conducting interviews, I always ask what they know about the various pests and what methods they use to control them. That's because we've got to make sure they know their stuff and share our same philosophy of "integrated pest management".

It shouldn't surprise me to learn that many of the technicians I interview are still using cheap, old fashioned pest control products. I always ask why their companies aren't using the same products we do and they will usually say, *"Our company would never use those products because they work too well. If we used products like yours, we'd kill all their bugs on the first visit and we wouldn't be able to sell them anymore services."*

Ladies and gentlemen, we don't share that philosophy. We'd rather be known as the company that did your job right the first time and solved your problem.

Does that hurt our company's sales? Yes, I suppose we miss out on a few sales because we are often able to solve your problem often on the first visit. But, in the long run, it is good for our business because it helps us to develop a better reputation as a "problem solver."

If you have a pest problem, wouldn't you rather have it solved right away? You really don't want to have a pest control company come back, week after week, and charge you for all of those extra visits, do you? Of course you don't!

Not all pest problems can be solved in one visit. But, if you have a tough problem to solve and it will require additional services, we'll always tell you that in advance so you'll know what to expect.

Do you, or someone you know, have a pest control problem and need help? Call us to schedule an appointment and we'll do your job the right way, the first time.



"Termite" Terry Singleton