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## What's the Problem with Pigeon Feet?

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*Photo by Chris Yakimo*

Anyone who spends time around feral pigeons has probably noticed birds with injured or missing toes and feet. One of the most common problems that feral pigeons have is something we call "stringfoot." Pigeons need twigs, straw or hay to build nests, but in urban areas, they are more likely to find string, wire and human hair. When they spend 12 hours of every day for 4 weeks out of every 7 in their nests, their toes become entangled in the nest materials, which leads to constriction, necrosis, infection, etc. If you can catch and untangle these poor birds (or get them to a pigeon-friendly wildlife rescue like WildCare), they can recover and survive very well, even with missing toes or stumps for feet.



*This one-footed pigeon has ruled his SF neighborhood for 7 years*



*Young feral pigeon with feet tangled up in thread*



*Untangled and ready for release*

**You can read more here:**

Patience: This is the story of a stringfoot pigeon rescue spearheaded by Mickaboo founder Tammy Azzaro

Stringfoot Heartache: This blog post talks about MickaCoo's efforts to catch and help one feral pigeon suffering from stringfoot.

If you often see birds who have stringfoot and want to help, check out MickaCoo's FAQ on what to do when you see injured pigeons, and the In Case of Emergency resource page.

Thank you for noticing and helping the pigeons who share our urban environment!