

Standard of Perfection in Indian Game Fowls

As fixed and adopted by the Indian Game Club, Annual Meeting 1896

Cock

Head and Neck – General appearance of head rather long and thickish, not so keen as in English Game, nor as thick as in Malays, yet somewhat beetle-browed, but not nearly as much as in the Malay: skull broadish, neck medium length and slightly arched, hackle short, just covering base of the neck.

Beak – Horn colour, yellow, or horn striped with yellow, well curved, stout where set on head, giving bird a powerful appearance.

Whole Face – Smooth and fine in texture, including deaf ears, throat not so bare as in English Game, being dotted over with small feathers; the face being of a rich red colour, also wattles and deaf ears.

Comb – (in undubbed birds) – Pea Comb, i.e. three longitudinal ridges, the centre one being double height of those at the sides, small, closely set on head and of a rich red colour.

Eyes and Eyebrows – Very slightly beetle-browed, but not giving such a cruel expression as in the Malay. Eyes full and bold, varying from pale yellow to pale red.

Body – (General Shape) – Very thick and compact; very broad at shoulders, the shoulder butts showing prominently, but the body must not be hollow backed, body tapering towards tail – elegance is required with substance.

Back – Flattish, but the bird must not be flat-sided – broadest at the shoulders.

Breast – Wide, fair depth and prominent, but well rounded.

Wings – Short and carried closely to body, well rounded at point, closely tucked at ends, carried rather high in front.

Tail – Medium length, with short, narrow secondary sickles and tail coverts, close, hard and of a green glossy black colour, carriage drooping.

Legs – Very strong and thick, thighs round and stout but not as long as in Malay.

Shank – Medium length and well scaled. The length of shank must be sufficient to give the bird a gamey appearance, but in no case should be as long as in the Malay, or in any way stilty and being of a rich yellow or orange colour, the deeper the colour the better.

Feet – Strong and well spread, toes long, strong, straight, the back toe low and nearly flat on ground, nails well shaped.

Size – Adults, 8lbs and upwards.

General Appearance and Carriage – Powerful and broad, very active in pen, sprightly and vigorous; carriage upright, commanding and courageous, the back sloping downwards towards the tail; flesh firm in handling; plumage short, hard and close.

Colour and Marking – Head, neck, breast, underfluff, thighs and tail black, with a rich green glossy sheen or lustre, the base of the neck and tail hackles a little broken with bay or chestnut, which should be almost hidden by the body feathers, shoulders and wing bows green glossy black or beetle-green, slightly broken with bay or chestnut in the centre of the feathers or shaft. Tail coverts or furnishing green glossy black or beetle-green slightly broken with bay or chestnut in the base of the shaft. Back feathers green glossy black or beetle green, also touched on the fine fronds at the end of the feathers with bay or chestnut which gives the sheen so much desired. When the wing is closed there is a triangular patch of bay or chestnut formed of the secondaries which are green glossy black or beetle-green and bay or chestnut on the outer web, which when closed show only the bay in a solid triangle. The primaries, ten in number, are curved and of a deep black, except for about 2½ inches of a narrow lacing on the outer web of a light chestnut, shanks and feet rich yellow or orange colour; face, deaf ears, wattles and comb a rich red.

Disqualifications – Crooked backs, beaks, legs, wry and squirrel tails, in-knees and bent legs, red hackles, flat sides, single and Malay combs.

Defects – Crooked breasts or claws, flat shins, rusty hackles, bad shape, heavy feathers, white in hackle, smallness or size, long legs and thighs, twisted hackle.

(The black mentioned should be metallic green glossy black, or beetle-green.)

Hen

Head, Neck, Beak, Face, Comb, Eyes, Body, Breast, Wings, Legs, Shanks and Feet – Same as cock.

Tail – Rather short, carried low, but somewhat higher than cocks, well venetianed but close.

Size – Adult, 6lbs and upwards.

Colour – The ground colour is chestnut brown, nut brown or mahogany brown, head, hackle and throat green glossy black, or beetle-green. The pointed hackle that lies under the neck feathers green glossy green black, or beetle green with a bay or chestnut centre mark; the breast commencing on the lower part of the throat and expanding into double lacing on the swell of the breast of a rich bay or chestnut, the inner or double lacing being most distinct, the belly and thighs being marked somewhat similarly and running off into a mixture of indistinct markings under the vent and swell of the thighs. The feathers of the shoulders and back are somewhat smaller, enlarging towards the tail coverts and are similarly marked with double-lacing, the markings on the wingbows and shoulders running down to the waist is the most distinct of all, with the same kind of double lacing and often in the best specimens there is an additional mark enclosing the base of the shaft of the feather and running to a point in the second or inner lacing. The tail coverts are seldom as distinctly marked, but with same style marking. The primary or flight feathers are black, except on the inner front or web which are a little coloured or peppered with a light chestnut, the secondaries are black on the inner web, while the outer web is in keeping with the general ground colour and are edged with a delicate lacing of green glossy black or

beetle-green; the wing coverts which form the bar, are laced like those of the body; often a little peppered. The black lacing mentioned should be metallic green, glossy black or beetle-green. This should look as if embossed or raised.

Disqualifications – Same as cock; also too light, too dark or mealy ground colour and defective markings.

Bantams

Same as Big Game, except in weight, which should be as follows: Males 4½ lbs, Females 3½ lbs. This weight is suggested after discussing the question with some of the Bantam Fanciers at the 1989 General Meeting.

Standard of Perfection in Jubilee Indian Game Fowls

Cock

Head – Fairly long and wide with cheeks very full flush with width of skull, the whole strong to match the shape of body.

Beak – Horn colour, strong curved and stout where set in head.

Comb and Wattles – Pea comb, the tighter fitting to the head the better, wattles as small as possible, almost nil in the female.

Eyes – Full and bold, varying yellow to pale red.

Whole Face – Including deaf ears and wattles, smooth and fine in texture, rich red in colour.

Neck – Medium length, slightly arched, feathering starting immediately below the skull to swell out, giving a ‘John Bull’ appearance, but just long enough for bottom point of hackle to rest on back midway between the shoulders.

Body – Wide, heart shaped.

Back – Short and wide, the length equal to breadth across the shoulders, flat but well filled like a bushel of corn when the stick had been drawn across it. Slight fall from shoulders to root of tail.

Breast – Wide, deep and well rounded.

Wings – Short, curved and well rounded, carried high above thigh, fitting tight on the body except the points which should be prominent giving an alert appearance, butts tucked into the ends of saddle hackle.

Tail – ‘Pope’s Nose’, wide and thick in conformity with rest of body, real tail feathers short and nicely venetianed sickles and cover feathers lance shaped and straight carriage horizontal or slightly above, not drooping.

Thigh – Medium length, round and stout, long enough to assist birds activity.

Shank – Medium length, round hard bone, large thin scales smoothly set.

Feet – Toes strong, well spread, medium length, hind one set back well on ground, all furnished with good shaped strong nails.

Colour – Neck: hackle white, with chestnut shaftings to feathers. Saddle on back and wings, chestnut or red with gold or white lacing to each feather. Wing bows, chestnut with narrow lacing of white on outside of each feather. Primaries: white with a blush of tan on outside. Secondaries: inside half white, outside tan with a fine white lacing. Rest of bird, throat, breast, body, thighs, tail and surround of saddle, white.

General Appearance – Upright, active, defiant, massive, noble, legs set well apart, not straddling, but carrying the whole weight of body firmly before the perch, an engineer’s bird to be measured with the yard stick. Broad as long and deep as broad yet withal possessing more curves than any other, a vision of beauty and substance.

Plumage short and hard, lying on most of body like a coat of varnish, very solid in hand.

Weight – Cockerels and Cocks, 9 lbs. to 11 lbs.

Defects – Crooked backs, beaks, legs, long and squirrel tails, in-knees and bent legs, flat sides, single and Malay combs, crooked breast or claws, flat shins, ticked hackles, beast thigh, tail bad shape, heavy feathers, small size, long legs and thighs, twisted hackle.

Hen

Head, Neck, Beak, Face, Comb, Eyes, Body, Back, Breast, Wings, Legs, Shanks and Feet – Same as cock.

Tail – Rather short carried low, but somewhat higher than cocks, well venetianed but close.

Colour – The ground colour is chestnut brown, nut brown or mahogany brown; head, hackle and throat white. The pointed hackle lies under the neck feathers white; the breast commencing on the lower part of the throat and expanding into double lacing on the swell of the breast, the inner or double lacing being most distinct; the belly and thighs being marked somewhat similar and running off into a mixture of indistinct markings under the vent and swell of the thighs. The feathers of the shoulders and back are somewhat similar, enlarging towards the tail coverts and are similarly marked with the double lacing and often in the best specimens there is an additional mark, enclosing the base of the shaft of the feathers and running to a point in the second or inner lacing. The tail coverts are seldom as distinctly marked, but with the same style of marking. The primary flight feathers are white, except on the inner frond or web, which are a little coloured or peppered with a light chestnut, the secondaries are white on the inner web, while the outer web is in keeping with the general ground colour and are edged with a delicate lacing of white; the wing coverts which form the bar are laced like those of the body and often a little peppered. The white lacing mentioned should be as clear as possible. This should look as if embossed or raised.

Weight – 6lbs and upwards.

Defects – Same as cocks, also too light, too dark or mealy ground colour and defective markings.

1986 Addition for Dark & Jubilee

All proportions, stance and general appearance to be as the drawings headed ‘Drawings forming part of The Standard of Perfection 1986’, which now form part of the Breed Club’s Standard.

Standard for Double Laced Blue Indian Game

General Characteristics – As Dark Indian Game.

Colour

Male Plumage

Lower Throat, Breast, Thighs, Belly Fluff and Tail, even blue which can range from pigeon to dark blue, evenness of shade taking precedent. A slight edging of a darker shade round feathers permissible.

Head, Neck Hackles, Saddle, Back and Wing Bows, a darker shade of blue to the remainder of body, slightly broken with dark bay, this being mostly covered giving an overall impression of dark slate blue. Undercolour pale blue grey.

Wing Primaries blue to match main body colour with a fine chestnut rimmage on the outer edge. Secondaries blue inner web, bay outer web, forming a solid bay triangle when the wing is closed. Wing Bar blue to match the main body.

Female Plumage

Head, Neck Hackles and Tail, even dark slate blue. Lower neck hackles may be slightly broken in the centre with dark bay, but this not showing through.

The remainder of the body to be chestnut to mahogany brown ground colour, evenness of utmost importance. Each feather is to be laced with two concentric rings of clear even blue, lighter in shade to the neck and tail. Lacing to be as crisp as possible and encircle the feather completely, must not be crescent shaped, too heavy or run into each other. A third blue marking in the centre base of the feather producing triple lacing is desirable. Lacing to cover the whole remainder of the body, including tail coverts and extend to the thighs but becoming indistinct into the belly fluff and round the vent, where it becomes even blue. Undercolour pale blue grey.

Wing Primaries even blue with a little fine chestnut peppering on inner web. Secondaries: inner web blue, outer web to match body ground colour, with a clear lacing of blue round the outer web. Wing Bar double laced to match the remainder of the body.

Beak – Yellow, Horn or Horn Striped with Yellow.

Eyes – Pearl to Pale Red.

Face, Comb, Wattles & Ear Lobes – Rich Red.

Legs – Rich Orange or Yellow, nails to match beak.

Weights – As Dark Indians.

Points – As Dark Indians.

Defects & Disqualifications – As Dark Indians.

INDIAN GAME – VISUAL JUDGING GUIDE

TOP IMAGES: FEMALES • BOTTOM IMAGES: MALES

FEMALE

- Heavy compact and broad
- Back short, slightly sloping
- Deep, well rounded breast
- Short, close wings
- Tail rather short, venetianed (close, carried slightly lower than the male)
- Full, rounded butts
- Firm and muscular

HEAD

- Small pea comb
- Smooth face, wattles and ear-lobes
- Eyes full and bold

CARRIAGE

Upright, powerful carriage

BODY

Very thick and compact; broad shoulders with prominent butts

BREAST

Deep, well rounded

PLUMAGE

Short, hard and close

LEGS

Short, strong, well scaled. Four toes, straight and spreading. Back toe low and nearly flat on ground

MASSES (Large)

Male: 3.6 kg min.
Female: 2.7 kg min.

BANTAMS

Male: 1.8 kg max.
Female: 1.4 kg max.

Note: Females with the exception of a shorter, rather short venetianed tail, are similar to males in general characteristics, allowing for natural sexual differences.

MALE

- Upright and powerful
- Back sloping down to the tail
- Very thick and compact; broad shoulders with prominent butts
- Deep, well rounded breast
- Short muscular wings, close to body, rounded at points
- Medium length tail with slight droop; short, narrow sickles
- Firm and muscular

NECK

Medium length, slightly arched. Hackle short, just covering the base

HEAD

- Skull broad, long and thick
- Beak short, well curved
- Eyes full and bold
- Small pea comb, close fitting
- Smooth face, wattles and ear-lobes
- Throat bare and dotted with small feathers

PLUMAGE

Short, hard and close

BODY

Short, flat back (not flat sided); very thick and compact

BREAST

Deep, well rounded

LEGS

Short, well scaled. Four toes, straight, spreading. Back toe low and nearly flat on ground

TAIL

Medium length with slight droop. Sickles short and narrow

DEFECTS (to be penalized)

- Crooked breasts or toes
- Flat shins
- Rusty hackles
- Bad shape
- Heavy feathering
- White in hackles
- Smallness of size
- Long legs and thighs
- Twisted hackle

DISQUALIFICATIONS

MALE

Crooked back, beak and legs. Wry or squirrel tail, in-knees, bent legs and flat sides. Single or Malay comb.

FEMALE

In addition to male disqualifications: too light, too dark or mealy ground colour, and defective markings.

COLOUR – THE DARK OR INDIAN

Beak: Horn, yellow, or horn striped with yellow.

Eyes: Varying from pale yellow to pale red.

Comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes: Brilliant red.

Legs: Rich yellow or orange, the deeper the better.

MALE

Black with rich green sheen or lustre, with bay or chestnut breaks as described in the standard.

FEMALE

Chestnut brown, nut-brown or mahogany-brown ground; laced with metallic black or beetle-green as described in the standard.

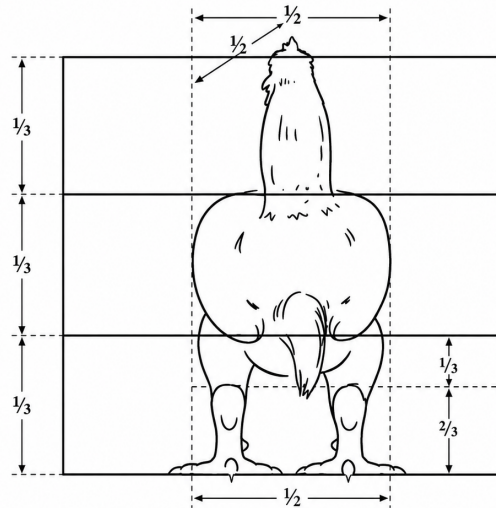
ORIGIN: British.

CLASSIFICATION: Heavy breed: Hard feather

EGG COLOUR: Tinted.

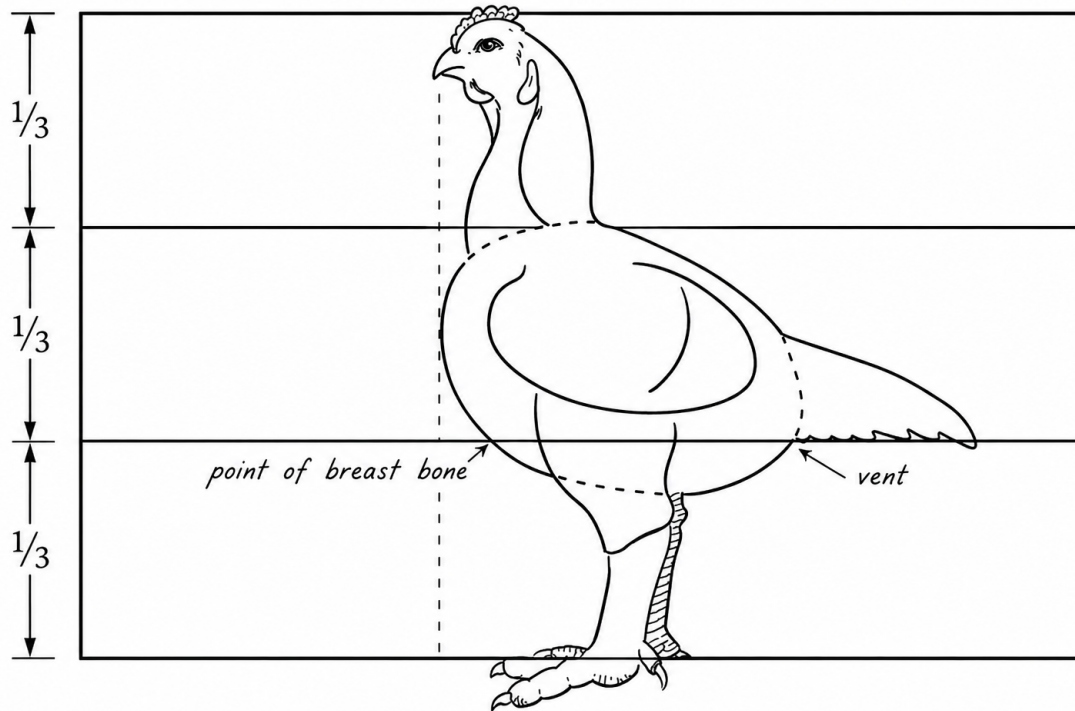
To Cornwall must go the credit for giving us the Indian Game Breeds. Used in the make-up were the red Ascel, black-breasted red Old English Game, and the Malay. Developed for abundant breast meat, in which respect no other breed can equal it.

Visual guide compiled by William Juul



1. Breadth of back should be equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ the distance from the floor to the top of the head.
2. Distance between shanks should be equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ the width of the back.
3. Length of shank from floor to feathers at the rear of the back should be equal to $\frac{2}{3}$ the distance from the floor to a horizontal line intersecting the point of the breast bone and the vent.

Rear-view body proportion guide



Side-view body proportion guide