

AMERICAN SERAMA (Provisional and Working Standard)



ORIGIN: America

CLASSIFICATION: True Bantam: Soft Feather

WEIGHT:

cocks 455g

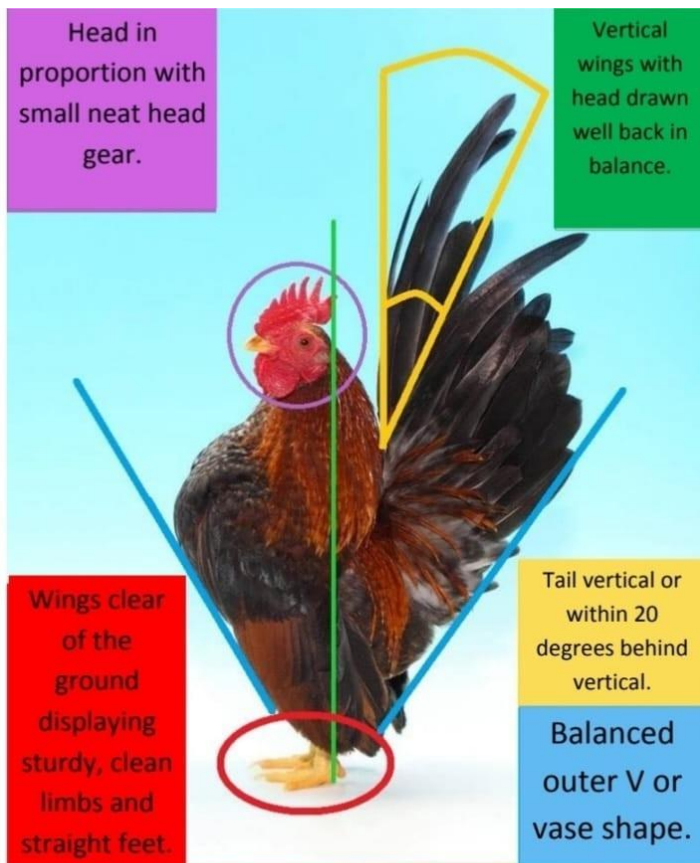
cockerels 398g

hens 398g

pullets 342g

eggs between 28-32g

The origin of the American Serama is wrapped in a great deal of mystery, although it is accepted as of Asiatic ancestry. Seramas was first introduced in America in 2001. The breed was brought to the US by Jerry Schexnayder and he started his breeding program in Louisiana. When the SCNA (Serama Council of North America) delivered the American Serama Standard for ABA/APA approval and acceptance, the ownership of the American Serama Standard written by the members of SCNA was awarded to those entities. The first Serama arrived in the United Kingdom on 2004 and The Serama Club of Great Britain was founded in 2005.



The UK Serama standard
Serama Correct Outline

There is now agreement that the American Serama is a separate breed from the Ayam Serama (Malay traditional). The latter is not standardised in the UK. In America they are shown as table top performance birds, whereas the American Seramas are shown "caged".

The UK and America are also anxious to keep the names separate, so that people know what breed we are referring to. One of the reasons for keeping them separate are animal welfare issues, especially with the hens, where an excessively short back coupled with an extreme upright stance has to affect/distort the egg laying structure. It is believed that such birds have a strong tendency of prolapse and egg peritonitis.

The coloured photo, "Serama Correct Outline", indicates the correct outline and stance of the American and UK Serama. American Seramas have a slightly different body type and stance from the Ayam Serama (Malay). The Ayam Serama (Malay) varieties tend to have a more "extreme" or "S" body type and tend to have a more upright, vertical stance and more profound protruding chest.

Male standard:
Shape of Male:

Head: Small, carried well back in proud manner.

Comb: Single, medium, set firmly and evenly on head, straight and upright, evenly serrated with five regular and distinct points, the middle points the same length as the width of the blade, moderately arched, blade should extend well over back of head.

Beak: Strong, stout, well curved.

Face: small, rounded, smooth, fine in texture, free from wrinkle or folds.

Eyes: Round, conspicuous.

Wattles: Medium, round, fine in texture, free from wrinkles or folds.

Ear Lobes: Small, oval, fitting closely to head.

Neck: Medium length, backward arched showing off breast, full, tapering gracefully from shoulders to head.

Hackle: Abundant, flowing naturally from front of neck reaching far back covering both shoulders.

Back: Short, broad in profile, shaped like a V with neck and tail forming the vertical sides.

Tail Coverts & Saddle: Slightly curved, sword shaped hanging over the abdomen and covering back, widely spread, overlapping the tail and lesser sickles.

Tail: Moderately large and upright, carried in an upright position so as to almost contact the back of head.

Main Tail: Feathers wide, moderately spread in a neatly overlapping manner, rising above the head, "A" shaped from the rear view.

Main Sickles: Medium to long, strong, firm, broad sword-shaped slightly curved.

Lesser Sickles: Well spread, medium length slightly upright, sword-shaped sickle feathers covered with coverts.

Coverts: Abundant, becoming very broad, flowing well up tail.

Wings: Large, long, closely folded, carried vertically not quite touching the ground.

Shoulders and Fronts: Prominent, slightly concealed by hackle.

Bows: Well rounded.

Coverts: Feathers broad, forming two distinct bars across wings.

Primaries: Moderate width, rather long, completely concealed by secondaries.

Secondaries: Broad, tapering convexly to rear, wing bay well exposed.

Breast: Highly lifted, well developed, full, carried prominently forward beyond vertical line drawn from point of beak, broad and well rounded, from head to neck to breast "S" shaped profile.



Cock- 16 oz/455 grams Cockerel- 14oz./398 grams

Shape of Male

Body & Stern: Body: short, good depth and width, sloping from front to rear. Stern: fluff, short, abundant.

Legs: average length, widely set, parallel to each other without bowing or knock knees, well proportioned.

Lower Thighs: Short, stout at top and tapering to hocks.

Shanks: Medium, smooth, round, evenly scaled.

Toes: Four, straight, well and evenly spread, evenly scaled.

Appearance: Small, broad, compact, active, tame, standing up majestically.

Disqualifications:

Comb: Inverted Comb

Legs: Creeper Legs

Wings: Horizontal Wing

Tail: Squirrel

Defects :

Back: Long or narrow back

Chest/Breast: Shallow or narrow breast

Legs: Short Legs

Wings: Trailing on the ground.

Tail: Main tail sickles curved in a concave manner.

Female Standard:
Shape of Female :

Head: Small, carried well back in proud manner.

Comb: Single, small, set firmly and evenly on head, straight and upright, evenly serrated with five regular and distinct points, the middle points the same length as the width of the blade, moderately arched, blade should extend well over back of head.

Beak: Strong, stout, well curved.

Face: Small, rounded, smooth, fine in texture, free from wrinkle or folds.

Eyes: Round, conspicuous.

Wattles: Small, round, fine in texture, free from wrinkles or folds.

Ear Lobes: Small, oval, fitting closely to head.

Neck: Medium length, backward arched showing off breast, full, tapering gracefully from shoulders to head.

Hackle: Abundant, flowing naturally from front of neck reaching far back covering both shoulders.

Back: Short, broad, in profile, shaped like a V with neck and tail forming the vertical sides.

Cushion: Short, feathers broad and plentiful.

Tail: Moderately large and upright, carried in an upright position so as to almost contact the back of head.

Main Tail: Feathers wide, moderately spread in a neatly overlapping manner, rising above the head "A" shaped from the rear view.

Coverts: Abundant, becoming very broad, flowing well up tail.

Wings: Large, long, closely folded, carried vertically not quite touching the ground, Shoulders and Fronts: Prominent, slightly concealed by hackle.

Bows: Well rounded.

Coverts: Feathers broad, forming two distinct bars across wings.

Primaries: Moderate width, rather long, completely concealed by secondaries.

Secondaries: Broad, tapering convexly to rear, wing bay well exposed.



Female Standard

Hen 14 oz/ 398 grams

Pullet 12 oz/ 342 grams

Breast: Highly lifted, well developed, full, carried prominently forward beyond vertical line drawn from point of beak, broad and well rounded, from head to neck to breast "S" shaped profile.

Body & Stern: Body- short, good depth and width, sloping from front to rear. Stern - Fluff, short, abundant.

Legs: Average length, widely set, parallel to each other without bowing or knock knees, well proportioned.

Lower Thighs: Short, stout at top and tapering to hocks.

Shanks: Medium, smooth, round, evenly scaled.

Toes: Four, straight, well and evenly spread, evenly scaled.

Appearance: Small, broad, compact, active, tame, standing up majestically

Disqualifications :

Comb: Inverted Comb

Legs: Creeper Legs

Wings: Horizontal Wing.

Tail: Squirrel

Defects :

Back: Long or narrow back

Chest/Breast: Shallow or narrow breast

Legs: Short Legs

Wings: Trailing on the ground.

Tail: Main tail sickles curved in a concave manner.

Plumage:

American Seramas are shown in normal feathers, Silkies and Frizzle.

Silkie Seramas:

Silkie Seramas are acceptable. The Silkie feathered should still retain the typical Serama outline, as in the smooth feathered, but the body feathers should have a silkie, loose feather structure (i.e. feathers should have no central vein). This cannot apply to the primary and secondary wing feathers or the main tail feathers, which would nullify any true Serama type. All other characteristics should follow the main standard.



Frizzled Seramas:

Like with silkie Seramas the frizzled Seramas should still retain the typical Serama outline but all body and neck feathers must curl backwards on themselves and point towards the head. All feathers must be broad and as closely curled as possible. This also extends to the wings and tail. In males the sickles feathers should, as in straight feathered Seramas, only protrude just beyond the main tail feathers with the protruding section being curled forward and towards the head. Excessive length of sickles in the male is discouraged due to its impact on the overall distinctive Serama appearance. Defects in the frizzle include lack of frizzling, and the absence of curl to the wings and tail.

As per the Serama breed standard, the plumage is the only difference between frizzled Serama and their straight feathered and silkie feathered counterpart. No other different features are present, e.g. it is not accepted to have any feathering to the legs or feet, crests or comb other than single.



COLOURS:

Seramas most times do not breed true to colour. Any pair of Serama can produce over 2500 colour varieties. Breeding a black bird to a black bird does not mean you will get black offspring.

American refers to the colours accepted by the APA (American Poultry Association) or ABA (American Bantam Association) and can be shown at most "caged" shows.

The recognised colour varieties in American Serama are black, white, grey, wheaten, exchequer, mottled and chocolate.

In January 2023, Blue, Splash and Ginger Red were added to the recognised colours.

Blue

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR LOBES: Deep Red

BEAK: Swarthy yellow

EYES: Reddish Bay

SHANKS & TOES: Yellow to swarthy yellow

PLUMAGE: Blue.

JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS: "The judge should be alert for willow legs when judging the Blue American Serama. Willow legs must be disqualified."

Black

Accepted in Jan 2018.

COMB, FACE, WATTLES and EAR LOBES: Deep Red

BEAK: Black Shading over yellow

EYES: Reddish-bay

SHANKS & TOES: Black Shading over Yellow

PLUMAGE: Male and Female: The quill and surface of every feather in all sections of the plumage, over the entire body, pure black. The head, hackle, back, saddle, sickles and wing bows of the male should have a rich beetle-green sheen. The female should also show brilliance of feather in the head, hackle, back, cushion and wing bows.

UNDER-COLOUR: Dull slate

Splash

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR LOBES: Deep Red

BEAK: Swarthy Yellow

EYES: Reddish Bay

SHANKS & TOES: Yellow to swarthy yellow

PLUMAGE: Blue Splash.

JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS: "The judge should be alert for willow legs. Willow legs must be disqualified."

Ginger Red

COMB, FACE, WATTLES and EAR LOBES: Bright Red

BEAK: Horn EYES: Red

SHANKS and TOES: Willow Green

PLUMAGE: Ginger red.

MALE

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR-LOBES: Bright red.

BEAK: Horn.

EYES: Red.

HEAD: Lustrous Red.

NECK: Hackle - Lustrous orange-yellow, free from striping. Front of Neck- Ginger yellow.

BACK: Lustrous, rich red. Saddle – Bright orange-yellow

TAIL: Black Sickles, Lesser Sickles and Coverts - black with beetle green sheen. Tail

Coverts - black, with green sheen, laced with red.

WINGS, INCLUDING WING FRONTS, SHOULDERS, WING BOWS AND COVERTS:

Rich red.

Primaries - dull black, outer edges ginger red.

Secondaries - dull black, outer edges which form the wing bay are ginger red.

BREAST: Ginger red, becoming darker toward the thighs.

BODY STERN AND LOWER THIGHS: Dusky red.

FLUFF: Slate tinged with red.

LEGS AND TOES: Shanks and Toes: Willow green.

FEMALE

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR-LOBES: right red

BEAK: Horn

EYES: Red

HEAD: Soft ginger yellow.

NECK: Hackle Golden yellow, striped with black. Front of Neck Ginger yellow.

BACK: Ginger yellow stippled with black.

TAIL: Dull black, top two main tail feathers Stippled with black. Tail Coverts Ginger yellow stippled with black.

WINGS, INCLUDING WING FRONTS, SHOULDERS, WING BOWS AND COVERTS:

ginger yellow stippled with black. primaries dully black, lower edges light ginger.

Secondaries dark ginger, lower edges forming the wing bay stippled with Black.

BREAST: Ginger yellow.

BODY: Dull ginger.

STERN AND FLUFF: Slate tinged with ginger.

LEGS AND TOES: Lower Thighs Ginger Shanks and Toes: Willow green

UNDER-COLOUR OF ALL SECTIONS: Slate

SCALE OF POINTS:

Type and Carriage	55
Temperament	15
Legs and feet	10
Head	10
Condition	10
Total	100

NOTES:

Although the American Serama Breed Standard reads very similar to the Ayam Serama Breed Standard, there are differences and is noted below:

1. American Seramas (America) are shown as "True Bantam Soft Feather", whereas Ayam Seramas (Malaysia) are "Asian Hard Feather Bantam" breeds.

2. Type

Malaysian and American Seramas have slightly different body types. "... the Malaysian-style Serama has a different, more 'extreme' body type." Malaysian varieties tend to have a more upright, vertical stance and more protruding chest.

3. Weight

American Serama

cock 455g

cockerel 398g

hen 398g

pullet 342g

Ayam Serama

Cock 500 g max

Hen 450 g max

Cockerel 300 g max

Pullet 250 g max

4. Colours

Ayam Serama:

Colour (Code: 596 – All Other Colours).

Like some other Asiatic breeds, Ayam Seramas are not colour bred in their native country. Any colour or combination is allowed. The more beautiful the colour and the more shine on the feather, the better.

Ayam Seramas can only be entered in shows as AOC (All Other Colours).

American Serama:

American refers to the colours accepted by the APA (American Poultry Association) or ABA (American Bantam Association) and therefore can be shown at most "caged" shows. As of 2019, the American accepted colours are white, black and exchequer. In January 2023, Blue, Splash and Ginger Red were added to the accepted colours.

(Other recognised colour varieties in American Serama are grey, wheaten, mottled and chocolate).

5. Feathers

Ayam Serama:

Only normal feathered birds are accepted in Malaysia therefore the Ayam Serama can only be shown in normal feathers.

American Serama:

Silkies, frizzles and rumpless Seramas are accepted in America and in the European countries where the American standard is accepted.

6. Eggs

Ayam Serama eggs weight between 30g max.

American Serama eggs weight between 28-32g.

7. Judging

American Seramas are shown "caged".

Ayam Seramas are shown "on tabletop" as performance birds. The Serama standard for tabletop removes all colours, with an increased focus on Character and Performance.