



SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHOW POULTRY ORGANISATION BREED STANDARDS

ARAUCANA



ORIGIN:	Chile/Britain
CLASSIFICATION:	Light Breed: Soft feather
EGG COLOUR:	Blue (Sitters)
MASSES:	

LARGE FOWL

Male:	2.7 – 3.2 kg
Female:	2.3 – 2.7 kg

BANTAMS

Male:	740 – 850 g
Female:	680 – 790 g

The Indians of the Arauca province of northern Chile had two domestic breeds that were eventually crossbred with Spanish fowl and others. Of special importance to the history is that a shipwreck of a Chilean freighter many decades ago, in the Western Isles of Scotland, established there a type of blue egg layer from Chile, which were tailed, bearded and muffed and these birds became the forbearer for the birds now recognized as the Standard Araucana in Britain and Australia. The name Araucana for the breed is therefore derived from that part of the world where the South American and European fowls had the least opportunity to interbreed. The Araucana breed standard in the British Isles is generally as envisaged by George Malcolm who created the true-breeding lavender Araucana, amongst other colours, in Scotland during the 1930s.

Araucanas are prolific layers of strong-shelled eggs, light blue to blue-green eggs. These are unique in that their colour permeates throughout the shell. The gene for blue eggs is dominant, so the term “Easter Egger” is used to describe birds of mixed breeding that produce such

eggs. Unfortunately, these mixed breeds are often incorrectly labelled as Araucanas or Ameraucanas, and marketed to backyard poultry hobbyists who are not aware of the difference.

In short, the differences are as follows:

- **Araucana** (USA and Canada) – tufts (lethal allele), no crest, beards or muffs, rumpless, blue eggs, willow legs and yellow skin (with exceptions).
- **Ameraucana** (USA) – no tufts, i.e. no lethal gene and no crest, but beards and muffs with tail feathers, blue eggs, slate legs and white skin.
- **Araucana** (Britain, Ireland, New Zealand, Asia, Japan, Russia, Holland, France, Spain, Belarus, Ukraine, Scandinavia, Argentina, Chile, **South Africa**, Pacific Islands, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Arabic Nations, India, Pakistan, Nepal and Australia) – no tufts, i.e. no lethal gene, but crest, beards and muffs, with tail feathers, blue eggs, slate or olive/willow legs and grey/white skin.
- **Easter and Olive Eggers** – Easter Eggers lay blue eggs and Olive Eggers lay green eggs, both with variable traits and not recognised as a breed in any country.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

THE MALE

Carriage:	Alert and active.
Type/body:	Body long and deep, free from heaviness. Firm in handling. Back moderately long, horizontal. Wings large and strong carried tight against the body.
Tail:	Well developed with full sickles carried at an angle of 45 degrees.
Head:	Moderately small. Beak: strong and stout. Eyes: bold. Comb: small pea. Face covered with thick muffling and beard. Ear muffs abundant. Crest: compact, carried well back from eyes. Ear-lobes: moderately small, hardly perceptible, smooth to touch. Wattles: absent.
Neck:	Of medium length abundantly furnish with hackle feathers.
Legs and feet:	Legs of medium length strong and well apart. Shanks free from feathers. Toes: four, straight and well spread.

THE FEMALE

The general characteristics of the female are similar to those of the male allowing for the natural sexual differences. Comb: pea, but minimal.

COLOUR

In both sexes and all colours:	Comb, face and wattles bright/light red. Eyes dark orange in all colours. Legs and feet willow to olive or slate, except in the cuckoo - white to light yellow with some spotting and crele - white with blue spots.
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Male and female plumage:

Black, white, black red, silver and golden duckwing, blue, blue red, cuckoo, crele, spangle and pile. Any Old English Game colour excluding off-colours. Any self colour including lavender. In lavender, both sexes to be a uniform blue-grey throughout.

SERIOUS DEFECTS

Cut-away breast. Roach back. Crest too small or too large, e.g. Polish type. Comb lopped or twisted. Comb other than pea comb. Large comb in female. Legs other than standard colour. Uneven or splashed breast colour. In males white in base of tail. In lavenders any straw or brassy tinge.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Absence of crest or muffling. Comb other than of pea type in male. Pearl eye. Any comb other than minimal in female.

BANTAMS

Araucana bantams are to be exact miniatures of their large fowl counterparts and so standard, colour and scale of points apply.

SERIOUS DEFECTS

As large fowl, plus low wing carriage. Any tendency to rosecomb.

SCALE OF POINTS	
Type and carriage	25
Crest and muffling	25
Comb	15
Other head points	5
Feet and legs	5
Colour	15
Condition and handling	10
TOTAL	100