



SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHOW POULTRY ORGANISATION BREED STANDARDS

BRESSE



ORIGIN:	France
CLASSIFICATION:	Light breed: Soft feather
EGG COLOUR:	White (Non-Sitters)
MASSES:	
Cock:	2.5 to 2.7kg
Hen:	2.0 to 2.3kg
Cockerel:	2.2 to 2.5kg
Pullet:	1.8 to 2.0kg

The Bresse, deriving its name from the territory south of Burgundy, is a fairly firmly established favourite in France, renowned for its table qualities. There have been many attempts to popularize the breed in Britain, and it is strange that a bird of such potentialities should fail to make its mark, for it is not to be despised as a layer, and it is quick maturing and hardy. As to its failure as a table bird in Britain possibly an answer is to be found in the fact that it possesses shanks of a dark slate colour, and on the British side of the Channel the prejudice against skin and legs of any colour other than white is extremely strong.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

MALE

Carriage: Active and graceful.

Body: Body fairly broad and compact. Back moderately long, broad shoulders and saddle. Breast: well-rounded and deep. Wings: long and carried close to body. Tail: well developed and carried at an angle of 45 degrees with the back; well-rounded sickle feathers.

Head:	Medium sized. Beak: strong and fairly short. Eyes: bold. Comb: single, erect and of medium size, evenly serrated, fine texture, the back part of it (the heel) clear of the neck but following the curve of the head, free from 'thumb marks' and side spikes. Face: smooth and free of feathers. Ear-lobes: well developed. Wattles: medium length, fine in quality and rounded at ends.
Neck:	Of medium length, amply furnished with hackle feathers
Legs and Feet:	Legs: moderately long and well apart. Shanks: free from feathers. Toes: four, straight and well spread.

FEMALE

With the exception of the comb, which falls gracefully over either side of the face, the general characteristics are similar to those of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Comb with white spikes. Black, white or yellow shanks or toes. White in face. White in plumage or under-colour of the black. Straw colour or cream tinge in the white. Any deformity.

COLOURS

THE BLACK

In both sexes:	
Plumage:	The plumage is black with a brilliant beetle-green sheen, and the under-colour black.
Beak:	Dark horn.
Eyes:	Black or dark brown
Comb, face and wattles:	Bright red.
Ear-lobes:	Snow white.
Legs and feet:	Blue-grey.

THE WHITE

In both sexes:

Plumage:	Pure white, straw tinge objectionable.
Beak:	Blue-white.
Eyes:	Black or dark brown.
Comb, face and wattles:	Bright red.
Face:	Red or sooty.
Ear-lobes:	Blue-white or white (a little red allowed).
Legs and feet:	Slate blue.

SCALE OF POINTS	
Type	25
Head	20
Colour	15
Legs and feet	10
Size	10
Quality	10
Condition	10
TOTAL	100