



SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHOW POULTRY ORGANISATION

BREED STANDARDS

DELAWARE



ORIGIN:	American.
CLASSIFICATION:	Heavy breed, soft feather
EGG COLOUR:	Brown.
MASSES:	

LARGE FOWL

Cock:	3.9 kg
Hen:	3.0 kg
Cockerel:	3.4 kg
Pullet:	2.5 kg

BANTAMS

Male:	1.2 kg max
Female:	1.0 kg max

The Delaware breed was first developed in 1940 from off-coloured sports which occurred in the cross between Barred Plymouth Rock males and New Hampshire females. They are named after the State in which they originated. These sports lacked the black extension factor that would normally have been transmitted from the Barred Plymouth Rock male with the result they became almost white, showing a slight indication of barring in the hackle, primaries, secondaries and tail. The breed was admitted to the USA Standard in 1952. It is a dual-purpose fowl with well-developed egg and meat characteristics. They are also excellent as broilers with an abundance of vigour and fine market quality. Delaware males may be mated to New Hampshire or Rhode Island Red females and produce chicks of the Delaware feather pattern. Delaware females may be mated to New Hampshire or Rhode Island Red males, and sex-linked chicks result; the males have the Delaware pattern and the females have the solid red feather pattern of the male. These day-old chicks may be separated according to sexes by their colour.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

THE MALE

- Body:** Moderately long, broad, deep; keel, long, extending well to front at breast and to rear of legs. Fluff: medium in length, moderately full. Breast: deep, full, broad and well rounded. Back: moderately long, nearly horizontal, broad its entire length, forming a gradual concave sweep from saddle to tail. Tail: medium length, well spread, carried at an angle of forty degrees above horizontal. Main tail: broad and overlapping. Main sickles, medium length, extending beyond main tail. Lesser sickles and coverts: medium length, broad. Wings: moderately large, well folded, carried close to body, lower line of folded wing carried horizontally. Primaries and secondaries: broad and overlapping in natural order when wing is folded.
- Head:** Medium in length, moderately deep, inclined to be flat on top. Comb: single, moderately large, well-developed, set firmly on head, perfectly straight and having five well-defined points, those in front and rear smaller than those in center, blade smooth, inclining slightly downward, but not following contour of neck too closely. Beak: strong, medium in length, regularly curved. Face: surface smooth, full in front of eyes, skin fine and soft in texture. Eyes: large, round, prominent. Wattles: moderately large, uniform, free from folds or wrinkles. Ear-lobes: elongated oval, smooth, fitting close to head.
- Neck:** Medium length, well arched. Hackle: well-developed, flowing over shoulders, moderately close feathered.
- Legs and feet:** Legs set well apart, straight when viewed from front. Lower thighs, large and muscular, well- feathered. Shanks: medium length, smooth. Toes: four on each foot, medium length, straight, well spread.

FEMALE

- Body:** Moderately long, broad, deep, well rounded, keel long, extending well to front at breast and to rear of legs. Fluff: medium in length, moderately full. Breast: deep, full, well rounded. Back: moderately long, nearly horizontal, broad its entire length, forming a gradual concave sweep from rear of back to tail. Tail: medium length, moderately well spread, carried at angle of thirty degrees above the horizontal. Wings: moderately large, folded, carried close to body, lower line of folded wing carried horizontally. Primaries and secondaries: broad and overlapping in natural order when wing is folded.
- Head:** Of medium length, moderately deep, inclined to be flat on top. Comb: single, moderately large, well developed, smooth in texture, firm at base, having five well-defined points, those in front and rear smaller than those in center, straight and upright in front, may be straight or inclined to lop at rear. Beak: medium length, regularly curved. Face: surface smooth, full in front of eyes, skin fine and soft in texture. Eyes: large, round, prominent. Wattles: medium size, well developed, well-rounded. Ear-lobes: elongated oval, smooth, fitting close to head.

Neck: Of medium length, slightly arched, moderately close feathered.

Legs and feet: Legs set well apart, straight when viewed from front. Lower thighs: medium length, well feathered, stout. Shanks: medium length, smooth. Toes: four on each foot, medium length, straight, well spread.

COLOUR

BARRED COLUMBIAN

MALE

Comb, Face, Wattles and Ear-lobes: Bright red.

Beak: Reddish horn.

Eye: Reddish bay.

Head: Plumage, white.

Neck: Hackle, web of feather white, crossed with irregular indications of black barring, quill and shaft, white.

Back and Saddle: White.

Tail: Main tail; showing irregular indication of black and white barring, black predominating. Sickles and Coverts: showing irregular indistinct black and white barring; quills and shafts: white.

Wings: Fronts, bows and coverts: white. Primaries and secondaries: showing irregular indication of black and white barring, the black predominating; quill and shaft: white.

Breast: White.

Body and fluff: White.

Legs and toes: Lower thighs: white. Shanks and toes: rich yellow.

Under-colour of all sections: White.

FEMALE

Comb, Face, Wattles and Ear-lobes: Bright red.

Beak: Reddish horn.

Eyes: Reddish bay.

Head: Plumage: white.

- Neck:** Hackle: showing irregular indications of black and white barring; entire web edged with white; quill and shaft: white. Front of neck: white.
- Back:** White.
- Tail:** Main tail: black, entire feather edged with white. Coverts showing indications of irregular black and white barring, predominantly white; quill and shaft: white.
- Wings:** Fronts, Bows and Coverts: white. Primaries and secondaries: showing slight indication of irregular black and white barring, the white predominating; quill and shaft: white.
- Breast:** White.
- Body and fluff:** White.
- Legs and toes:** Lower thighs: white. Shanks and toes: rich yellow.

BANTAMS

The same standard as for the large fowl is applicable.

SCALE OF POINTS	
Type and carriage	20
Head	20
Colour	30
Legs and feet	15
Condition	15
TOTAL	100