



SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHOW POULTRY ORGANISATION BREED STANDARDS

LEGBAR



ORIGIN:	British
CLASSIFICATION:	Light breed: Soft feather
EGG COLOUR:	White or cream (Non-Sitters)
MASSES:	

Cock:	3.2 to 3.4 kg
Cockerel:	2.7 to 3.0 kg
Hen:	2.3 to 2.7 kg
Pullet:	2.1 to 2.3 kg

An autosexing breed is one in which the chicks at hatching can be sexed by their down colouring. It was when crossing the Gold Campine with the Barred Rock in 1929 that Prof R.C.Punnett and Mr M.S. Pease discovered the basic principle in their experimental work at Cambridge, and made the Cambar as the first autosexing breed. Barring is sex-linked, there being a double dose in the male and a single dose in the female, the barring being indicated by the light patch on the head of the chick. This light patch is very similar in chicks of both sexes having black down, but when the barring is transferred to a brown down there is a marked difference. The light head spot on the female chick (one dose) is small and defined, while on the male chick (double dose), it spreads over the body. For that reason, the down colouring in the day-old cockerel is much paler, and the pattern of markings more blurred than in the newly hatched pullet chick, which has the sharper pattern of markings. The next breed to be made was the Legbar, the barring factor this time being transferred to the brown striped down of the Brown Leghorn.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

THE MALE

Carriage:	Very sprightly and alert. There should be no suggestion of stiltiness.
Body:	Wedge shaped, wide at the shoulders and narrowing slightly to root of the tail; prominent breast and straight breast bone. Long flat back sloping slightly to the tail. Large wings tightly carried and well tucked up.

Moderately full tail at an angle of forty-five degrees from the line of the back.

- Head:** Skull fine. Beak: stout, the point clear of the front of the comb. Eyes: prominent. Comb: single, perfectly straight and erect, evenly and well serrated, five to seven spikes (broad at their base) large but not overgrown, extending well beyond the back of the head and following without touching the line of the head; free from thumb marks or side sprigs; face smooth. Ear-lobes: well developed; pendent, equally matched in size and shape, smooth, open and free from folds. Wattles: long and thin.
- Neck:** Long, profusely covered with hackle feathers.
- Legs & Feet:** Moderately long. Shanks: strong and round and free of feathers (flat shins objectionable). Toes: four, long, straight and well spread.
- Plumage:** Of silky texture free from coarse or excessive feather.
- Handling:** Firm with abundance of muscle.

THE FEMALE

General characteristics are similar to those of the male, allowing for sexual differences. But the comb should be erect or falling gracefully over either side of the face without obstructing the eyesight; and tail should be carried closely and not at such a high angle.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Male's comb twisted or falling over. Ear-lobes wholly red. Any white in face. Legs other than orange, yellow or light willow. Squirrel tail. Eye pupil other than round and clearly defined.

COLOURS

GOLDEN

THE MALE

- Beak:** Yellow or horn.
- Eyes:** Orange or red, pupils clearly defined.
- Comb, Face & Wattles:** Bright red.
- Ear-lobes:** Pure opaque white resembling white kid or cream (the former preferred). Slight pink markings and pink edging not unduly to handicap an otherwise good bird for utility purposes.
- Legs & Feet:** Orange or yellow.
- Neck Hackle:** Pale straw, sparsely barred with gold and black.

- Saddle Hackle:** Pale straw barred with bright gold brown as far as possible without black.
- Back:** Shoulder coverts wing-bow; pale straw barred with bright gold brown.
- Wings:** Coverts and wing-bow; dark grey barred (as in Cuckoo Leghorns). Primaries: dark grey barred intermixed with white. Secondaries: dark grey barred intermixed with white and the upper web also intermixed with chestnut.
- Breast:** Underparts: dark grey barred (as in Cuckoo Leghorns).
- Tail:** Grey barred; sickles paler. Coverts: grey barred, some beetling.

THE FEMALE

- Beak:** Yellow or horn.
- Eyes:** Orange or red. Pupils clearly defined.
- Comb, Face & Wattles:** Bright red
- Ear-lobes:** Pure opaque white (resembling white kid) or cream, the former preferred. Slight pink markings and pink edging not unduly to handicap an otherwise good bird for utility purposes.
- Legs & Feet:** Orange, yellow, or light willow.
- Hackle:** Pale gold marks with black bars.
- Breast:** Salmon clearly defined.
- Body:** Dark slaty or smokey grey-brown with indistinct broad soft barrings. The individual feather showing paler shaft and slightly paler edging.
- Wings:** Dark grey-brown.
- Tail:** Dark grey-black with slight indication of lighter broad bars.

SCALE OF POINTS	
Type	30
Colour	20
Legs	10
Condition	10
Head	20
Weight	10
Total	100