



# SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHOW POULTRY ORGANISATION BREED STANDARDS

## VENDA



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**ORIGIN:** South Africa  
**CLASSIFICATION:** Light breed: Soft feather  
**EGG COLOUR:** Tinted (Sitters)  
**MASSES:**

Male: 2.9 to 3.6 kg  
Female: 2.4 to 3.0 kg

The original Venda fowl was discovered in the Venda area of the Limpopo Province in the year 1979 by Dr Naas Coetzee, Government Veterinary Surgeon of Bloemfontein. The basic colours of the fowls are similar to the indigenous cattle and goats, namely black, white and brown. Dr Coetzee was highly impressed by the bird's quality of egg production, self-sustainment, resistance against diseases, low need for food and broodiness. Although similar chickens were later identified in the Southern Cape and the Qua-Qua region of the Free State, the name derived from the original description has been retained.

## GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

### MALE AND FEMALE

**Carriage:** Graceful, alert and well balanced.

**Body:** The ideal Venda is of an average size with medium long legs. The body should be of medium depth, width and length, the whole being in proportion and symmetrical.

**Head:** Finely modelled, medium in length, skull medium deep and broad. Face bright red, strong, not shrunken and free from excessive feathering and wrinkles.

**Comb:** Comb, single and medium in size, fine in texture, evenly serrated with five to seven serrations. It should be straight, erect and the blade

carried horizontally. It should follow the shape of the head with no beefiness or tendency to project over the beak.

- Beak:** Beak, short, stout, thick at the base and well curved.
- Wattles:** Medium size and fine in texture, without any folds or wrinkles.
- Ear-lobes:** Well-rounded and of medium size. Fine in texture and in proportion to the comb and head.
- Eyes:** Eyes large, full, bright, prominent and expressive, free from drooping lids, not shrunken or with beetle brows.
- Neck:** Medium length, well arched and covered with hackle of medium length reaching the shoulders.
- Back and saddle:** Of medium length, broad and flat with no indication of roundness, slightly narrowing to the tail. The saddle should be broad, rounded and full in conformity with the tail in order to make a graceful sweep from the back.
- Depth of body:** From the back to the base of the breast bone, medium depth.
- Breast:** Long, straight, full, deep and well rounded.
- Ribs:** Well sprung.
- Shoulders:** Shoulders should be wide and flat.
- Wings:** Long, strong, well folded, nicely formed and carried high and close to the body.
- Tail:** Medium length, main tail feathers well spread and carried at an angle of 45° to 50°. The sickles of the males: medium length.
- Abdomen:** In females the pelvic bones straight and fine, well spread and pliable with good depth to the end of the breast bone.
- Legs and feet:** Lean, of medium length, strong and rather wide apart, with close fitting scales. Toes, four on each foot, straight, strong and well spread.
- Plumage:** Fairly profuse, but close and free from any unnecessary fluff.

## THE FEMALE

The general characteristics of the female are similar to those of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences.

## DISQUALIFICATIONS

Other than four toes. Wry tail or any other deformity. Feathers on hock and/or toes. Rose comb. White in ear-lobes. Any foreign colours. Any evidence of alien blood, e.g. white legs, white skin, other than yellow beak, etc.

## **PARTICULAR VARIETY DISQUALIFICATIONS:**

### **THE BLACK, SPOTTED WHITE**

A feather entirely white that shows in the outer plumage.

### **THE TRI-COLOUR**

A feather entirely white or entirely black that shows in the outer plumage.

## **COLOUR**

### **Both sexes and all varieties:**

**Eyes:** Yellow, red to amber.

**Beak:** Yellow, horn to be avoided.

**Comb, face, wattles  
and ear-lobes:** Bright red.

**Legs and feet:** Yellow, mottles permissible. Soles of feet, yellow.

**Skin:** Yellow.

### **THE BLACK, SPOTTED WHITE**

**In both sexes:** Black with a beetle-green sheen, tipped with irregular white stains, mottles or splashes throughout. Excessive white markings or uneven distribution to be avoided. In all sections the black should be dominant over the white. Under-colour dark grey to slaty black.

### **THE TRI-COLOUR**

**In both sexes:** Brown to chestnut red, tipped with irregular black and white stains, mottles or splashes throughout, except for the under-colour that should be grey. Excessive white and black markings or uneven distribution to be avoided. In all sections the brown should be dominant over the white and black.

<b>SCALE OF POINTS</b>	
Head: Comb 4, wattles and ear-lobes 2, eyes 4, skull and face 2, beak 2.	14
Colour	30
Type	20
Size	18
Condition	10
Legs and Feet	8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>