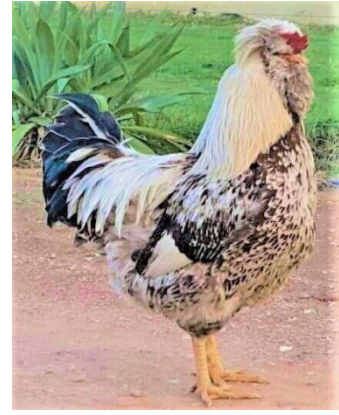




SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHOW POULTRY ORGANISATION BREED STANDARDS

HERERO Provisional Standard



ORIGIN: Namibia and South Africa.
CLASSIFICATION: Light breed: Soft feather.
EGG COLOUR: Tinted to Brown (Sitters).
MASSES:

Male:	3.0 kg
Female:	2.5 kg
Cockerel:	2.7 kg
Pullet	2.0 kg

The first Herero chickens were brought to South Africa from Namibia by Mr. Johnny Morrison in 2001. While looking for a specific goat breed in Herero land, north of Gobabis, he saw these interesting and beautiful crested and bearded fowl, roaming amongst the local Herero people's homesteads. The Herero fowl's crest immediately reminded him of the colourful headdresses, traditionally worn by the Herero women. What also amazed Mr. Morrison, was how well the different earthy colour varieties matched their savanna surroundings perfectly, camouflaging them well against birds of prey, which are very prolific in that area. No two fowl were identical in colour.

He brought some chicks with him from Namibia and raised them to adult size on his farm in the Orange Free State. He never allowed these Herero fowl to crossbreed with any other fowls on his farm. He has kept them pure from the day he obtained them and only interbred them. He discovered that they breed pure to crests and beards and kept their variety in earthy colours. Some carry both crests and beards. Some only crests and some only beards. He selected for prominent crests and full muffling or beards, as this was what he saw on the original fowl in Herero land.

As an indigenous African breed, the Herero is a good egg producer, all year round. They put tasty meat on the table, are self-sustainable, have good resistance against diseases, low need for food and the hens have excellent mothering ability. It is speculated that they might have originated out of Faverolles and Sulmtaler cross-mating with local fowl. The Herero developed into a true African fowl breed and should be kept as such for generations to come.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

MALE AND FEMALE

- Carriage:** Slightly upright with slightly sloping back. Graceful, well balanced, active and alert.
- Body:** Body deep and broad, especially over the shoulders. Back fairly long, and sloping towards the tail end. Breast rather full and prominent.
- Head:** Of medium size, broad, with a crest and beard/muffling. Crest of medium size, full and compact, round on top and not divided or split, composed of feathers similar to those of the body, inclining slightly backwards fully, to expose the single comb, in no way obstructing eye sight except from behind. The back feathers of the crest flowing down onto the neck hackle in males.
- Face:** Muffling large, full and compact, fitting around to the back of the eyes and almost hiding the face.
- Comb:** Single comb. Small in females. Males: beefy comb with 5 to 6 serrated points, even serrations preferred, attached to the front of the head, close to the base of the beak, and hanging loosely at the back end, not going into the crest. Back end may be lopped, but must not obstruct the eyesight. An upright comb for the males is ideal. Front end of comb is slightly pleated where it is attached.
- Beak:** Rather short and stout, well curved.
- Wattles:** Wattles small and well rounded, almost concealed by beard, and not prominent.
- Ear-lobes:** Earlobes small, entirely concealed by muffling.
- Eyes:** Bold.
- Neck:** Erect, thick and of medium length, with abundant hackle coming well down on the back.
- Back:** Rather long, broad its entire length, flat at shoulders, slightly sloping from neck to saddle.
- Wings:** Closely carried wings of moderate length. Strong and well tucked in, carried nearly horizontal with back line. Primaries and secondaries; broad and overlapping in natural order when wing is folded.
- Tail:** Tail feathers of medium length, full, and carried rather low. Well arched in males, carried at an angle of not more than 45 degrees. The sickles of the males: medium length.
- Legs and feet:** Legs set well apart. Lower thighs rather large. Shanks medium length, round, smooth and stout. Toes four on each foot, medium in length, straight and well spread.

THE FEMALE

Small comb, almost concealed by crest. Tail carried rather low, nearly horizontal to back. The rest of the characteristics of the female are similar to those of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences.

SERIOUS DEFECTS

Weak crest, weak beard/muffling. A comb that obstructs the vision in males. Absence of thick, puffed neck hackle. Legs other than yellow

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Comb other than single, side sprigs on comb. More than four (4) toes on each foot. Foot soles not yellow in colour. Absence of a crest, absence of beard/muffling. Split crest. Comb hanging over below horizontal and obstructing the eyesight. Any other standard disqualification as for other poultry breeds.

COLOUR

Any ground and earthy colours, for example shades of grey, brown, wheaten, fawn, black, and white can be chosen. Any combinations of these colours, for example tri-colour, as well as mottling, will be allowed. The colours must make them well-camouflaged in their natural surroundings.

NOTE: The code for **Any Other Colour**, i.e. AOC, must be used as the colour code for all colours of the Herero when entering for shows during the TRIAL period.

Both sexes:

Eyes: Red to red brown.

Beak: Yellow to dark horn.

Face, wattles, ear-lobes, comb: Bright red.

Legs and feet: Bright yellow to dusky yellow. Soles of feet, yellow.

SCALE OF POINTS	
Type and Carriage	25
Crest	15
Beard / Muffling	15
Head and Comb	10
Legs and Feet	10
Colour	10
Condition	15
TOTAL	100