

## THE DONG TAU (Dragon Chicken) BREED STANDARD

(Provisional Standard)



### **Weight:**

**Roosters :** 5.5-6 kg or more

**Hens :** Around 4.5 kg

**Cockerels :** 4.5 kg

**Pullets :** 4 kg

**NB: DONG TAUS CAN NOT WEAR RINGS. THEY ARE EITHER MICROCHIPPED OR TAGGED.**

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Dong Tao village, Vietnam.

**History :** Once reserved for royalty and mandarins.

**Symbol of Prosperity :** Having Dong Tao chicken for offerings, especially during Tet (Lunar New Year), is believed to bring good fortune.

**Protected Breed:** They are a protected native breed in Vietnam, making them even more sought after.

**Rarity :** Difficult to breed due to low hatching rates and susceptibility to disease, driving up prices. Emphasizes are made on its massive, scaly legs (like dragon claws), thick, fleshy scales, wide body, flat chest, and pea-comb, with roosters reaching 6kg+ and hens 4.5kg+, valued for meat and appearance, featuring varied dark plumage and valued for its rich, tough meat, making them a rare, expensive delicacy.

**Appearance :** They have a distinctive look with red skin, raspberry-like combs, and large, muscular bodies.



**Key Breed Standards: Head :** Large head shaped like a bamboo tuber, tight comb (pea-comb in adults, flat in chicks).

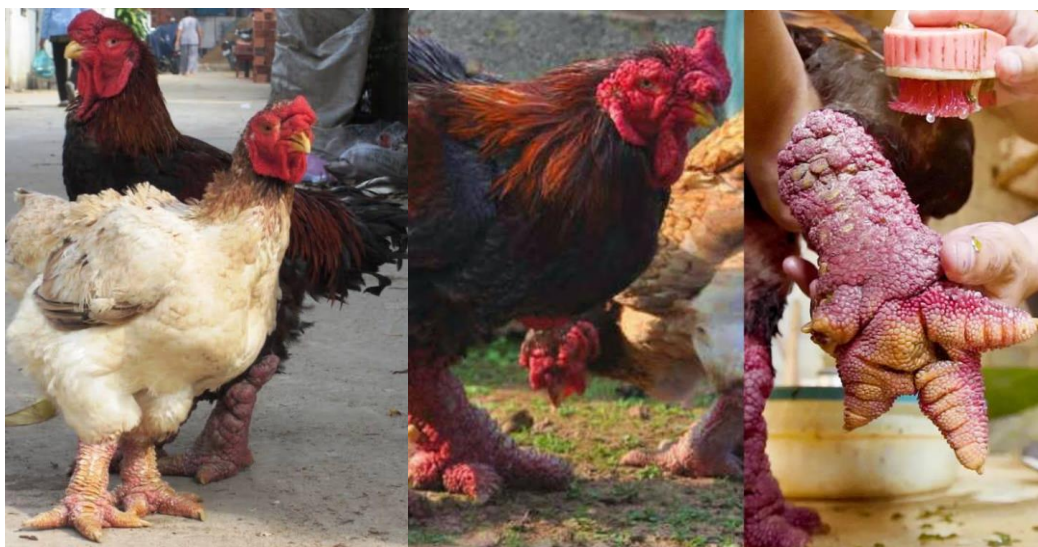
**Comb :** The Dong Tao chicken's comb is typically single, red, thick, and sometimes scaly, resembling a reptile more than a typical bird's comb, often with oversized, hanging wattles, contributing to the breed's "dragon chicken" nickname alongside its distinctive scaly legs. While some sources note it's a pea comb, most agree it's a prominent, sometimes drooping single comb, varying in size but always reddish, matching its scaly skin.

**Eyes :** Dong Tao (Dragon) chickens have distinctive reddish-brown eyes that complement their unique, scaly, tree-trunk-like legs and reddish combs, giving them a somewhat reptilian look, with healthy eyes being bright and clear

**Body :** Large, wide body with a broad, flat chest.

**Wings :** Dong Tao chickens have standard wings with normal feathering, though feather color can vary

**Legs & Feet :** The defining feature; thick, scaly, fleshy, red/pinkish, with blunt toes and well-arranged scales.



**Plumage :** Varies, often dark brown, black, or mottled with blues, reds, and greens.

**Temperament :** Intelligent, docile, enjoy sunlight, but slow-growing and clumsy.

**Egg :** Poor layers (1-2 eggs/week). Dong Tao chicken eggs typically weigh around 40 to 45 grams. This is smaller than a standard chicken egg in most Western countries, which generally averages 50 to 57 grams. They lay brown eggs and are not prolific layers, laying about 1 egg a week.

**Other Characteristics :** Rarity: Difficult to breed due to leg size complicating hatching, making them very rare and expensive.

**Meat Quality :** Tough, rich, flavorful, considered a gourmet food.

**SCALE OF POINTS :**

**TYPE 45**

**HEAD 10**

**BODY 15**

**LEGS 20**

**CONDITION 10**

