
AYAM CEMANI

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ORIGIN: Asia (Indonesia)
 CLASSIFICATION: Asian Hard Feather: Light breed
 EGG COLOUR: Cream to White. (Non-Sitters)

MASSES

LARGE FOWL

Male: 1.8 to 3.0 kg
 Female: 1.2 to 2.5 kg
 Cockerel: 2.7 kg max
 Pullet: 1.8 kg max

The Cemani fowl originates from the Indonesian archipelago. The breed is also found in Central and East Java, Madura Island and Sumatra. Ayam Cemani is a variety of a breed called Kedu. There are three local varieties of Kedu in Indonesia: the Kedu Kedu, Kedu Cemani and Kedu Hsian. The origins of the Kedu can be taken back to the Indonesian Red Jungle fowl (*Gallus bankiva*) and the Javanese Green Jungle fowl (*Gallus varius*).

The first description on record is by Dutch colonists in 1920. It was recorded as a breed in 1924 by Mr Tjokromihardjo from Grabag, Magelang, a town in central Java. In 1998 dr Jan Steverink imported the Ayam Cemani and distributed them to the Netherlands, Germany, Slovakia and Czech Republic. They made their way to the UK in 2008 and then to the USA.

The main characteristic of the breed is the intense black feather colour in combination with black skin colour, including face, earlobes, comb and the inside of the mouth. Black skinned fowl are valued in many Asian countries for eating in ceremonial traditions. Ayam means 'chicken' and cemani means 'black' in Indonesia, translating Ayam Cemani into 'Black Chicken'.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Male

- Carriage:** These birds have a resemblance to Asiatic Pheasant game fowl. Carriage is alert and quite gamey. The male is medium sized, straight and upright in front, wings held strongly to the body with a stately alert appearance.
- Type:** Body medium sized, slim, very firm, muscular and firm in handling. Fairly broad, firm, full and rounded breast, carried high and game-like. Back medium length, sloping from the neck and tapering to the tail. Saddle hackle rather short. Stern firm and compact, narrower than shoulders, little fluff. Wings long, large and strong, held slightly high at the shoulders and tight to the body, neither drooping nor resting on the back. Shoulders wide and firm. Tail carried fairly high with moderate spread with narrow medium length sickles. Rump moderately developed.
- Head:** Medium in length. Face smooth and black. Beak black, firm, well curved. Eyes large, lively in expression, black to dark brownish black with black pupils and eyelids. Single comb, black, large with 5-7 spikes. Rear of comb not following line of the neck. Earlobes black and small.
Wattles black, medium long, rounded. Mouth and tongue black.
- Neck:** Rather long and firm. Hackle extends to the shoulders. Wiry and curved neck hackle are objectionable.
- Legs & Feet:** Black. Thighs medium, powerful, set well-apart and covered with abundant but close-fitting black feathers. Shanks medium and straight. Spurs long and pointed, well-developed in mature male birds. Toes: four, long, strong, black and well spread with back toe standing well back and firm on the ground. Feet well spread and flat on the ground.
- Skin:** Black to dark grey.
- Plumage:** Very rich black with slight beetle-green sheen. The green sheen is not as obvious as in other black breeds. Feathers quite short, narrow and close-fitting.

The Female

1. The back is more horizontal.
2. The face is often more intensive black than the male.
3. Plumage is very rich black with slight beetle-green sheen. The green sheen is not as obvious as in other black breeds.
4. The general characteristics are similar to those of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

1. Tongue and interior of mouth other than black.
2. Eyes other than black to brownish black.
3. Soles, feet and legs other than black.
4. Skin other than black or dark grey.
5. Plumage other than black.
6. White tips on wing feathers or tail.

SCALE OF POINTS

Type	15
Head, beak and eyes	10
Colour	20
Skin colour	30
Legs and Feet	10
Condition	15
TOTAL	100

