



AMERICAN SERAMA (Provisional & Working Standard)



ORIGIN: America

CLASSIFICATION: True Bantam: Soft Feather

WEIGHT:

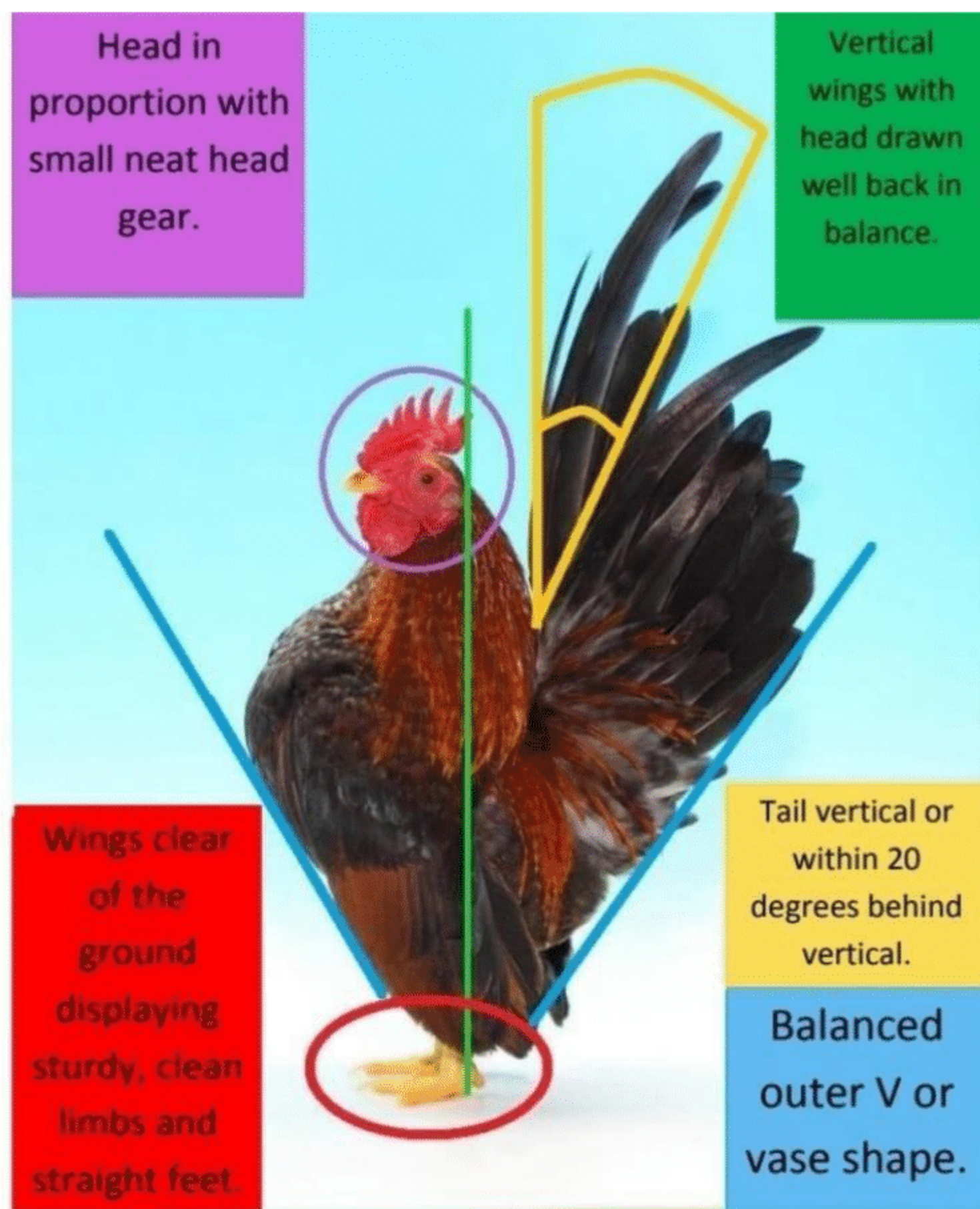
American Serama

Cock	500 g Maximum	Ring Size B
Hen	450 g Maximum	Ring Size A
Stag	450 g Maximum	Ring Size B
Pullet	400 g Maximum	Ring Size A

Eggs : Between 28-32g

NB : It is **MANDATORY** that each American Serama be weighed at each show and its weight be added on its prize card!

The origin of the American Serama is wrapped in a great deal of mystery, although it is accepted as of Asiatic ancestry. Seramas was first introduced in America in 2001. The breed was brought to the US by Jerry Schexnayder and he started his breeding program in Louisiana. When the SCNA (Serama Council of North America) delivered the American Serama Standard for ABA/APA approval and acceptance, the ownership of the American Serama Standard written by the members of SCNA was awarded to those entities. The first Serama arrived in the United Kingdom on 2004 and The Serama Club of Great Britain was founded in 2005.



The UK Serama standard
Serama Correct Outline

There is now agreement that the American Serama is a separate breed from the Ayam Malay Serama. The latter is not standardized in Europe. The AYAM were developed by line breeding the TRADITIONAL/ AMERICAN dad to daughter, dad to granddaughters and later eggs were smuggled and these crossed offsprings were crossed with Modern Game bantams for a taller slimmer bird, now called Ayam Serama. In USA the Ayam Serama is shown as table top performance birds. Through selective breeding we started isolating the genes and type and created what is now the American Serama, several colors were recognized and they became what is known as the American Serama. All other colors were referred to as Traditional Serama. The ABA & APA accepted the American which are shown in cage. All other colors are not colorized and are now called Traditional Serama and are shown table top only, at our smaller shows the American and Traditional are shown together table top only, as they have the same Standard.

The UK and America are also anxious to keep the names separate, so that people know what breed we are referring to. One of the reasons for keeping them separate are animal welfare issues, especially with the hens, where an excessively short back coupled with an extreme upright stance has to affect/distort the egg laying structure. It is believed that such birds have a strong tendency of prolapse and egg peritonitis.

The coloured photo, "Serama Correct Outline", indicates the correct outline and stance of the American and UK Serama. American Seramas have a slightly different body type and stance from the Ayam Serama (Malay). The Ayam Serama (Malay) varieties tend to have a more "extreme" or "S" body type and tend to have a more upright, vertical stance and more profound protruding chest.

Male standard:
Shape of Male:

Head: Small, carried well back in proud manner.

Comb: Single, medium, set firmly and evenly on head, straight and upright, evenly serrated with five regular and distinct points, the middle points the same length as the width of the blade, moderately arched, blade should extend well over back of head.

Beak: Strong, stout, well curved.

Face: small, rounded, smooth, fine in texture, free from wrinkle or folds.

Eyes: Round, conspicuous.

Wattles: Medium, round, fine in texture, free from wrinkles or folds.

Ear Lobes: Small, oval, fitting closely to head.

NB : There shall be NO disqualification or discrimination against white in the ear lobes, as long as it is not a solid white/enamel earlobe.

Neck: Medium length, backward arched showing off breast, full, tapering gracefully from shoulders to head.

Hackle: Abundant, flowing naturally from front of neck reaching far back covering both shoulders.

Back: Short, broad in profile, shaped like a V with neck and tail forming the vertical sides.

Tail Coverts & Saddle: Slightly curved, sword shaped hanging over the abdomen and covering back, widely spread, overlapping the tail and lesser sickles.



Tail: Moderately large and upright, carried in an upright position so as to almost contact the back of head.

Main Tail: Feathers wide, moderately spread in a neatly overlapping manner, rising above the head, "A" shaped from the rear view.

Main Sickles: Medium to long, strong, firm, broad sword-shaped slightly curved.

Lesser Sickles: Well spread, medium length slightly upright, sword-shaped sickle feathers covered with coverts.

Coverts: Abundant, becoming very broad, flowing well up tail.

Wings: Large, long, closely folded, carried vertically not quite touching the ground.

Wings should be broad, ending in an almost horizontal line. Wings in front of the legs should be DQ.

NB : Split Wing, Scissor Wing, Slip Wing – is a Disqualification

Shoulders and Fronts: Prominent, slightly concealed by hackle.

Bows: Well rounded.

Coverts: Feathers broad, forming two distinct bars across wings.

Primaries: Moderate width, rather long, completely concealed by secondaries.

Secondaries: Broad, tapering convexly to rear, wing bay well exposed.

Breast: Highly lifted, well developed, full, carried prominently forward beyond vertical line drawn from point of beak, broad and well rounded, from head to neck to breast "S" shaped profile.

Body & Stern: Body: short, good depth and width, sloping from front to rear. Stern: fluff, short, abundant.

Legs: average length, widely set, parallel to each other without bowing or knock knees, well proportioned.

Lower Thighs: Short, stout at top and tapering to hocks.

Shanks: Medium, smooth, round, evenly scaled.

Toes: Four, straight, well and evenly spread, evenly scaled.

Appearance: Small, broad, compact, active, tame, standing up majestically.

Disqualifications:

Comb: Inverted Comb

Legs: Creeper Legs

Wings: Horizontal Wing, Split Wing, Scissor Wing, Slip Wing

Tail: Squirrel

Defects :

Back: Long or narrow back

Chest/Breast: Shallow or narrow breast

Legs: Short Legs

Wings: Trailing on the ground.

Tail: Main tail sickles curved in a concave manner.



Female Standard:

Shape of Female :

Head: Small, carried well back in proud manner.

Comb: Single, small, set firmly and evenly on head, straight and upright, evenly serrated with five regular and distinct points, the middle points the same length as the width of the blade, moderately arched, blade should extend well over back of head.

Beak: Strong, stout, well curved.

Face: Small, rounded, smooth, fine in texture, free from wrinkle or folds.

Eyes: Round, conspicuous.

Wattles: Small, round, fine in texture, free from wrinkles or folds.

Ear Lobes: Small, oval, fitting closely to head.

NB : There shall be NO disqualification or discrimination against white in the ear lobes, as long as it is not a solid white/enamel earlobe.

Neck: Medium length, backward arched showing off breast, full, tapering gracefully from shoulders to head.

Hackle: Abundant, flowing naturally from front of neck reaching far back covering both shoulders.

Back: Short, broad, in profile, shaped like a V with neck and tail forming the vertical sides.

Cushion: Short, feathers broad and plentiful.

Tail: Moderately large and upright, carried in an upright position so as to almost contact the back of head.

Main Tail: Feathers wide, moderately spread in a neatly overlapping manner, rising above the head "A" shaped from the rear view.

Coverts: Abundant, becoming very broad, flowing well up tail.

Wings: Large, long, closely folded, carried vertically not quite touching the ground,

Wings should be broad, ending in an almost horizontal line. Wings in front of the legs should be DQ.

Shoulders and Fronts: Prominent, slightly concealed by hackle.

Bows: Well rounded.

Coverts: Feathers broad, forming two distinct bars across wings.

Primaries: Moderate width, rather long, completely concealed by secondaries.



Female Standard

Hen 14 oz/ 398 grams

Pullet 12 oz/ 342 grams

Secondaries: Broad, tapering convexly to rear, wing bay well exposed.

Breast: Highly lifted, well developed, full, carried prominently forward beyond vertical line drawn from point of beak, broad and well rounded, from head to neck to breast "S" shaped profile.

Body & Stern: Body- short, good depth and width, sloping from front to rear. Stern - Fluff, short, abundant.

Legs: Average length, widely set, parallel to each other without bowing or knock knees, well proportioned.

Lower Thighs: Short, stout at top and tapering to hocks.

Shanks: Medium, smooth, round, evenly scaled.

Toes: Four, straight, well and evenly spread, evenly scaled.

Appearance: Small, broad, compact, active, tame, standing up majestically

Disqualifications :

Comb: Inverted Comb

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Wings: Horizontal Wing, Split Wing, Scissor Wing, Slip Wing

Tail: Squirrel

Defects :

Back: Long or narrow back

Chest/Breast: Shallow or narrow breast

Legs: Short Legs

Wings: Trailing on the ground.

Tail: Main tail sickles curved in a concave manner.

Plumage:

American Seramas are shown in normal feathers, Silkies and Frizzle.

Silkie Seramas:

Silkie Seramas are acceptable. The Silkie feathered should still retain the typical Serama outline, as in the smooth feathered, but the body feathers should have a silkie, loose feather structure (i.e. feathers should have no central vein). This cannot apply to the primary and secondary wing feathers or the main tail feathers, which would nullify any true Serama type. All other characteristics should follow the main standard.



Frizzled Seramas:

Like with silkie Seramas the frizzled Seramas should still retain the typical Serama outline but all body and neck feathers must curl backwards on themselves and point towards the head. All feathers must be broad and as closely curled as possible. This also extends to the wings and tail. In males the sickles feathers should, as in straight feathered Seramas, only protrude just beyond the main tail feathers with the protruding section being curled forward and towards the head. Excessive length of sickles in the male is discouraged due to its impact on the overall distinctive Serama appearance. Defects in the frizzle include lack of frizzling, and the absence of curl to the wings and tail.

As per the Serama breed standard, the plumage is the only difference between frizzled Serama and their straight feathered and silkie feathered counterpart. No other different features are present, e.g. it is not accepted to have any feathering to the legs or feet, crests or comb other than single.



COLOURS:

Seramas most times do not breed true to colour. Any pair of Serama can produce over 2500 colour varieties. Breeding a black bird to a black bird does not mean you will get black offspring.

American refers to the colours accepted by the APA (American Poultry Association) or ABA (American Bantam Association) and can be shown at most "caged" shows.

The recognised colour varieties in American Serama are black, white, grey, wheaten, exchequer, mottled and chocolate.

In January 2023, Blue, Splash and Ginger Red were added to the recognised colours.

Blue

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR LOBES: Deep Red

BEAK: Swarthy yellow

EYES: Reddish Bay

SHANKS & TOES: Yellow to swarthy yellow

PLUMAGE: Blue.

JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS: "The judge should be alert for willow legs when judging the Blue American Serama. Willow legs must be disqualified."

Black

Accepted in Jan 2018.

COMB, FACE, WATTLES and EAR LOBES: Deep Red

BEAK: Black Shading over yellow

EYES: Reddish-bay

SHANKS & TOES: Black Shading over Yellow

PLUMAGE: Male and Female: The quill and surface of every feather in all sections of the plumage, over the entire body, pure black. The head, hackle, back, saddle, sickles and wing bows of the male should have a rich beetle-green sheen. The female should also show brilliance of feather in the head, hackle, back, cushion and wing bows.

UNDER-COLOUR: Dull slate

Splash

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR LOBES: Deep Red

BEAK: Swarthy Yellow

EYES: Reddish Bay

SHANKS & TOES: Yellow to swarthy yellow

PLUMAGE: Blue Splash.

JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS: "The judge should be alert for willow legs. Willow legs must be disqualified."

Ginger Red

COMB, FACE, WATTLES and EAR LOBES: Bright Red

BEAK: Horn EYES: Red

SHANKS and TOES: Willow Green

PLUMAGE: Ginger red.

MALE

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR-LOBES: Bright red.

BEAK: Horn.

EYES: Red.

HEAD: Lustrous Red.

NECK: Hackle - Lustrous orange-yellow, free from striping. Front of Neck- Ginger yellow.

BACK: Lustrous, rich red. Saddle – Bright orange-yellow

TAIL: Black Sickles, Lesser Sickles and Coverts - black with beetle green sheen. Tail

Coverts - black, with green sheen, laced with red.

WINGS, INCLUDING WING FRONTS, SHOULDERS, WING BOWS AND COVERTS:
Rich red.
Primaries - dull black, outer edges ginger red.
Secondaries - dull black, outer edges which form the wing bay are ginger red.
BREAST: Ginger red, becoming darker toward the thighs.
BODY STERN AND LOWER THIGHS: Dusky red.
FLUFF: Slate tinged with red.
LEGS AND TOES: Shanks and Toes: Willow green.

FEMALE

COMB, FACE, WATTLES AND EAR-LOBES: right red
BEAK: Horn
EYES: Red
HEAD: Soft ginger yellow.
NECK: Hackle Golden yellow, striped with black. Front of Neck Ginger yellow.
BACK: Ginger yellow stippled with black.
TAIL: Dull black, top two main tail feathers Stippled with black. Tail Coverts Ginger yellow stippled with black.
WINGS, INCLUDING WING FRONTS, SHOULDERS, WING BOWS AND COVERTS:
ginger yellow stippled with black. primaries dully black, lower edges light ginger.
Secondaries dark ginger, lower edges forming the wing bay stippled with Black.
BREAST: Ginger yellow.
BODY: Dull ginger.
STERN AND FLUFF: Slate tinged with ginger.
LEGS AND TOES: Lower Thighs Ginger Shanks and Toes: Willow green
UNDER-COLOUR OF ALL SECTIONS: Slate

SCALE OF POINTS:

Type and Carriage	55
Temperament	15
Legs and feet	10
Head	10
Condition	10
Total	100

*The Cajun Serama Council Inc, headquartered in Louisiana, USA, the largest and oldest Serama organization in America recently adopted changes to the way Serama are shown, we now accept, approve and lump together the American and Traditional Serama into one type and further break down to cock, hen, cockerel, pullet classes, we no longer show the American Serama in cage, but table top alongside the Traditional. We also created a new type, the Novelty Serama, which includes the silkied, frizzled, booted and gypsy face, shown table top in male and female classes and finally the Ayam/Malay types which includes the Ayam, Midern and Extreme serama in male and female classes. We are excited with this new concept of showing serama and encourage this method of showing Serama worldwide.

NOTES:

Jerri Shex quote "Yes I imported 135 birds from Malaysia in 2001, We did not recognize them as a breed but a landrace (a breed in the making) for the first several years they were referred to as Malaysian Serama. Through selective breeding we started isolating the genes and type and created what is now the American Serama, several colors were recognized and they became what is known as the American Serama, All other colors were referred to as traditional Serama, the ABA & APA accepted the American which are shown in cage. All other colors are not colorized and are now called traditional Serama and are shown table top only, at our smaller shows the American and traditional are shown together table top only. The AYAM were developed by line breeding the traditional dad to daughter, dad to granddaughters and then great granddaughters, after a while eggs were smuggled from the far east, what hatched were crossed with the traditionals and the more extreme birds developed, these offspring were the crossed with the modern game birds fir a taller, slimmer birds, they are not recognized by the aba & Apa and shown table top only, American are fixed colors and are shown in cage, traditional are all other not recognized colors and are shown table top, Smuggling is still going on thus the more extreme birds, in show circles these are referred to as the AYAM/MAIAY and include the AYAM, modern Malay and extreme Malay, now we have another category the novelty serama which include the silkied, frizzled and booted and shown table top only Think I've answered all your questions, if not ask away"

Although the American Serama Breed Standard reads very similar to the Ayam Serama Breed Standard, there are differences and is noted below:

1. American Seramas (America) are shown as "True Bantam Soft Feather", whereas Ayam Seramas (Malaysia) are "Asian Hard Feather Bantam" breeds.

2. Type

Malaysian and American Seramas have slightly different body types. "... the Malaysian-style Serama has a different, more 'extreme' body type." Malaysian varieties tend to have a more upright, vertical stance and more protruding chest.

3. Weight

American Serama

cock 455g

cockerel 398g

hen 398g

pullet 342g

Ayam Serama

Cock 500g max

Hen 450g max

Cockerel 300g max

Pullet 250g max

4. Colours

Ayam Serama:

Colour (Code: 596 – All Other Colours).

Like some other Asiatic breeds, Ayam Seramas are not colour bred in their native country. Any colour or combination is allowed. The more beautiful the colour and the more shine on the feather, the better.

Ayam Seramas can only be entered in shows as AOC (All Other Colours).

American Serama:

American refers to the colours accepted by the APA (American Poultry Association) or ABA (American Bantam Association) and therefore can be shown at most "caged" shows. As of 2019, the American accepted colours are white, black and exchequer. In January 2023, Blue, Splash and Ginger Red were added to the accepted colours.

(Other recognised colour varieties in American Serama are grey, wheaten, mottled and chocolate).

5. Feathers

Ayam Serama:

Only normal feathered birds are accepted in Malaysia therefore the Ayam Serama can only be shown in normal feathers.

American Serama:

Silkies, frizzles and rumpless Seramas are accepted in America and in the European countries where the American standard is accepted.

6. Eggs

Ayam Serama eggs weight between 30g max.

American Serama eggs weight between 28-32g.

7. Judging

American Seramas are shown "caged".

Ayam Seramas are shown "on tabletop" as performance birds. The Serama standard for tabletop removes all colours, with an increased focus on Character and Performance.



