
POTCHEFSTROOM KOEKOEK

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ORIGIN:	South Africa
CLASSIFICATION:	Heavy breed: Soft feather
MASSES:	
Cock:	4.5kg
Cockerel:	4.0kg
Hen:	3.5kg
Pullet:	3.0kg

This breed was bred by Mr. C.L. Marais of the Research Institute of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Potchefstroom. The breeding started in 1947. Black Australorp cocks were crossed with White Leghorn hens and the F1 hens and cocks were mated with each other. Few of the progeny showed a striped plumage colour. The striped feather coloured hens of the second and third filial progeny were crossed with Plymouth Rock cocks to obtain progeny homozygous for colour. All the yellow skin progeny were selected and thereafter Potchefstroom Koekoek cocks were crossed with Black Australorp hens. These crosses were made to introduce as much Black Australorp blood as possible. The crossbred hens were mated with Potchefstroom Koekoek cocks and a few progeny with yellow skin appeared in the course of time. Each year only yellow skin cocks were used until the stage was reached when all breeding material showed a striped colour and yellow skin. As a yellow skin is a recessive genetic factor this breed is 100 per cent pure for this characteristic. The striped feather colour is a sex-linked trait.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

THE MALE AND FEMALE

Size and carriage: This breed shows good size and the male appears considerably larger than the hen. The carriage is slightly straight up, alert and graceful.

Type: The ideal Potchefstroom Koekoek cock is a compact fowl with good size, depth, width and medium length of body. The legs are of medium length, set well apart and the tail is compact with the main tail feathers well spread and form an angle of about 45 degrees above the horizontal level of the back. The head must show good depth, width and character. The posture is stately, awake and the body parts in relation with each other. The type of the hen is similar to that of the cock except that she shows the necessary degree of femininity and the tail is carried slightly lower.

- Head:** The head shows good depth and width. The face is clean and the beak is slightly curved and strong. The eyes are large, bright and rich red or bay. The comb is single, upright, with more or less five wedge shaped points. The earlobes are fine in texture and bright red in colour. The lobes are well rounded and in proportion to the size of the comb.
- Neck:** The neck is thick, slightly curved and is well covered with feathers. The hackle feathers flow uniformly over the shoulders. Body is compact and shows good size, width, depth and uniform length. The wings are of medium size and carried firmly against the body. Tail is of medium size, compact and forms an angle of 45 degrees above the horizontal level of the back in both sexes.
- Legs and toes:** The legs, and four toes on each foot, are of medium length and well spread and show a deep yellow colour.
- Note:** Two willow spots (mottles) on each leg of the female allowed for a period of 3 years, effective from July 2018 to July 2021.
- Skin colour:** Yellow

COLOUR

CUCKOO

- Plumage:** Grey to whitish-grey, each feather is striped across with parallel dark grey or black stripes. The stripes are approximately the same width and spread over the whole length of the feather ending with a dark grey or black point. The stripes of the hens are less uniform and darker than those of the cocks. Stripes wider than that of Barred Plymouth Rocks are permissible. The colour, seen as a whole, gives a bluish appearance to the fowl. The under-colour is white to whitish-grey in the cocks and grey in the hens.

DEFECTS

Fowls which appear lanky, or with a shallow body. Tail carried in line with the horizontal level of the back, breast cut away, legs other than straight, hanging or squirrel tail, and a copper colour (brassy) in the feathers of cocks.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

The general disqualifications in the standards apply, but the following have a direct bearing on this breed:

- (a) Any feather colour different to the breed, spread over the whole length of the feather.
- (b) Black under-colour.
- (c) More than a quarter enamel white on the earlobes of mature fowls

SCALE OF POINTS	
Type	25
Condition	15
Feather colour	8
Abdomen	8
Back and shoulders	8
Shape of neck, head and beak	6
Shape and colour of eyes, iris and pupil	6
Shape and texture of comb, lobes and earlobes	6
Breast	6
Tail	4
Legs and feet	4
Colour of comb, lobes, earlobes and face	4
TOTAL	100

