



SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHOW POULTRY ORGANISATION BREED STANDARDS

CALL DUCK



ORIGIN:	Dutch
CLASSIFICATION:	Bantam duck
MASSES:	
Drake:	570 - 800g
Duck:	450 - 700g

All call ducks originally come from Holland. Their original name was Dutch Decoys. The name Call originated in England because of the females loud quack. These little ducks were bred from the Mallard, and the original colour was as in Mallard but were called Brown or Grey. The white variety, which later became the most popular, were sports from the original colour. The breed was developed by wild fowl hunters who used to tie a cord to one leg and allow the little decoy to swim away. On spotting a flock of ducks the hunter would tug at the cord, which made the duck quack loudly usually bringing the flock closer to investigate and within gunshot. They were imported into England prior to 1851 and to America before 1883.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

DRAKE AND DUCK

Carriage:	Nearly horizontal, vigorous, active and alert.
Type:	Body, small and compact, plump, full at the sides and underbody. Breast prominent and full, well rounded. Wings well folded carried close to the body. Wing tips should touch neatly above upper tail cushion. Tail short, slightly elevated.
Head:	Small neat and round with a high skull. The crown must rise abruptly from the bill. Bill short and broad maximum length 3.1cm set low in the head in line with the base of the eye.
Neck:	Short, and thick giving the impression that it is setting directly on the shoulders.
Legs and Feet:	Legs and thighs short and set in the centre of the body. Feet straight and webbed.

TYPE DISQUALIFICATIONS

Deformed wings, angel or slipped wings. Long or scooped bill. Lameness or being unable to stand. Thin-bodied, boat shaped bodies. Flat skulls.

COLOUR

GREY OR BROWN

DRAKE

Plumage: Head and neck iridescent green, white neck ring broken at the back. Breast deep purplish red (or claret) free of lacing. Back greenish grey becoming greenish black over rump. Body-underbody and abdomen light steel grey finely vermiculated with dark lines. Wings lesser and middle coverts brownish grey. Greater coverts dark brownish slate, white bar near ends tipped with black. Primaries; greyish brown. Secondaries; inner webs dark brownish slate, outer webs carrying a wide band of iridescent blue forming the speculum, the lower extremities having a narrow bar of black tipped with white. Stern under cushion black. Tail medium brown bordered by light buff, coverts black. Under colour grey.

Bill: Greenish yellow with dark bean.

Legs and Feet: Deep orange.

DUCK

Plumage: Head a very dark brown to greenish band covers the crown meeting a similar one protracted over the back of the neck. Pale buffy brown band beneath the crown extends from the upper mandible to the back of the head beneath which a conspicuous dark blue line traverses the lores from the eyes to the nostrils and sometimes below this another dark line from the ear towards the mouth. Neck; Golden brown with a dark band the entire length of the back of the neck (darker towards the head). Back; a uniform shade of almond brown each feather prominently pencilled. Tail and upper coverts same as back. Wings coverts same as back but greater coverts have a white bar tipped with black bar. Primaries; greyish brown. Secondaries with iridescent blue forming the speculum the lower extremity having a narrow bar of black tipped with white. Breast, body and stern uniform shade of tan or almond each feather pencilled with dark brown.

Bill: Dull orange with a dark saddle.

Legs and Feet: Orange.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

White flight feathers. Drake totally lacking white neck ring in nuptial plumage. Total absence of bib on drake. Positive ring on neck of duck. Green bill on duck.

WHITE

Bill, legs and feet: Orange. Pure white throughout.

Note: Black or green spots on the bill of the duck are (by most standards) viewed as a defect and can cost the exhibit 2 or at the most 3 points. Young ducks do however usually not have spots. Spots anywhere on the male's bill is a disqualification, black feathers on either sex is also a disqualification. When penalising a bird for cream plumage cognisance should be taken of the age of the feathers. New feathers have oil on them which gives a cream appearance.

BLUE

DRAKE AND DUCK

Head: **Drake:** dark blue. **Duck:** uniform bluish slate.

Eyes: Dark brown.

Wings: Uniform bluish slate with darker shading on wing bows. Three pure white flights on outside of wing.

Plumage: White, the angular bib often extending up to lower mandible. Body plumage uniform bluish slate darker on the back.

Bill: **Drake:** greenish blue. **Duck:** bluish slate.

Legs and feet: Orange and black.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Absence of white bib on breast. Yellow bill. Any colour, other than blue forming over one third of total body plumage.

BUFF

DRAKE AND DUCK

A uniform buff colour throughout free from lacing, the drake's head being a shade darker.

Bill: **Drake,** greenish orange, **duck,** brownish orange as near body colour as possible.

Legs and feet: Orange.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

White neck ring in either sex. Evidence of claret bib on drake.

SILVER

DRAKE

Head and neck: Iridescent green with wider white neck ring completely encircling the neck.

Plumage: Claret with each feather frosted with white. Claret feathers extend along the upper flanks with each feather distinctly frosted with white. Lower flanks and underbody white. Back light grey with black frosting, shading to black with beetle green sheen on the rump. Speculum blue with black thin white band. Tail ashy grey, frosted with white. Outer feathers of tail paler. Undertail black with green sheen.

Bill: Greenish yellow with black bean.

Legs and feet: Orange.

DUCK

Head and neck: Fawn to white with blackish grey graining on the crown and no eyeline.

Plumage: Back white with black mottling. The flanks and underbody are mainly white with occasional black specks Speculum blue with wide white bars.

Bill: Orange-brown spotted with black.

Legs and feet: Orange.

APRICOT

DRAKE

Head and neck: Soft powdery blue with a white neck ring broken at the back.

Plumage: Breast mulberry with no white frosting. Underbody and flanks a very light grey with apricot-grey stippling. Back light grey with darker frosting, shading to blue-grey at the rump and undertail. Speculum dark pearl grey. Bill, apple green with dark bean.

Legs and feet: Orange.

DUCK

Head and neck: Apricot with faint eye stripe. Band of grey on crown.

Plumage: Rich apricot breast and flanks. Light grey feathers on back laced with apricot. Speculum is dark pearl grey. Tail apricot grey.

Bill: Light brown with dark saddle.

Legs and feet: Orange.

BLUE-FAWN

DRAKE

- Head and neck:** Charcoal blue with white collar almost encircling the neck.
- Plumage:** Breast claret with no white frosting. Flanks and underbody light grey with dark grey stippling. Back blue-grey shading to dark blue grey at the rump and undertail. Tail darker blue-grey in the centre, the outer tail feathers being paler. Speculum matt charcoal blue with white borders.
- Bill:** Green with dark bean.
- Legs and feet:** Orange.

DUCK

- Head and neck:** Darker band of blue-grey on crown and back of neck. Eye stripes as in the grey/brown with pale fawn throat.
- Plumage:** Fawn breast and flanks, each feather pencilled with blue-grey. Back, mainly blue with distinct, but fine fawn lace., becoming finer on the larger feathers. Tail blue-grey with fawn tinge, the outer feathers being paler. Speculum matt charcoal blue.
- Bill:** Green with dark bean.
- Legs and feet:** Orange.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Drake, no bib or neck Ring. Duck, evidence of white neck ring or white chin.

OTHER COLOURS

Magpie, Chocolate, Fawn and White, Black, Khaki, Butterscotch, Pied and Lavender.

SCALE OF POINTS	
Type	30
Size	20
Colour	20
Head, neck and bill	15
Legs and feet	5
Condition	10
TOTAL	100