



## SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHOW POULTRY ORGANISATION BREED STANDARDS

### INDIAN RUNNER



**ORIGIN:** Asiatic

**CLASSIFICATION:** Light

**EGG COLOUR:** White or tinted

**MASSES:**

Drake: 1.6 to 2.3kg

Duck: 1.4 to 2.0kg

Birds shown in the same year as hatched may be accepted for competition at 250g less.

A ship's captain brought fawns, fawn-and-white and whites to England from Malaya distributing them in Dumfriesshire and Cumberland. They proved prolific layers and there was a class of fawn runners shown at the Dumfries show in 1876, but the fawn-and-white were not exhibited until 1896. The Indian Runner Duck Club's standard of 1907 described only the fawn-and-white. The fawn was included in 1913, while the 1926 standard included the black and chocolate varieties.

### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

#### DRAKE AND DUCK

**Carriage:** Upright and active. The "angle of inclination" of the body to the horizontal varies from 50 to 80 degrees when on the move and not alarmed, but when standing to attention, or excited or specially trained for the show pen, it may assume an almost perpendicular pose.

**Type:** Body slim, elongated, rounded, but slightly flattened across the shoulders. At the lower extremity the front line sweeps gradually round to the tail, which is neat and compact and almost in a line with the body or horizontally, but, in some excellent birds, slightly elevated or tilted upwards - the position of the tail varying with the attitude of the bird, but habitually upturned sterns and tails (as in the Pekin duck) are considered objectionable. Stern short compared with other breeds, the

prominence of the abdomen and stern varying in ducks according to the season and the age of the bird, being fuller when in lay, but a large pendulous abdomen and a long stern or a "cut away" abdomen in young ducks to be avoided. Wings: small proportion to the size of the bird, tightly packed to the body and well tucked up, the tips of the flights of the wings crossing each other over the rump, more particularly when standing to attention. At the upper extremity, the body gradually and imperceptibly contracts to form a funnel shaped process, which again, without obvious junction, merges into the neck proper, the lower or thickest portion of this funnel shaped process or "neck expansion" being reckoned as part of the body.

**Head:** Lean and racy looking and with the bill wedge-shaped. Skull flat on top, and the eye socket set so high that its upper margin seems almost to project above the line of the skull. Eyes: bright, full very alert and intelligent. Bill: strong and deep at the base where it fits imperceptibly into the skull. There should be no indication of a joint or "stop". The upper mandible very strong and nicely ridged from side to side, the line of the lower mandible also straight. There should be no depression or hollow in the upper line from its tip to its base, and the outline should run with a clean sweep from the tip of the bill to the back of the skull. The length and depth varies, but should never be out of balance or harmony with the rest of the head and the lines of the bird as a whole.

**Neck:** Long and slender, and when the bird is on the move or standing at attention, almost in a line with the body, the head being high and slightly forward. The thinnest part is approximately where, in fawn drakes, the dark bronze of the head and upper neck joins the lower or fawn of the neck proper. The muscular part should be well marked, rounded, and stand out from the windpipe and gullet, the extreme hardness of feather helping to accentuate this. The neck should be neatly fitted to the head.

**Legs and Feet:** Set far back to allow upright carriage. Thighs: strong and muscular, longer than in most breeds. Shanks short and feet supple. There should be sufficient width between the legs to allow free egg production, but not as much as to cause the duck, on actual test, to roll or waddle when in motion.

**Plumage:** Tight and hard.

**Length:** Total length of drake 65 up to 80 cm, and duck 60 to 70 cm. Length of neck proper, from the top of the skull to where it joins the thick part of the funnel, about one third of the total length of the bird, not less. Measurements should be taken with the bird fully extended in a straight line, the bill and head in a line with the neck and body, and the legs and feet in the same straight line, the measurements being from the tip of the bill to the middle toe.

## DISQUALIFICATIONS

Above and below standard weights and measurements. Body squat and short, oval or flattened. Domed skull with central position of eyes. Bill dished, weak, "roman", under-curved, or flat. Neck thick and short, swan, or curved, neck expansion too far back on body causing a

chesty appearance in front with a hollow behind. Bulky trunk. Legs set too far forward causing poor carriage. Waddling or rolling gait. A natural carriage in any bird below 40 degrees. Long stern. Wry tail. Flattened back. In Fawns, white anywhere, eyebrows or eye stripes. Light or cream wings, bows, coverts and flights in the duck, blue or green wing bars, orange or yellow bill, feet or legs. In Saxony drake a complete neck ring and Saxony ducks lack of eye lines.

## COLOUR

### THE BLACK

**Bill:** Black.

**Legs and feet:** Black or very dark tan.

**Plumage of both sexes:** Solid black with metallic luster like the Black East Indian. There should be no grey under the chin or wings, no grey wing ribbons, and no "chain armour" on the breast.

### THE CHOCOLATE

**Bill:** Black.

**Legs and feet:** Black.

**Plumage of both sexes:** A rich chocolate throughout. The drake on assuming adult plumage becomes darker than the duck, but the groundwork is the same.

### THE CUMBERLAND BLUE

#### DRAKE AND DUCK

**Bill:** Bluish green in the drake and bluish grey in the duck.

**Eyes:** Dark brown. Legs and feet: smoky orange.

**Plumage of both sexes:** Rich blue with dark shading on each feather, richest on back. The drake's head is darker blue, the head of the duck is similar in shade to the body plumage which is not as richly shaded as that of the drake.

### THE FAWN

#### DRAKE

**Bill:** Pure black to olive green, mottled with black, and black bean.

**Legs and feet:** Black or dark tan, mottled with black.

**Plumage:**

Head and upper part of the neck dark bronze with metallic sheen, which may show a faint green tinge, meeting the colour of the lower part of neck with a clean cut, or, the lower colour merging into it imperceptibly. Lower neck and "neck expansion" rich brown-red continued on to the breast, over the top of the shoulders and upwards to where it joins the head and upper neck colour, merging gradually on the back and breast into the body colour. Lower chest, flanks and abdomen French grey, made up of very minute and dense peppering of dark brown or almost black dots on the nearly white ground, giving a general grey effect without any show of white, the grey extending beyond the vent until it meets the dark or almost black feathers of the cushion under the tail. Scapulars (the long pointed feathers on each side of the back covering the roots of the wings): red brown, peppered. Back and rump: deep brown, almost black. Tail (fan feathers and curl): dark brown, almost black.

**Wings:**

Bow: fawn, not penciled. Bar: fawn, corresponding with the coverts on the lower part, the upper part darker brown corresponding with the secondaries which are black brown with slight metallic lustre. Primaries: brown, fairly dark.

**Note:**

When the drake is in "eclipse" or duck plumage, he more closely approaches the duck in colour. All the dominant colours fade, but his head and neck are darker than the duck's. The body becomes a dirty fawn or ash, with perhaps some rustiness on the breast.

**DUCK****Bill:**

Black.

**Eye:**

Iris golden brown.

**Legs and feet:**

Black or dark tan.

**Plumage:**

The general plumage colour an almost uniform warm ginger fawn, with no marked variation of shade, but having a slightly mottled or speckled appearance. When closely examined the head, neck, lower part of chest and abdomen may appear a shade lighter than the rest of the body. Each feather of the head and neck has a fine line of dark red-brown, giving a ticked appearance. Lower part of the neck and "neck expansion" a shade warmer each feather penciled with warm red-brown. Scapulars rich ginger fawn, a shade darker than the shoulders and back, with well marked red-brown penciling. Wing bow a shade lighter than the scapulars but darkening towards the bar, the feathers penciled as before. Secondaries: warm red-brown. Primaries: a shade lighter. Back and rump darker, the penciling being richer and more marked but the ground colour becomes lighter and warmer towards the tail. Tail lighter than upper parts of the body each feather penciled. Belly lighter than upper parts of body, about the same shade of fawn as the head and neck, becoming a trifle darker on the tail cushion, all feathers penciled.

## THE FAWN AND WHITE

### DRAKE AND DUCK

**Bill:** Light orange yellow in young birds, entirely, or almost entirely, dull cucumber in adult duck, and green yellow in adult drake. Legs and feet: orange red.

**Plumage:** Cap and cheek markings in the duck nearly the same shade of fawn as the body colour, but dull bronze green in the drake. The cap separated from the cheek markings by a projection from the white of the neck extending up to, and in most cases terminating in a narrow line more or less encircling the eye. The cap should come round the back of the skull with a clean sweep, there should be no "tails" to it. The cheek markings should not extend on to the neck. Bill divided from head markings by a narrow prolongation of the neck white, from 310 to 620 mm wide, extending and projecting from the white underneath the chin. Neck: pure white to about where the "neck expansion" begins and meeting the body with a clean cut. Body: uniform soft, warm or ginger-fawn to the skin. The rump and tail of the drake, including the undersurface of the tail: a similar hue to his head. When closely examined, the coloured body feathers of the drake show a soft warm ground, slightly peppered with a rather warmer shade, that is, the colour seems solid and more ruddy than that of the duck. The duck should have the same shade of fawn as the Fawn duck. The fawn and white should meet on the breast with an even cut about halfway between the point of the breast bone and legs. The base of the neck, upper part of wings, back and tail should be as near as possible the same colour as the fawn of the breast, and from the fawn of the back an irregular branch on either side extending downwards on the thighs to, or nearly to, the hock. The white of the breast extends downwards between the legs to beyond the vent and may overlap the thighs in part. Wings, primaries, secondaries and lower part of bow: pure white, which gives the appearance of a "heart" laid flat on the bird's back.

## THE MALLARD

### DRAKE

**Plumage:** Head and neck emerald green. The lower third is separated from the brown red breast by a pure white. Ring almost encircling the neck. The upper back is grey brown, while the lower back, rump and tail show a black green colouring. Wings are likewise of a brown grey colour both adorned by a steel blue surface, which are enclosed by black then narrow white stripes. The undersides of the wings appear as grey white. Underbody and belly region show a spotless, fine pearl grey with even (proportionate) black waves.

### DUCK

**Plumage:** Basic colour an even brown all over the body. Each feather has a sharp black-brown design. The aim is to achieve the colour of the wild duck. On both sides of the head there are stripes (bridles or reins) from beak

to nape of neck. Wing spans an even brown surface, as with the drake. Legs: somewhat darker than the drake's.

## THE SAXONY

### DRAKE

**Plumage:** Head and neck blue grey with a white neck ring broken at the back. Breast: rusty red; Body: very light oatmeal with blue grey rump and tail cushion. Wing bars: blue grey. Bill: yellow green. Feet and legs: orange.

### DUCK

**Plumage:** White eye lines. Head and body: uniform cream buff colour without lacing. Wings: cream. Wing bars and tail: very pale blue grey. Bill: yellow brown. Feet and legs: orange.

## THE TROUT COLOUR

**Bill:** Orange yellow with green spots.

**Feet:** Orange yellow.

### DRAKE

**Plumage:** Head and neck: green with a white ring broken at the back. Back and wings: silver grey with a blue surface. Belly a light colour, likely to be ivory coloured with brown spots.

### DUCK

**Plumage:** Neck: light brown. Back: silver grey, wing: light grey with blue surface. Breast and belly: ivory, and the trunk: wholly brown spotted.

## THE WHITE

### DRAKE AND DUCK

**Bill:** Orange yellow.

**Legs and feet:** Orange yellow.

**Eye:** Iris blue.

**Plumage:** Pure white throughout.

## OTHER COLOURS:

Apricot dusky, blue dusky, mallard dusky, khaki dusky, blue trout and silver.

<b>SCALE OF POINTS</b>	
Body, shape, general appearance, lower part of neck, legs and feet	35
Carriage and action	30
Head, eyes, bill and neck, excluding lower neck expansion	20
Colour and condition	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>