



SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHOW POULTRY ORGANISATION BREED STANDARDS

NORTH HOLLAND BLUE



ORIGIN:	Holland
CLASSIFICATION:	Heavy breed: Soft feather
EGG COLOUR:	Tinted
MASSES:	

LARGE FOWL:

Cock:	4.8 kg
Cockerel:	4.3 kg
Hen:	4.0 kg
Pullet:	3.6 kg

BANTAMS:

Male:	1.5.kg maximum
Female:	1.3.kg maximum

This breed originated in Holland, in about the year 1950. The blood of the Malines in the make-up of this breed is seen in its quick maturity and rapid growth. To further its commercial importance its utility properties are given preference to markings on the show bench. Lightly feathered shanks are a standardised characteristic and the cock is lighter in colour than the hen. As a barred breed, the hens, when mated with unbarred cocks of breeds with dark down, produce sex-linked offspring, the cockerel chicks having a white head-spot when hatched, which is absent in the pullet chicks.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

THE MALE

Carriage: Upright, bold and alert.

Type: Body substantial in build, yet compact. Back: broad, flat horizontal, reasonably long, with slight rise to tail, broad saddle, prominent

shoulders. Breast: full, rounded and prominent, breastbone: long, well fleshed and rounded-off, neither shallow nor keely. Well-rounded sides, good depth of body with a well-developed abdomen. Wings: strong, well developed and close to the body. Tail: broad, well spread with medium furnishings.

Head: Rounded and of medium length. Beak: strong and short. Eyes: full, bold, with keen expression, the pupils well formed and large. Face: smooth, full fine texture and without heavy eyebrows. Comb: single, upright, of medium size and fine texture, with five to seven neat serrations following slightly the curve of the neck at the back. Ear-lobes: medium sized and silky. Wattles: medium in length and size and fine texture.

Neck: Somewhat broad, medium in length and not too profusely feathered.

Legs and feet: Legs: medium length, well apart, well formed and good quality bone with close scales. Thighs: well developed and fleshed, toes, four, straight, and well spread. Shanks: lightly feathered, including outer toe.

Plumage: In general not too profuse. Fine in texture.

Handling: Firm, as befits a table breed. Skin: thin and of fine texture. Flesh high quality table grade.

THE FEMALE

With the exception of the shanks, which are more heavily feathered, the general characteristics are similar to those of the cock, allowing for natural sexual differences.

DEFECTS

General coarseness. Superfine bone. Unfeathered shanks. Any points against table, laying or reproductive qualities. Birds may be passed for deformities, crooked breast bone, serious defects, and clean shanks devoid of any feathering.

COLOUR

BLUE CUCKOO

THE MALE

Plumage: Lighter blue grey than female, barred. Under-colour very pale blue-grey, barring immaterial.

THE FEMALE

Plumage: Dark grey-blue, slightly barred. Under-colour paler blue-grey, barring immaterial.

In both sexes:

Beak: White superimposed blue.

Eyes: Orange to red.

Comb, face, wattles

and ear-lobes: Red.

Shanks: White but may be shaded blue.

Skin: White.

BANTAM

The bantams should be miniatures of their large fowl counterparts and the same Standard, points, colour and defects are applicable.

SCALE OF POINTS	
Type and carriage	10
Indication of table merits	20
Indication of egg production merits	20
Colour and markings	20
Head	10
Legs and feet	10
Condition	10
TOTAL	100