



SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHOW POULTRY ORGANISATION BREED STANDARDS

VORWERK



ORIGIN: Germany
CLASSIFICATION: Light breed: Soft feather
EGG COLOUR: Cream to tinted (non-sitters)
MASSES:

LARGE FOWL:

Male: 2.5 to 3.2 kg
Female: 2.0 to 2.5 kg

BANTAMS:

Male: 910 g
Female: 680 g

Originated in Hamburg by Oskar Vorwerk in 1900, the breed was first shown at the Hanover Show in 1912 and standardized in 1913. Oskar Vorwerk used many breeds to develop this chicken including the buff Orpington, Andalusian, and the Lakenvelder. The aim was to provide a middleweight economical utility fowl, good-natured, lively but not timid. A point worthy of note is the compatibility of males amongst themselves. These fowls were found to be particularly suitable for smallholdings and farmyards as they are excellent foragers, small eaters and quick maturing. The breed never became popular, so it is rare outside of Europe. A bantam type of this breed was developed by Wilmar Vorwerk in 1966 in the United States of America using the Lakenvelder, buff columbian Rosecomb, the blue and buff Wyandotte, and the black tailed Columbian. This breed has been accepted by the American Poultry Association, although the larger breed has not. A bantam type was also developed in Europe, but this is not the same as the American bantam.

The standard type is black on the head, neck, and tail and deep buff (gold) on the rest of the body. Although the standard calls for a completely buff body, with no black spots, this is extremely hard to accomplish. This breed has a single comb, white earlobes and buff coloured under-feathers.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

THE MALE

Carriage:	Very powerful, compact utility shape, carriage low rather than high, not too much bone, markings the same in both sexes, lively but not timid.
Body:	Body of considerable size, as broad and deep as possible like a rounded rectangle. Back: broad, slightly sloping with a full saddle. Breast: broad, deep and well rounded. Wings: closely carried. Tail: moderately tight, held at a lowish angle with well-rounded sickles of moderate length.
Head:	Medium sized and moderately broad.
Face:	Covered with small feathers.
Comb:	Single, of medium size at the most, with four to six serrations.
Wattles:	Of medium length, well rounded.
Ear-lobes:	Of barely average size and white.
Beak:	Greyish blue to horn.
Eyes:	Alert, orange to orange-red.
Neck:	Of moderate length with full hackle and carried fairly upright, proudly.
Legs & feet:	Moderate length with fine bone. Toes: four on each foot, small close fitting scales. Thighs: fleshy and tightly feathered.
Plumage:	Close fitting, glossy, velvety hackle.

THE FEMALE

General characteristics are similar to those of the male allowing for the natural sexual differences. Back to be broad with almost no cushion. The latter part of the small comb may bend slightly to one side.

SERIOUS DEFECTS

Body too narrow or too light. Carriage too high. Coarse bone. High tail. Lobes too red. Pale legs. In males, hackle unduly buff or grey, saddle nearly black. In females, lack of black in neck or tail and undue spangling in body feathers.

COLOUR

BLACK AND GOLD

MALE

Plumage: Head, hackle and tail should be velvety black. Body: deep buff (gold), under-colour grey. Wing secondaries: deep buff, primaries dark grey to black. Saddle: buff with light striping. Legs: slate.

FEMALE

Plumage: Hackle: black with slight buff lacing permitted at the back of the head. Body and secondary wing flights: deep buff (gold). Primaries: greyish black and deep buff mixed. Visible parts of the main tail black with the tail furnishings partly laced with buff. Under-colour: grey.

In both sexes:

Beak: Greyish blue to horn.
Eyes: Orange or orange-red.
Comb, face and wattles: Red.
Lobes: White.
Legs and feet: Slate.

BLUE AND GOLD

Plumage: Same as the Black and Gold but all the black markings to be replaced by blue.

BANTAMS

The same standard as in large fowl applies to bantams, the only difference being in the weights.

Note: A 20% weight difference for bantams will be allowed for a period of 3 years, effective from July 2018 to July 2021.

SCALE OF POINTS	
Type/utility quality	25
Head	10
Colour	25
Legs and feet	10
Size	15
Condition	15
TOTAL	100