

ESC-P NEWSLETTER

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Welcome

Welcome to all interested poultry breeders. Before you lies the first issue of the ESC-P newsletter, a new digital newsletter edited by the ESC-P, the European Standard Commission-Poultry of the EE. With this edition of this newsletter we hope to keep all the member states of the EE poultry section better informed about the decisions made by the ESC-P but also make them aware of the ideas behind the decision.

The ESC-P works hard on the development of common standards with common breeding goals in Europe. In the past, often because of lack of communication, breeds developed in completely different directions in different countries. Nowadays, with modern communication and open borders between almost all European countries, there is no more excuse why we shouldn't work together in the same way

on the same breeds. The exchange of information and pictures is the key factor in obtaining this goal.

So from now on, the ESC-P will not only publish its classic meeting reports but also one or two newsletters a year with more background information to guide aviculture in Europe to a common future. Enjoy !

The ESC-P team.

The list of EE-accepted breeds and colors

For years now, the ESC-P has tried to establish a list of accepted breeds and colors in the EE. It was Hans Zürcher (CH) who started it and is now kept up to date by Michel Bovet (CH). Every year the list is updated with the new breeds and colors accepted by the different EE-Members.

However the list is not complete and still contains a lot of mistakes. Several times in the past we asked our members to verify their part of the list, to correct the mistakes and to add what was missing. The response was usually minimal. The importance of the list is apparently

underestimated as one of our rules says that only those breeds and colors which appear on the list can be judged at EE-shows and only the breeds on this list can be accepted in other countries. Therefore it is of great interest of every country to have their list up to date.

In the actual list, which can be found on the homepage of the EE-poultry section, several member countries are completely missing. We want this changed. If every country has its own column in the list, we immediately know what is accepted in every country

but also know the name of each accepted breed and every accepted color in all the languages of every EE-country.

The goal of the ECS-P is to finalize the list, at least for all large fowl and bantam breeds, by the end of 2013. At the moment Andy Verelst (B) is cleaning up the actual list as much as possible. As soon as this is finished, every standard commission will get a personalized digital copy of this corrected list to correct and to complete. Countries that are still missing will also be included from now on.

The acceptance of new breeds



Naked-neck Silkies will not be accepted according to the new rules

“a new breed must distinguish itself by at least three different breed characteristics from already existing breeds.”



The ‘Hengelose kriel’ from Holland could be accepted as a new breed. Being henny feathered, crested, bearded and feather-legged, there would be no confusion with any existing bantam breed.

The last few years almost every European country is confronted with the appearance of new colors in existing breeds but also ‘new breeds’ keep appearing. Especially with the membership of new countries and the development of aviculture in several eastern European countries (which before were almost only typical pigeon-breeding countries) the ESC-P has been confronted with a true explosion of new breeds.

The ESC-P is not against new breeds in Europe but wants to make sure the new breeds are at least original and not just slightly transformed already existing breeds. Also these new breeds should be easily distinguishable from what already exists. Last but not least, it is only normal that breeds which are accepted in their country of origin at least breed through and show an acceptable level of uniformity.

Unfortunately this last point has proven to be a great source of concern. At almost every occasion these birds were shown to the ESC-P, we were presented with a collection of animals with great lack of uniformity and often also very different breed characteristics, e.g. with different type of comb or leg color etc... Aviculture in Europe is on such a level that we cannot accept this. The ESC-P

understands the need of the new countries in aviculture to create their own breeds but will only accept them as official breeds as soon as a uniform collection can be presented.

To ensure a certain minimum level for new breeds, in 2011 the ESC-P established a new set of rules for the acceptance of new breeds on the EE-list. This rules were communicated to the country representatives in Altötting 2012. The most important parts of this rules are :

- only breeds on the EE-list can be accepted by the member countries.
- new breeds (after acceptance in their own country) should be presented to the ESC-P on a Europe show. Only if evaluated positively the breed will be accepted on the EE-list.
- a new breed must distinguish itself by at least 3 breed characteristics from already existing breeds (feather color is never considered a breed characteristic).
- no new breeds will be accepted in silky or frizzled varieties or any breed characteristic which may cause controversy on animal welfare.
- after acceptance by the ESC-P the breed

will be on the EE-list and the standard will become binding for every country which wants to accept the breed.

This new rules don't apply for the acceptance of new colors in existing breeds although there might be some restrictions also. For certain breeds there will be limits to what can be accepted. E.g. it was already decided that Sebright will only be accepted in henny feathered laced varieties composed of two different colors. Vorwerk will only be accepted in colors in which the typical pattern and ground color stay the same as in the original.

Last but not least the new rules state that no alterations to existing breeds will be accepted any more. This means no new feather structures (silky, frizzled, crested, bearded, feather-legged, naked neck, ...), no new comb types, no skeletal changes (creeper, rumples, fifth toe, ..). Such modifications will also not be accepted as a new breed unless there are at least 2 other differences with the original breed.

With this the ESC-P wishes to protect existing breeds and discourage breeders to start projects which stand no chance of acceptance

Report on the new breeds presented in Leipzig

In Leipzig (D) the first series of 'new breeds' were presented and judged by the ESC-P (Lochmann, Riebinger & Littau). Here you can read about their conclusions which were approved of at the March-meeting in Pohlheim (D).

Polish royal crested fowl

Rather heavy utility-type breed with crest and beard. In shape there was a certain level of uniformity and also color-wise they appear more consistent. Very positive are the very broad feather of almost all of the exhibited birds. The very angular transition between the back and the tail are however disturbing. The roosters generally show too large wattles which are often also very folded. This leads of course also to underdeveloped beards. In both sexes the form and the structure of the comb could not persuade us and also the very pale, almost flesh-colored legs, do not correspond with the prescribed yellow ones. Also there was a lack of showing condition with several incomplete tails and birds were disqualified because of double spurs at the comb and crossed beaks. Too bad such birds were selected for the presentation. All this leads us to believe a lot of breeding work is still to be done. It appears better birds exist but unfortunately they stayed home in Poland. Decision: not accepted, a new presentation on a Europe show is required.

Kreuzer crested fowl

This presentation makes it clear what the creators of this breed had in mind as their goal. The hens were very uniform in appearance and could certainly please the eye. The rooster however didn't hold up to the standards in many ways. He didn't show any breast at all and also the position of the wings was problematic. He also didn't show enough striping in the hackle. In the hens firmer main tail feathers and a sharper lacing could be considered as points still to improve. The lacing should be black, in one hen it was simply to greyish. In general the collection could be considered as acceptable but the rules require the presentation of 1-1 adult and 2-2 young birds and with 1-3 young birds present, the requirements were not fulfilled.

Decision : must be presented again because not enough birds were presented.

Zsippo fowl

'What is this ?' was the idea of the jury members. This breed was announced in black but what was in the cages was everything but black. It cannot be expected that the jury will demonstrate a tolerance beyond any limits when a procedure for acceptance is started. The presence of some black feathers doesn't make them black by any means. The Zsippo from Hungary should be a medium-built

utility-type bird with a naked neck, crest, beard and a feather bush on the front part of the neck. Only one of the exhibited birds could be considered as black with a lot of goodwill, the others were birchen, brown-red. Besides a whole collection of disqualifications were present, such as a crooked pelvis, severe roach back, wry tail, double spikes in the comb or a wrong comb-type. Both frizzled birds in white show a completely different shape, much finer, lighter and more elegant and that way differ completely from what the standard project asks for. The tail feathers in the rooster failed completely and the hen was infested with external parasites. The presentation of a new breed is not the same as showing obvious crosses. Here is an obvious need to work on elementary poultry knowledge. Decision : not accepted, a new presentation on a Europe show is required. The frizzled will not be accepted as it was already decided years ago no new breeds in frizzled would be accepted.

Hungarian fowl

Here we saw two completely different types, a rather heavy and more as required in the standard and a very elegant and very upright one. The roosters generally do not show enough breast and the tails are either underdeveloped or the main sickles were partly missing. There were



Crele Polish royal crested cock
A lot of selection needs to be done on the heads.



Black-laced buff Kreuzer crested hen

Originally bred in Croatia in the nineties. The only breed which combines a large crest with a single comb.



Black (?) Zsippo hen

One of the many different birds presented. It is clear that the Zsippo needs at least several more years to become an established breed.

Photos: Lochmann



Cuckoo Hungarian hen

The only hen which corresponded more or less with the standard description.



Spangled Croatian bantam hen

This breed distinguishes itself from the colorwise similar Belgian Tournaisis bantam by its very compact and broad body.



Black-red Polish bantam cock

The rooster on the picture is very big doesn't have a typical original bantam appearance. The Polish name 'lilliput' doesn't fit such big birds.

further problems with the head points. In most birds the com band wattles were too big and coarse. Disturbing were also the folded wattles. With the exception of the heavy old hen, the hens didn't meet the required type. Several birds were disqualified because of the absence of the tail feathers and side sprigs to the comb. As long as the type doesn't become more uniform and the disqualification faults do not disappear, there will be no chance of acceptance.

Decision : not accepted, a new presentation on a Europe show is required.

Croatian bantam

The exhibited birds showed us a uniform collection. It is a slightly upright bantam with a broad and compact body, a medium long back and a tail which is carried high. They should not stand too deep or become too long or too short in the back. They must be well

distinguishable from other breeds. The sickles should be well-curved. Also color-wise the presented birds clearly matched the announced varieties. In the black-red hens we should mind an even stippling. In the spangleds we must mind that the wings do not become to white in young birds. One hen was disqualified because she had a very small crest. Decision : accepted in the EE-list.

Polish bantam

A rather heavy and temperamental bantam which showed some uniformity in color but was very heterogenous in type. The roosters generally carried their tail much too high and the hens too low. This just doesn't fit together in one breed. Very coarse stippling and depigmentation were also reasons for the low marks. On top of this there were a series of disqualifications because of the combs.

Besides all of this, there is the problem that already several similar bantams exist for very long. If the Polish bantam is ever to be accepted as a new breed, they should distinguish themselves from these breeds.

Decision : not accepted, a new presentation on a Europe show is required. The Polish bantam will only be accepted when they become more consistent in type, the comb faults are eliminated and the legs are green.

Note : the report clearly shows that the installment of the new rules for the acceptance of new breeds were more than justified. Every standard commission in Europe is asked to evaluate its procedures for the acceptance of new breeds and if necessary to make them more strict. Furthermore they are asked to not accept poor presentations as they will fail on EE-level.

A new description for 'splash'

Splash is the internationally accepted name for homozygous blue, sometimes also referred to as 'Andalusian white'. For decades this color has not been accepted on poultry shows and was considered as a waist product of blue. This changed when splash Orpington bantam were accepted in Denmark and Switzerland. A description was drawn up and meanwhile this color has

also been accepted in Silkies in France and Germany. Suddenly everyone wants to breed splash and the color has been presented in several breeds already.

Because splash can present itself as an almost white bird with just a few very small black spots to an almost completely blue bird, the need for a clear breeding goal was obvious. The description was further refined in the

March meeting and goes for all breeds. The breeding goal will be an even very light blue color with darker blue flecks which are distributed in a harmonious way all over the entire body, hackles included.

The acceptance of this description doesn't mean splash will be accepted just like that in any breeds which exists in blue. On the contrary, a collection of birds that fits the

description will have to be presented according to national rules before acceptance. If the presented birds do not fit the description, the color will not be accepted in the breed.

It was also decided that splash would only be accepted as the homozygous form of even blue and not in any combinations with gold or silver, e.g. splash quail, splash red or white splash columbian.

Spain suggested to accept also a splash (and black) Andalusian to which the ESC-P strongly advised

against. By accepting these birds the lacing, the most typical characteristic of the breed, which was carefully selected over many years and present in this breed in a quality seldom seen in any other breed, would severely be compromised.

The new description:
In both sexes an even greyish white till very light blue groundcolor with irregular darker blue flecks of different size over the entire plumage. Sparse black flecks are tolerated. The pattern is evenly and harmoniously distributed on the entire body, the hackle and saddle of the

rooster included. Serious defects: ground-color too dark, very irregular pattern, lacing, barring, yellow sheen, green luster, rust, depigmentation.



A very nice splash Orpington bantam hen

Bobtail, a new color in chickens

Bobtail, named after the popular name for the Old-English sheepdog, is a completely new color that appeared in Cochin bantams around 20 years ago. They were first seen in the flock of Dieter Aschenbach (D). After 2000 they became quite popular in spite of the messy and unattractive appearance of the roosters. The hens, which look a little like Bobtails, are quite charming. It is clear that this new color would be 'unavoidable' in the Cochin bantam and what was to be expected happened, the color was accepted in Holland.

The genetic composition of this color is still unknown. Only certainty is that it is a recessive trait. Dutch

poultry genetics specialist S. van Dort suggested sex-linked imperfect albinism (s^{al}) which seems plausible. More research however is needed.

Because the ESC-P only wants one description in Europe for completely new colors, the proposed standard was examined with live birds at the March meeting. Hens from Holland and Denmark clearly all showed a diluted salmon breast which was not described in the Dutch standard. Therefore the ESC-P drew up the following new EE-description.

Cock: Head cream. Hackle and saddle greyish cream with traces of a brownish middle-stripe and light

shafts. Shoulders and wing coverts cream with traces of a brownish pattern that follows the contours of the feathers. Breast, abdomen, leg feathers and wings cream. Hen : Head and neck white. Breast light greyish beige. Back, wings coverts and saddle grey, paler shafts tolerated. Abdomen and flanks a slightly lighter grey. Secondaries as the wing coverts, primaries and leg feathers lighter.

Serious defects : in the cock, hackle too white or hackle and saddle too dark; in the hen very irregular color, hackle too dark, breast too grey.



Photos Périquet



Judging Serama in Europe

The ESC-P approved an official EE-standard for Serama in 2009. Several countries, such as Belgium, France and Italy have adopted this standard. Judging Serama in a cage like any other poultry breed doesn't create any problems. Serama are just as normal chickens as any other bantam breed.

In Holland however Serama are not considered to be bantams and they are judged in an alternative way with an alternative standard. The ESC-P doesn't approve this way of judging nor this standard. There is only one official standard for all official EE-shows and it can be found on the website of the EE. All

affiliated EE countries are asked to respect the EE standard and to work together with us on a common breeding goal.

A new official drawing for the EE-standard was ordered and approved by the ESC-P. It will be published in the next issue of this newsletter after a few minor alterations.

EE-standard for Minohiki

Origin: Old Japanese cultural breed. The name of the breeds means „saddle dragger“.

General impression: Medium-sized elegant breed with upright carriage and gamefowl-like expression, combined with very abundant and dragging saddle hackle and tail feathers.

Breed characteristics of the male

Body: of medium length and little deep; carriage upright.

Neck: rather long and well arched; with long and abundant hackle which covers the shoulders.

Back: rather long and sloping; narrowing a little towards the tail.

Shoulders: broad and striking.

Wings: of medium length and carried closely to the body, often carried a little downwards.

Saddle: well rising towards the transition with the tail; with very abundant and very long hackle which drags over the ground.

Tail: slightly upwards till almost middle-high and well arched. Main tail feathers long, broad and well covering each-other. Main sickles and side hangers abundant, of medium width and long, reaching the ground and dragging behind the body in old cocks. The whole tail is very full and forms together with the saddle a strongly developed drag.

Breast: broad, full, carried high and a little forward.

Abdomen: little developed.

Head: medium sized, somewhat elongated and not too broad.

Face: smooth, red; a little less smooth is tolerated in old cocks.

Comb: medium sized, broad walnut comb, preferably with a well-developed indentation in the middle; red.

Wattles: red; preferably hardly visible but small and well-rounded wattles are accepted; small little bare dewlap.

Earlobes: medium sized, oblong, smooth, red.

Eyes: reddish orange till reddish brown.

Beak: medium length, strong and well curved; color see description of colors.



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**Thighs:** strong, of medium length.**Shanks:** of medium length, broadly set apart; strong, with strong spurs; yellow.**Toes:** of medium length and well spread.**Plumage:** well developed and closely to the body. Purity of the color and markings are less important in favor of type and feathering.**Breed characteristics of the female :** similar to those of the male, allowing for sexual differences. Tail relatively long, slightly arched and somewhat spread, almost carried middle-high. The long coverts of the tail are slightly sickle-like curved.**Serious defects :** weak or thin body; thin or flat breast; tail carried too high, too flat or hanging; saddle hackle or tail too short or sparsely feathered; white in earlobes.**Black-tailed buff**

Male: the entire plumage, preferably evenly, gold yellow till gold brown. Darker shoulders and wing coverts accepted. Wings gold yellow with black on inner webs. Tail green iridescent black. Female : the entire plumage gold yellow till dark gold brown. Wings as in the male. Tail mostly black. In both sexes beak yellow with dark upper beak.

Black-red

Male : head orange-red till red. Hackle and saddle orange-red till red with traces of black striping. Shoulders, wing coverts and back red. Primaries black with reddish brown outer edge. Secondaries inside black, outside reddish brown, forming the wing bay. Wing bar and tail green iridescent black. Breast, abdomen and thighs black. Female : head and hackle gold till red with black striping. Back, wing coverts and saddle lighter or darker gold brown till reddish brown with dense black stippling and light shafts. Breast salmon till reddish. Thighs and abdomen grey. Tail black, the coverts with a more or less brown edge. In both sexes, beak yellow horn.

White

In both sexes pure white. Yellow sheen tolerated in old cocks. Beak yellow

Silver duckwing

Male : head silver white. Hackle and saddle silver white with traces of black striping. Shoulders, wing coverts and back silver white. Primaries black with white outer edge. Secondaries inside black, outside white, forming the wing bay. Wing bar and tail green iridescent black. Breast, abdomen and thighs black. Female : head and hackle silver white with black striping. Back, wing coverts and saddle silver grey with dense black stippling and white shafts. Breast salmon. Thighs and abdomen grey. Tail blackish, the coverts as the saddle. In both sexes, beak yellow horn.

Golden duckwing

Male : head straw yellow. Hackle and saddle straw yellow white with traces of greyish black striping. Back rusty brown. Wing coverts rusty orange. Primaries black with yellowish white outer edge. Secondaries inside black, outside yellowish white, forming the wing bay. Wing bar and tail green iridescent black. Breast, abdomen and thighs black. Female : as the silver duckwing hen with a brownish cast and a more intense breast color. In both sexes, beak yellow horn.

Weight: male 2- 2,5 kg, female 1,4 - 1,8 kg.**Minimal weight of hatching eggs:** 45 g.**Eggshell:** light brown.**Diameter of the rings:** male 18 mm., female 16 mm.