



ESC-P NEWSLETTER

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Welcome

Welcome again to all interested poultry breeders. This is the second edition of the ESC-P newsletter. The first one, released in June 2013 was welcomed with a lot of positive reactions from all over Europe. Therefore we will continue

this initiative and try to publish a new one at least once a year.

The ESC-P appreciates the fact that several poultry federation published the previous edition on their website or created a link to it on the

EE-website. We'd like to ask all our member countries to follow this example so that many more breeders all over Europe will be able to reach this information.

The ESC-P team.

Finally a real 'Europe Standard' ?

In the past there have been several attempts to create one poultry standard that would be used all over Europe. So far all these attempts failed. The reason for this is not only that every country has its own opinion on certain breeds but especially the technical difficulties these initiatives came across.

A major technical difficulty was that communication before was much more difficult. People in those days didn't have email, scanners, digital photos or Facebook. Also there were borders in Europe that were difficult to cross. Nowadays people find it normal to travel to the eastern part of Europe but not so long ago this wasn't nearly as easy.

Another technical problem was that there was no possibility of digitally

storing data like there is now. This meant that a standard would be typed on an old typewriter and when something needed to be changed, you could start over again. As our standards are 'flexible', it was certainly not encouraging to start over again and again.

Today the situation has changed a lot. All data are digitally stored and can theoretically never be lost again. This means that no matter how big the project is, one never has to start over because the material is not up-to-date anymore. It will always be possible to continue from the latest digital version. Pictures are taken and in a matter of minutes the whole world can see them and if the result is not completely what it should be, Photoshop will help. These new technical possibilities make the time

right to try once more to establish a real Europe Standard. The new techniques even allow us to make this new standard a digital one, from which each country only needs to print the information that concerns it. The advantages are huge. If every country uses the same standard and the same drawings or pictures, there will be more uniformity within our breeds.

The ESC-P developed a proposal for the creation of this long-expected standard. This proposal will be voted on by the members of the EE poultry section at the annual meeting in Sarajevo on May 30th. If the proposal is approved off, we hope to finish the enormous job ahead of us by the time the Europe Show in 2021 will take place.

Serama standard drawing

As announced in last year's newsletter, the ESC-P had ordered an official drawing for the EE-standard of the Serama. This drawing was made by Dutch artist and poultry specialist Sigrid Van Dort and is now finished. The birds in this drawings represent the EE vision on this breed and its future in Europe.



If the type isn't good, it can never be a good Serama.

The EE-list of breeds and colours

As announced in last year's newsletter, the ESC-P has attempted to update the EE-list of accepted breeds and colours. Our goal was to have the job done by the end of 2013 but due to several reasons we didn't succeed.

One of the main reasons being that several countries never reacted on the mails they got and didn't supply us with the requested information. Because we don't want to wait any longer, the new list will be published shortly after the next

annual meeting and the countries that failed to reply until then, will not be withheld in the list. Only after a complete update will be presented to the ESC-P, these countries will be added again.

The new list will only contain the large and Bantam chicken breeds. Turkeys, Guinea fowl, geese and ducks will be revised later. For the moment they will remain on the EE-website in the old format.

The weight of Rouen and Aylesbury ducks

For years the weight of the Rouen and Aylesbury ducks have been stated 3,5 kg for the drake and 3 kg for the duck in the

standard for Europe (D). Several times it was suggested by other countries that the difference with the

standard of the country of origin was too big but this was always countered by stating these weights were unrealistically high and the birds shouldn't become too heavy because of animal welfare reasons.

Last year the ESC-P ordered for the top-class birds to be weighed at the continental shows. Several birds were weighed in Leipzig and they all perfectly matched the weight range of the UK standard. The standard for Europe only gives one weight for

ducks and no range so it was decided to change the weight to the middle of the UK standard range, being 5 kg for the drake and 4,5 for the duck.

This change does not mean we want these breeds to become heavier than they already are. It is just a theoretical adjustment which shouldn't affect the size of the present birds at all.

Breeders should always watch out for good mobility in breeding stock and avoid birds with oversized keels for breeding.



Pair of Aylesbury ducks

Photo BWA

The number of primaries in chickens

In every classic book on poultry you will find that a chicken has 10 primaries. Some breeds, like Ko Shamo and Yamato, sometimes have a problem reaching this number as we see a lot of birds with less primaries. But now the opposite also seems to be occurring as it appears in many breeds there are now birds showing 11 to 13 primaries or even more. Several breeds seems to be affected and the problem occurs in both sexes. The number of primaries doesn't seem to be symmetrical in both wings.

Before deciding how to deal with this problem (punish or not and if punished, how severely) the ESC-P would like to know the extent of this phenomenon in the member countries. For this reason it was decided to organize a large survey all over Europe to get a better idea about how far this abnormality is spread amongst our breeds. The national standard commissions will be asked to cooperate in this survey. After processing the results, the ESC-P will decide on a policy towards this problem.



This buff blue columbian Brahma bantam rooster from Belgium clearly shows a few primaries too many.

Photo: S. Libens (B)

Sebright colours



Black laced silver hen



Blue laced silver pullet

Photos: F. Verheyden (B)
M. Zabrana (CZ)

The Sebright, a very old an exclusive British bantam breed, has caused some discussions lately. In its country of origin, the UK, this breed is only accepted in the two original colours created by sir John Sebright in the 19th century. On the continent a few more colours appeared around 30 years ago (lemon black laced and fawn white laced) which have spread all over Europe. More recently another colour was created in Czech Republik (cream brown laced) and several more colours which are not officially accepted yet exist (e.g. blue laced).

When UK breeders saw the latter variety on the EE-show in Leipzig, they expressed their concern towards the EE about this evolution. The exhibited birds didn't have the

typical shape and size but still obtained quite high marks.

The ESC-P confirmed that the quality of the birds should be better and more typical before a new colour is accepted by any country. The UK was assured that no new colours would be accepted in Sebrights unless they are henny feathered, laced and the ground colour and lacing are two different colours. With this decision the number of possibilities was very much reduced.

More recently the German Sebright club objected to the decision of adding to names of the already existing colours gold and silver 'black laced'. Since more colours exist in Europe in which the lacing is not black but another colour, this choice was

logical and unavoidable. The ESC-P tries to respect all historical and national arguments but in order to obtain uniformity in more than 20 member countries it is sometimes necessary to make rational rather than emotional decisions.

This decision doesn't mean that any country should add any other colour to its standard. So if a country only wants to accept 'gold' and 'silver' in Sebrights that is fine and of course then there is no reason at all to change the name of the colours either. If colours with another lacing colour are present, then the colour of the lacing should be added in the name. On EE-shows the official EE-name will always be used, no matter which country the exhibited birds are from.

Choco-mania in Europe

With the help of the internet and Facebook, new colours are spreading all over Europe in very short time. One of the newest hypes is the sex-linked recessive and therefore true-breeding chocolate in several bantam breeds.

This new colour was already accepted last year in Orpington bantams in Denmark, France and Holland. France also accepted it in Cochon bantams and in different countries procedures are running for chocolate Silkies, Bantams and Japanese bantams.

EE-standard for this new popular colour.

In both sexes an even dark brown, particularly lustrous in the rooster.

Hackles in the rooster and the neck of the hen slightly more intensive. Primaries slightly lighter than the groundcolour. Down a slightly lighter shade of brown. Eyes brown. Legs flesh-coloured with a brownish tint, darker in the hens.

Serious defects : colour too light or blotchy, lack of luster, faded shafts, grey down, rust, depigmentation



Chocolate Japanese hen in Leipzig 2012

Photo: U. Ahrens (D)

Pavlovs from Russia

After the cold war when borders in Eastern Europe started to disappear, a new interest in eastern breed slowly spread in Europe. As we grew slowly familiar with breeds from Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and so on, Russia still remained unknown territory on the map of the poultry world. Of course the major language barrier remains a big factor in this situation.

The Pavlov breed is an old Russian breed which is

often mentioned in the history of other crested breeds. However much information was never found and the Pavlov was not bred in Europe.

In the past a few birds were exhibited on the EE-show but not in the last few years. In 2012 in Leipzig again a few birds were entered at the EE-show. When searching for an official standard we found several versions with sometimes different breed

characteristics. Russia was ordered to provide us with an official standard but apparently there was none. The Pavlov breed had also almost disappeared in Russia and breeders are trying to restore it at the moment.

In other EE-countries (Denmark) breeders were also making serious efforts to restore this breed but sometimes selecting on different characteristics (e.g. 5 toes instead of 4).

The need for an official standard became urgent. Fortunately Russia provided us this year with an official standard based on old descriptions from 1905. The ESC-P adapted this standard in the form of the standard for Europe and approved it as official EE-standard.

All breeders in Europe who are attempting to breed Pavlovs are requested to follow this standard.



EE-standard for Pavlovs

Origin: Ancient Russian breed, already known in the 17th century. Named after the town of Pavlov, close to Nizhny Novgorod.

General impression: lively, rather small-sized breed with almost horizontal body, very high tail, full beard, breed-specific crest and feathered legs.

Breed characteristics of the male

Body: broad, hardly of medium length; carriage almost horizontal.

Neck: short, slightly arched, with full hackle.

Back: short, broad, flat, narrowing towards the tail.

Shoulders: broad and well-rounded.

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**Wings:** large, broad, carried only slightly downwards.**Saddle:** with full hackle.**Tail:** fully feathered, carried very high; main sickles long, broad and well-curved, side hangers abundant.**Breast:** full, broad and well-rounded, carried a little forward.**Abdomen:** little developed.**Head:** medium sized, rather broad, rounded.**Face:** red; almost completely covered by the muffs and beard.**Comb:** small, horn type, crescent-shaped seen from the front, small.**Wattles:** very small, covered by the beard.**Earlobes:** red, small, covered by the beard.**Eyes:** big, dark red till dark brown.**Beak:** medium length, slightly curved; with cavernous nostrils; colour light horn till slate blue.**Beard :** full muffs and beard.**Crest:** medium sized, the individual feathers pointed upwards, a little firmer at the base.**Thighs:** hardly of medium length, densely feathered and with slightly curved inwards vulture hocks.**Shanks:** hardly of medium length, covered on the outside by short curved feathers. Slate blue.**Toes:** four, slightly covered with soft feathers.**Plumage:** dense and closely to the body.**Breed characteristics of the female :** similar to those of the male, allowing for sexual differences. Body more horizontal. Muffs, beard and crest more developed. Comb poorly developed.**Serious defects :** weak, thin or long body; flat breast; tail carried too flat; too high on legs; poorly developed muffs and beard; fully rounded crest (like in Polands); wry, hanging, split or too loose crest; too much or too sparsely leg feathering.**Gold**

The ground colour is a deep golden brown with at the end of the feathers a black tip with green luster. In the male these tips are V-shaped in the hackles. Muffs and beard black. Primaries with golden brown outer webs and black inner webs; secondaries golden brown with black tips. Tail with black tips but densely black stippled main tail feathers and sickles are accepted.

Serious defects : lack of green luster; depigmentation; completely black tail.**Silver**

Like in gold but the groundcolour is a silvery white.

Serious defects : yellowish hackles in the male; feathers of any other colour.**Weight:** male 1,7- 1,8 kg, female 1,2- 1,4 kg.**Minimal weight of hatching eggs:** 48 g.**Eggshell:** white.**Diameter of the rings:** male 18 mm., female 16 mm.