



SOUTHERN AFRICAN SHOW POULTRY ORGANISATION BREED STANDARDS

RHODE ISLAND



ORIGIN: American
CLASSIFICATION: Heavy breed: Soft feather
EGG COLOUR: Light brown to dark brown (Sitters)
MASSES:

LARGE FOWL:

Cock: 4.0 kg
Hen: 3.0 kg
Cockerel: 3.6 kg
Pullet: 2.5 kg

BANTAMS:

Male: 1.7 kg max
Female: 1.5 kg max

RHODE ISLAND RED

The origin of this breed dates back to a fowl bred in that section of New England which is located between Narragansett Bay and Buzzard's Bay. The name Rhode Island Red was given to the breed in honour of the State where it originated from crossing the Red Malay Game, Leghorn and Asiatic native stock and first exhibited in 1880 in South Massachusetts. In 1904 the single comb variety was admitted to the American Standards as a distinct breed of poultry.

The Rose Comb Rhode Island Red was admitted to the American Standard in 1906, although some breeders acclaim it to be the original variety. The earlier Rhode Island Reds sported both the single and rose combs, some even having pea combs, due to their mixed ancestry and the fact of their being bred primarily for market purposes before they become a Standard breed. An important dual-purpose breed, capable of excellent egg production, but also popular at poultry exhibitions.

RHODE ISLAND WHITE

While the names and place of origin are the same, the Rhode Island White is actually a distinctly different breed from the Rhode Island Red. The Rhode Island White was developed in 1888 by Mr. J. Alonzo Jocoy of Peacedale, Rhode Island. He developed the breed by crossing White Wyandottes with Partridge Cochins and Rose Comb White Leghorns. In 1903, Mr. Jocoy made the breed known to the public and offered individuals for sale. The breed continued to be developed and improved so that it more closely resembled the Rhode Island Red's brick-like body shape, the feathering being fairly close feathered and the feather texture being smooth and firm. The breed was admitted into the American breed standards in 1922 and only the rose comb Rhode Island White. The crossing of a Rhode Island Red and a Rhode Island White will result in Red Sex-Link offspring, meaning offspring that can be sexed by down color alone at hatch. Males are white, females are red.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

THE MALE

- Body:**
- Back:** Long, broad, its entire length carried horizontally, with slight concave sweep to tail; saddle feathers of medium length, moderately broad, abundant.
- Tail:** Of medium length, well spread, carried at an angle of forty degrees above the horizontal thus increasing the apparent length of the fowl; sickles of medium length extending slightly beyond main tail feathers; smaller sickles and tail-coverts of medium length, well covered with soft feathers; main tail feathers broad and overlapping.
- Wings:** Of good size, well folded, carried horizontally; primaries and secondaries: broad and overlapping in natural order when wing is folded.
- Breast:** Moderately deep, full, well rounded.
- Body and Fluff:** Long, broad, moderately deep, straight, extending well forward, giving body an oblong appearance; feathers carried close to body; fluff moderately full.
- Head:** The head of this breed is of medium length, fairly deep, inclined to be flat on top rather than round.

- Single Comb:** Medium in size, set firmly on head, perfectly straight and upright, with five even and well-defined points, those in front and rear smaller than those in centre; of considerable breadth where it joins to the head; blade smooth, inclining slightly downward but not following too closely the shape of the head.
- Rose Comb:** Low, firm on head; oval, free from hollow centre, surface covered with small rounded points, terminating in a spike at the rear, the spike drooping slightly but not conforming too closely to the shape of head.
- Eyes:** Large, oval, prominent.
- Beak:** Medium length; slightly curved.
- Face:** Clean-cut, skin fine and soft in texture, free from wrinkles.
- Ear-lobes:** Oblong, well defined, smooth, in size proportional to the rest of the head.
- Wattles:** Of medium size, equal in length, free from folds and wrinkles.
- Neck:** Of medium length, hackle abundant, flowing over shoulders, not too closely feathered.
- Legs:** Legs set well apart, straight when viewed from front. Lower thighs: large and of medium length, well feathered and smooth. Shanks: medium length and smooth. Toes: four on each foot, medium length, straight and well-spread.

THE FEMALE

- Body:**
- Back:** Long, broad, its entire length carried horizontally.
- Tail:** Of medium length, moderately well spread, carried at an angle of thirty degrees above the horizontal; main tail feathers broad and overlapping.
- Wings:** Rather large, well folded; fronts well covered by breast feathers; flights carried nearly horizontally; primaries and secondaries: broad and overlapping when wing is folded.
- Breast:** Moderately deep, full, well rounded.
- Body and Fluff:** Long, broad, moderately deep, straight, extending well forward, giving body an oblong appearance; feathers carried close to body; fluff moderately full.
- Head:** The head of the female is of medium length, fairly deep, inclined to be flat on top rather than round.
- Single Comb:** Medium in size, set firmly on head, perfectly straight and upright, with five even and well-defined points, those in front and rear smaller than those in centre.

Rose Comb:	Low, free from hollow centre, firm in head, much smaller than that of male and in proportion to its length, narrower; covered with small points and terminating in a small, short spike at the rear.
Eyes:	Large, oval, prominent.
Beak:	Of medium length, slightly curved.
Face:	Clean-cut, skin fine and soft in texture, free from wrinkles.
Ear-lobes:	Oblong, well defined, smooth, proportionate in size to other head adjuncts.
Wattles:	Of medium size, equal in length, regularly curved.
Neck:	Of medium length, moderately full-feathered.
Legs:	Legs set well apart, straight when viewed from front. Lower thighs: medium length, well-feathered, smooth. Shanks: medium length and smooth. Toes: four on each foot, medium length, straight and well-spread.

SERIOUS DEFECTS / DISQUALIFICATIONS

Twisted feather or feathers in wing or tail of any specimen. Feather down on shanks or feet, or unmistakable indications of a feather having been plucked from them. Other than four toes. Rose comb falling to one side, or so large as to obstruct sight. Badly lopped comb, side sprig or sprigs on the single comb. Entire absence of main tail feathers. Squirrel or wry tail. Any white in the plumage. An ear-lobe showing more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of the surface permanently white. (This does not mean the pale ear-lobe, but the enameled white). Green or pearl eye or eyes. Two absolutely white eyes, so-called wall or fish eyes. Diseased specimens, crooked backs, deformed beaks, shanks and feet other than yellow or red-horn colour. A pendulous crop shall be cut hard. Coarseness. Toes not straight and well spread. Super-fineness. Under all disqualifying clauses, the specimen shall have the benefit of the doubt. Robustness is of vital importance.

COLOUR

MAHOGANY

MALE

Comb, face, wattles

and ear-lobes: Bright red.

Beak: Reddish horn.

Head plumage: Lustrous dark mahogany.

Eyes: Red or reddish bay, red preferred.

Neck: Lustrous dark mahogany, plumage on front of neck dark mahogany.

- Wings:** Bows lustrous dark mahogany; Coverts dark mahogany; Primaries and upper webs dark mahogany; Lower webs black with narrow edging of dark mahogany, sufficient only to prevent the black from showing on surface when wings are folded in natural position; Primary coverts black edged with dark mahogany; Secondaries, lower webs dark mahogany, the mahogany extending around end of feathers sufficient to secure a dark mahogany wing-bay and lacing the upper portion of the webs, this colour growing wider in shorter secondaries, remainder of each secondary black, feathers next to body being dark mahogany on surface so that wing when folded in natural position shall show one harmonious dark mahogany colour.
- Back:** Lustrous dark mahogany.
- Tail:** Main tail: black; sickle feathers: black or greenish black; coverts: mainly black, dark mahogany as they approach the saddle.
- Body & fluff:** Lustrous dark mahogany.
- Breast:** Lustrous dark mahogany.
- Shank & toes:** Rich yellow or reddish horn colour. A line of red pigment down the sides of shanks, extending to the tip of toes, is desirable.
- Plumage:** General surface lustrous dark mahogany except where black is specified; free from shafting or mealy appearance; the less contrast there is between wing-bows, hackle and breast, the better. A harmonious blending in all sections is desired. The specimen should be so brilliant in colour as to have a glossed appearance.
- Under-colour of all sections:** Dark mahogany. Black or white in the under-colour of any section is undesirable.

FEMALE

- Comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes:** Bright red.
- Beak:** Reddish horn.
- Head plumage:** Lustrous dark mahogany.
- Eyes:** Red or reddish bay. Red preferred.
- Neck:** Lustrous dark mahogany with slight ticking of black, confined to tips of lower neck feathers; feathers on front of neck lustrous dark mahogany.
- Wings:** Bows: lustrous dark mahogany; coverts: dark mahogany; primaries: upper webs dark mahogany, lower webs black with narrow edging of surface when wings are folded in natural position. Primary coverts: black edged with dark mahogany, secondaries: lower webs dark mahogany, the mahogany extending round the end of the feathers sufficient to secure a dark mahogany wing-bay and lacing the upper portion of upper

webs, this colour growing wider in the shorter secondaries; remainder of each secondary black, feathers next to body being dark mahogany on surface, so that wing when folded in natural position shall show one harmonious dark mahogany colour.

- Back:** Lustrous dark mahogany.
- Tail:** Black, the two top feathers may be edged with dark mahogany.
- Body & fluff:** Dark Mahogany.
- Breast:** Lustrous dark mahogany.
- Shank & toes:** General surface colour, lustrous even dark mahogany except where black is specified; free from shafting or mealy appearance.
- Under-colour of all sections:** Dark mahogany. Black in the under-colour of any section is undesirable

WHITE

MALE AND FEMALE (Rose Combs Only)

- Comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes:** Bright red.
- Beak:** Yellow.
- Eyes:** Red or reddish bay.
- Shank & toes:** Yellow.
- Plumage:** Web, fluff and shafts of all feathers, in all sections; pure snow white.

RHODE ISLAND BANTAMS

The general characteristics and colour descriptions are the same as for the large Rhode Island fowl.

SCALE OF POINTS			
Weight			4
Symmetry			4
Condition			4
Comb			6
	Shape	Colour	Total
Beak	2	2	4
Head	2	2	4
Eyes	2	2	4
Wattles	2	-	2
Ear-lobes	2	2	4
Neck	4	6	10
Wings	4	6	10
Back	5	5	10
Tail	5	5	10
Body and fluff	5	3	8
Breast	5	5	10
Legs and toes	3	3	6
TOTAL			100

	LARGE	BANTAM
ENTRY CODE	294	676
RING SIZE COCK	F	C
RING SIZE HEN	E	B
Colour code		
Mahogany	402	
White	542	