



ESC-P NEWSLETTER

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Welcome

Again a warm welcome to all interested poultry breeders. This is already the fifth edition of the ESC-P newsletter. Since we keep getting a lot of positive feedback from people from all over Europe, we will off course continue this initiative. To keep up with the speed everything is changing in the 21th century, we've redesigned and modernised to make it look more attractive and hopefully

that way reach a larger public. We'd like to ask our member poultry federations again that they publish the letter on their own website or that they create a link to it on the EE-website so that many more breeders all over Europe will be able to reach this information.

The breeders should however keep in mind that any decisions published here do

not automatically apply in your country. They have to be officially implemented by your organization first. Questions of any kind should go to your own national standard commission. It is the contact point for breeders and not the ESC-P directly. Please keep this in mind.

The ESC-P team.

Update on the EE-Standard project

In 2014 in Sarajevo it was decided that the ESC-P would create a real Europe Standard for poultry, meaning this standard will be used on all shows of the participating countries and not only on Europe shows. Meanwhile almost all our members signed a convention with the EE stating that they will replace their national standards with the new Europe standard. This new standard will not be published as one gigantic book but continuously new breeds will be added. The participating countries will have to introduce these as soon as possible



Kreuzer crested fowl from Croatia

after approval but at latest within five years. Of course this only applies for the breeds accepted in this country. So far the ESC-P worked on around 175 breeds of almost 500 presently on the EE list of accepted breeds. Later this year all standards which are definitely approved off will be published in German in a loose leave format which can be easily inserted in the German standard book. Every county will have the possibility to translate the text in its own language. This will be a first huge step towards the common goal for which the EE was founded more than 80 years ago.



*Tula geese cannot have drooping wings.
In the Hookbill fighting geese this is
considered to be a breed characteristic.*

Again Tula geese

In the last edition of our Newsletter we reported about the problems we had with the standard of the Russian Tula geese. This hook-billed goose is very rare and has some very exclusive characteristics which got the attention of breeders all over Europe. Several countries wanted to accept them but there was a lot of confusion about

the standard. The Russian federation kept objecting to any proposal because the European birds all had drooping wings. This was, according to Russia, due to crosses with other breeds making our birds hybrids and no real Tula. On the other hand the Russian federation never managed to provide us with a picture of a 'real Tula'. To end all

this arguing and to protect the genetic material available in Europe, the ESC-P decided to adapt a standard for these birds and to call them 'Hook-billed fighting geese', thus ending this saga and giving the countries the possibility of accepting the breed. The 'real Tula' is no longer on the EE-list of accepted breeds.

Japanese quail or Laying quail ?

In several European countries Japanese quail have been exhibited for years as ornamental fowl in many different colours. More people are becoming interested in breeding them since these birds are small and can easily be kept by those who only have a small garden or even a balcony. However it is not really correct to show them between wild species because they are in fact domesticated birds, just like guinea fowl. Real 'wild' Japanese quail are very rare and are much smaller birds than the production type quails usually seen on shows. Therefore it was decided that in the future they will no longer be considered as 'ornamentals' but as domestic fowl like turkeys and guineas. To avoid any confusion with the wild species (which can still be exhibited as an ornamental) they will be called 'Laying quail'. Because the enormous differences in colour descriptions between the countries and even between poultry and ornithological federations within the same country, writing an EE standard for them will not be an easy job. Therefore a working group was created with specialists from different European countries. Current members are Dr. Boudewijn Goddeeris (B), Vaclav Nedelka (CZ), Barbara Kant (CH) and André Mißbach (D).

It is expected the breed standard and a large part of the many colours will be ready before the end of the year.





Number of primaries

And another matter that was already discussed, the number of primaries in chickens. Normally this would have to be 10 on each side but we've seen over the years this number was increasing until sometimes 14 in some birds and often also a different number on both sides. A few years ago it was decided that from 2016 onwards birds with more than 10 primaries on either side would get maximum 95. Unfortunately this communication was not picked up by a great number of breeders and judges in different countries. In some countries it was applied as decided and in other it caused a lot of protest by the breeders. Germany finally withdrew

the decision for German shows. After serious discussion the ESC-P decided the goal of 10 primaries on each side would remain but the countries should be given some more time to handle the situation. It was decided that a bird with more than 10 primaries on either side could still get 96 for now but not 97. This decision will be effective from now on and will be applied on the Europe show in Herning and will also be applied on every breed specific Europe show, no matter in which country it is organised. Every country is asked to respect the decision because only uniformity in judging can help us to solve this problem.

Madagascar game

Also in poultry breeding we see there are a lot of trends developing. Someone has something that looks a little exotic and suddenly everyone wants to breed this (usually only for a few years and then the trend slowly disappears again). One of these trends of the last few years is the 'Madagascar game'. A old gamefowl breed with a naked neck that was present in Belgium and France around 1900. The breed disappeared again and not much objective information was to be found about it. And then suddenly they appeared everywhere in Europe in all different forms. The only thing they had in common was a (semi-)naked neck. We saw naked-neck Shamo, naked-neck Malay and everything in between. Some showed birds with a completely naked neck and called them Madagascar game and other showed heterozygous birds with a tuft of feathers on the front of the neck and called them Malgache. It was suggested to make two breeds out of them. Of course it is not acceptable anno 2018 to create two breeds which can be bred from the same breeding pair so this was a no go. The rules for accepting new breeds in Europe also forbids to accept a breed with only one modified characteristic as a new breed so also a naked-neck

Shamo or Malay was unacceptable. A standard for the Madagascar game was drawn up, describing a large game but not with an angular body or long straight wings as in Shamo but a type on its own. This will be the breeding goals and meanwhile the French Madagascar game club already started the acceptance procedure in France. By setting a breeding goal before the actual acceptance in different countries we avoid having different birds with the same breed name. Of course, as long as they are not officially accepted in one country, they cannot be judged on official shows.

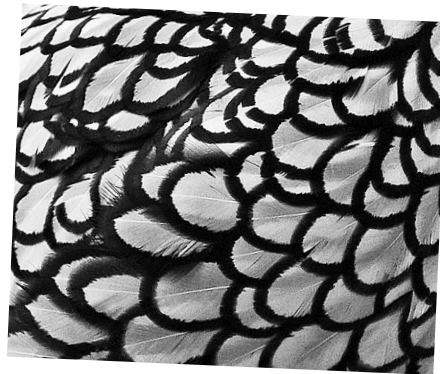




Colour varieties standards

A problem we were continuously confronted with when making up Europe standard for different breeds were the descriptions of the colour varieties. All of them a bit different on paper with different words but in practice hardly any difference at all. To avoid translating 25 different versions of 'black-red' for example, it was decided to write one description for each colour that could be used for all breeds. In the breed standard we will then only refer to this description. Is there something special about a specific breed, for example the roster is more red in colour than a 'normal black-red', this will be added and so immediately get the attention of the judge without being a detail which is overlooked in a long description. This system is already used for decades in some countries.

Some colours also have gotten new names in German for the European



standard. The old names have not been changed yet in the German standards because it concerns many breeds but the new ones will be used from now on by the EE. They are between brackets in the EE breeds and colour list and they will be used on the Europe show in Denmark. Other countries might want to consider already changing the names in their own language to these new ones.

Wyandotte & German Wyandotte

Another saga that we already informed about in our last edition is the one about the Wyandotte. To summarize the problem. During decades Wyandottes very much modified in Germany and didn't look like the original breed anymore. This caused problems on Europe shows for the breeders of those countries that kept breeding the original form. The two versions had become so different that it wouldn't have been possible anymore to merge them again. Therefore it was decided to create two breeds, the Wyandotte (the original American breed) and the German Wyandotte (the modern European version). These two will now exist next to each other. Every country which has only the European version in its standard is kindly asked to change the name. Nothing however prohibits a country to accept both breeds if breeders like them both.



German Wyandotte bantam



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News from the poultry section

Former Poultry section chairman Riebniger deceased

On April 23rd we got the sad news that our former president and EE honorary member, Wilhelm Riebniger, died at the age of 75. Wilhelm became chairman of the poultry section in 2010 in Toledo and retired

in 2016 in Vienna. The poultry section is grateful for the work of Wilhelm. It was under his chair that the proposal to create a real Europe Standard for poultry was unanimously approved of in 2014 in Sarajevo.





New regulation in the poultry section

The first goal of the new chairman was to bring all the old sets of different rules together in one common regulation for the poultry section and so it happened. During the section meeting in Eger in 2016, the new regulation was accepted. The new text can be found on the EE website and treats 4 different chapters, the poultry section, the European Standard commission for poultry (ESC-P), the Europe Standard for poultry and the EE poultry judges

New composition of the ESC-P

The new regulations also meant a change in the composition of the ESC-P. This was necessary because of the number of new members we've gained over the years. Most important changes were the fact that Germany has become a permanent full member now and that the Eastern region was split into East and South-East because it became too large. At the moment, the region South-East consists of Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria and will be represented by Andreas Albert Klaus from Hungary.



The participants of the section meeting in Kolding 2018



Situation in Romania and Serbia finally clear

After several of years of arguing about which organisation is the rightful EE member and having different delegations present at our meetings claiming they were the only real ones representing their country, the

EE Presidium decided to end this confusion for once and for all and it worked. Finally all parties involved got enough common sense to forget the past and to look only at the future. In both countries the former rivals

merged into one organisation and so it is finally clear who we are working with. This will be in the benefit for all and not in the least for the Romanian and Serbian breeders and also their national breeds.



Turkey accepted as a new member

During the annual meeting in Kolding in May 2018, the Turkish federation TSHF was unanimously accepted as the newest member in the poultry section. After having them as guests on the 2017 annual meeting and having visited their first national show in Istanbul in January 2018, we were convinced about the structure of this federation and it's organisation skills. We look forward to working together in the future.



Breed specific Europe shows gain popularity

During the past showing season not less than 8 different locations in Europe (in France, Holland, Germany, Spain, Italy and Croatia) hosted one of more breed specific Europe shows for poultry breeds. All together they assembled more than 4.800 birds. Even more important is how many breeders from all over Europe they united and the new friendships they built ! Also they provide us with some money that we will try to invest wisely into projects that will improve poultry breeding and judging in Europe.

Calendar

- November 9th-11th 2018 : Europe Show in Herning (DK)
- November 2nd-3rd 2019, Schirnding (D) EE show Sebright
- November 15th-17th 2019, Tiel (NL) EE show Orpington + their bantam
- November 22nd-24th 2019, Trento (I) EE show Silkies and Polands + their bantams
- November 23rd-24th 2019, Wells (A) EE show Naked necks + their bantams
- November 30th December 1st 2019, EE show Woincourt (F) Brahma their bantams
- November 21st-22nd 2020, Schönbach (D) EE show Italiener + their bantams



Judges Meetings approved for the next few years

Every year in September the poultry section organises an international judges meeting to which all poultry judges from Europe are invited. This year the meeting will be held together with the pigeon judges in Oksbøl in Denmark. In 2019 we will be received in Malaga (Spain), in 2020 in Trenčin (Slovakia) and in 2021, the year of the next Europe show, we will be guests in Austria again.

Judging marks for (breed specific) Europe shows

Because we still saw some differences in the use of the judging marks on different Europe shows, the poultry section decided that in the future only one official system will exist for (breed specific) Europe shows. The marks will consist of only numbers (97 to 90 and 0) without addition of any national abbreviations . Besides these also the international abbreviation NA for not officially accepted breeds and colours will be used. This means that also birds which are sick, not in condition, changing feathers, too young or have more than one ring will be scored with 0 points and nothing else. This decision will be effective immediately.



The representatives of the Turkish federation with the president and vice-president of the poultry section.