



# POULTRY MANUAL

National Agricultural Youth Show - 2024

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# INTRODUCTION

It is the desire of the National Youth Show Organization to encourage the youth of South Africa to develop a love for and an interest in show poultry. Schoolchildren will get the opportunity to develop their own skills in exhibiting at different venues and competing against other provinces. Being breeders in their own right, it will encourage and enable them to breed and rear their own purebred birds for exhibiting on shows. Hopefully they will become our future breeders and judges and as an incentive examinations will be drawn up and prizes will be awarded.



# RULES



- 1 Age of exhibitor as on 1 January
  - 1.1 Junior-Junior - 6 - 10 years
  - 1.2 Junior - 11-14 years
  - 1.3 Senior - 15 - 18 years
  
- 2 Correct attire, as prescribed at wash and preparation and at judging, must be worn.
  
- 3 It must be the candidate's own show bird which must not be younger than 9 months.
  
- 4 An official judge from the Southern African Show Poultry Organization (SASPO) must be the appointed judge. A junior judge, who is trained in judging poultry by the youth, may assist the senior judge.
  
- 5 A theoretical, practical and oral examination will be written
  
- 6 Theoretical examination (20%)

Multiple option questionnaire on section 4, as well as on aspects contained in the complete manual.

See Manual, section 3.
  
- 7 Practical wash and preparation (30%)

Preparation and wash of show bird (15%)  
Handling of the bird during wash and preparation (15%)

See Manual, section 2.1

## 8 Showmanship (50%)

Judging the show bird as laid down by the Standard of Perfection (Breed Standards) of the Southern African Show Poultry Organisation (SASPO) for that specific breed. Available on [www.saspo.org.za](http://www.saspo.org.za). In this section the correct attire must be worn.

See Manual, section 2.2

- 8.1 Correct handling of the show bird (15%)
- 8.2 Check for faults - disqualifications (10%)
- 8.3 Mention the strong and weak points of the entrant (10%)
- 8.4 Candidate's attitude towards judges, neatness of candidate and attitude towards youth show (5%)
- 8.5 Questions about your own entry (10%)

## 9 General

- 9.1 Each competitor is allowed one show bird.
- 9.2 The bird must be transported in a neat and sturdy cage or crate.
- 9.3 Identification of the exhibitor may not appear on any crate or equipment.
- 9.4 Cages may not be decorated with the colours of the Province, name of the bird or candidate, rosettes or any other decorations.
- 9.5 Exhibitors are responsible to bring their own feed.
- 9.6 Caring for the birds before, during and after the show is the responsibility of the exhibitor.
- 9.7 Cleaning equipment is to be supplied by the candidate.



# MANUAL

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## 1 Introduction

This manual is compiled for competitors in the National Agricultural Youth Show. It covers a reasonably wide spectrum related to the preparation, general knowledge as well as judging, caring and exhibiting of show poultry.

Available on [www.saspo.org.za](http://www.saspo.org.za) or [www.nays.co.za](http://www.nays.co.za).

## 2 Practical

### 2.1 Preparation and wash of a show bird

The preparation and wash of a show bird is judged out of a total of 30 points (30%). 15 Points are awarded towards preparation and wash and 15 points for the handling of the bird during wash and preparation.

2.1.1 Preparation should start at least 2 months before the show.

2.1.2 Choose a show bird of your own choice.

2.1.3 Remove all broken feathers as it takes approximately 8 weeks to re-grow and recover.

2.1.4 The beak and toenails must be trimmed 3 days before the show.

2.1.5 To tame the bird, it should be taken out of the cage on a regular basis and then placed back.

2.1.6 Birds must be tame and free from any visible diseases and lice.

2.1.7 The bird must be at least nine months old and owned by the exhibitor.

- 2.1.8 No preparation and grooming of the bird must be done beforehand. This is done at the exhibition hall as part of the show.
- 2.1.9 Learn how to remove a bird from its cage
- a Place one hand under the bird's carriage and firmly hold both legs between your fingers. (Figure 2)
  - b Place your other hand on its back and lift it off the floor.
  - c When removing the bird from its cage, carefully take it out, head first.
- 2.1.10 Using both hands, head first, the bird can be returned to its cage.
- 2.1.11 Grooming and wash of birds

Equipment needed: plastic bucket

three basins

hand towel

nailbrush with soft and harder side

OMO washing powder

shampoo

sponge

hairdryer

a soft cloth

mixture to apply to the comb and legs

1 part white vinegar

1 part surgical spirits

1 part camphor oil

Only these items need to be displayed during grooming.

- a Pour cold water in a plastic bucket and lukewarm water into the three basins. Test temperature of water with elbow.
- b Use a soft-sided nailbrush to brush only the comb, ear-lobes and wattles of the bird, using clean cold water in plastic bucket.
- c Soap powder is to be added to the water in the first basin where all other parts of the bird must be washed.
- d Hold the bird in the palm of your one hand, legs between your fingers, then gently lower it into the basin to avoid splashing. (See figure 2)

- e Soak the feet for a while before scrubbing them clean with the hard side of the nail brush.
- f Use shampoo only to wash the dirt of the feathers, under the vent. The vent must be washed.
- g After wetting the bird's feathers use sponge and sponge all other feathers. Make sure that you follow the grain of the rest of the feathers when sponging. Use the same basin which contained the soap solution (first basin).
- h Using the following two basins with clean water, rinse the bird thoroughly to ensure that all the soap and shampoo has been rinsed off the feathers.
- i Press the excess water out of the feathers with your hand, wrap the bird in a towel, and repeat by toweling off the excess water.
- j First blow dry under the wings and tail, then keeping to the grain of the feathers, continue blow-drying while lifting the feathers for the air to blow through.
- k As soon as the bird is dry, use a soft sponge/cloth to apply some of the below mentioned mixture to the comb, ear-lobes, wattles and legs of clean legged birds.
- l Please don't use oil on the feathers of the bird.
- m A candidate must wear the shirt provided by Nationals, a blue denim and neat brown shoes during preparation.



Figure 1

#### 2.1.12 Important

- a Be careful not to immerge the head of the bird in the water.
- b Be careful not to let any soap in the eyes.
- c Use shampoo only to wash the dirt of the feathers, under the vent.
- d Prevent holding the hairdryer to close to the bird when blow drying. Always use your hand to determine the heat of the hairdryer.





Figure 2

## 2.2 Showmanship

Your judging of your show bird accounts for 50 points (50%).

### 2.2.1 The 50 points are allocated as follows:

- a Handling of the bird from removing it from the cage, during judging and putting it back into the cage (15)
- b Looking for major faults and disqualifications (10)
- c Mention the strong and weak points of bird (10)
- d Candidate's attitude towards judges, neatness of candidate and attitude towards youth show (5)
- e Oral questions on your own entry (10)

### 2.2.2 Attire (Nationals) and items necessary for judging

- a The shirt that will be supplied by Nationals, a blue denim and neat brown shoes
- b Judging stick

### 2.2.3 Holding the bird

- a Remove the bird from the cage. Put your hand under the bird's carriage and firmly hold both legs with your fingers (see figure 2)
- b Place your other hand on its back and lift it.
- c Remove the bird carefully from its cage, head first.

### 2.2.4 Check for major faults and disqualifications

- a Compare your bird to the laid down standard for your breed as contained in the Standards of Perfection of the Southern African Show Poultry Organization (SASPO). Obtainable from [www.saspo.org.za](http://www.saspo.org.za)

- b Hold the bird away from your body and start with the head and look at the type, eye-colour, comb, ear-lobes, wattles and beak.
- c Examine the breastbone of the bird.
- d Examine the type of the fowl by feeling all component parts with your hand, e.g. width of back, length of breastbone etc.
- e Examine the wing by opening the wing whilst holding the fowl as indicated in figure 2, Use your other hand to naturally spread the wing by pressing it as indicated in figure 3.
- f Examine the tail of the fowl
- g The legs and toes should be thoroughly investigated.
- h Compare the total plumage (outer and undercolour) with the laid down standard.
- i Place bird head first, back into cage.
- j Use a judging stick to let the bird perform. This will enable you to judge the type (outer appearance) of the bird.



Figure 3

#### 2.2.5 Mention the strong and weak points of the bird

During judging it is expected from the candidate to verbally express his/her opinion to the judge. The candidate must follow the process as prescribed in 2.2.4 above and express him/herself on every body part of the bird which he/she is examining. All strong and weak points should be pointed out.

### 2.2.6 Oral questions about own entry (10%)

- a Questions will be asked during showmanship where the candidate will answer all questions orally before judging his/her show bird entered in the Youth Championships. It will count 10% of the marks.
- b It will be required from candidates to know the laid down Standard of Perfection of the South African Poultry Association (SASPO) relating to their own entries. Available on [www.saspo.org.za](http://www.saspo.org.za).
- c Candidates should be able to answer, among others, the following questions regarding their own entry:
  - Name of breed
  - Country of origin of breed
  - Classification of breed
  - Egg colour
  - Prescribed mass of breed
  - General characteristics of your breed, in other words, the type of your breed which will include all component parts
  - The colour of your breed which includes the following: colour of total plumage, eye colour, colour of beak, nails, legs and toenails, colour of comb, ear-lobes and wattles.
  - Disqualifications of your breed
  - Scale of points



### 3 Theoretical General

#### 3.1 General

A theoretical examination, for a total of 20 points, will be written on section 3, as well as on the rest of the manual

#### 3.2 Composition of show bird

##### 3.2.1 External anatomy of a show bird

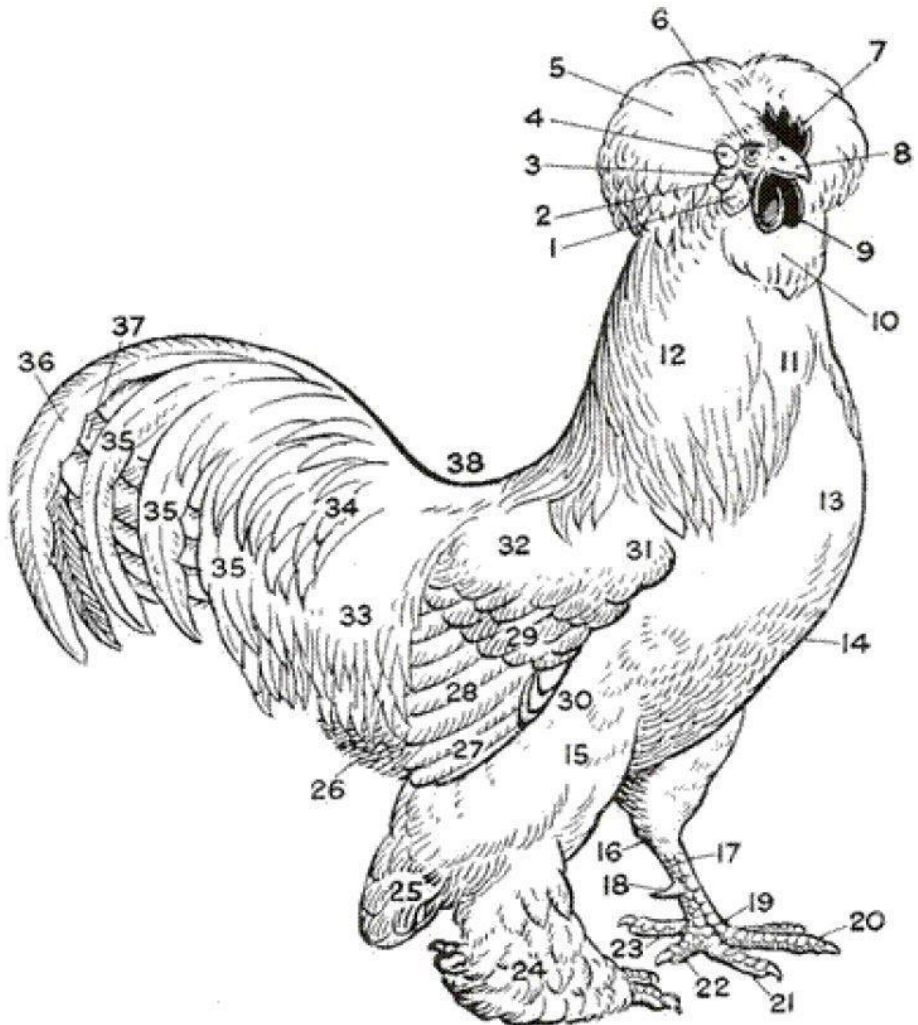


Figure 4

1 Muffing	14 Keel	27 Primary flights
2 Face	15 Thigh	28 Wing bay
3 Ear-lobes	16 Hock joint	29 Wing bar
4 Ear	17 Shank	30 Wing coverts
5 Crest	18 Spur	31 Shoulder
6 Eye	19 Foot	32 Wing bow
7 Comb	20 Middle toe	33 Saddle hackle
8 Beak	21 Third toe	34 Tail coverts
9 Wattles	22 Fourth toe	35 Side hangers
10 Beard	23 Fifth toe	36 Tail sickles
11 Neck	24 Footings	37 Main tail
12 Nek hackle	25 Vulture hock	38 Back
13 Breast	26 Abdomen	

### 3.2.2 Wing

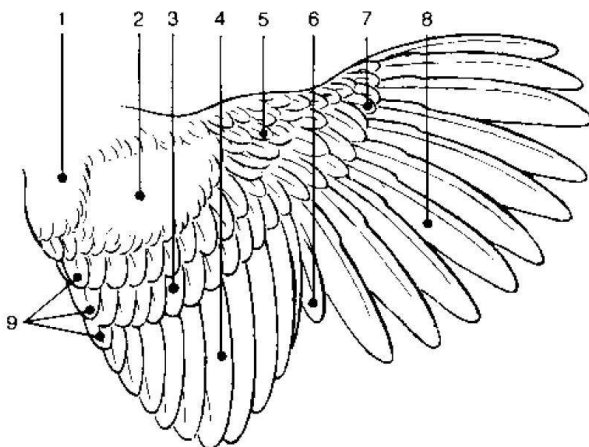


Figure 5

- 1 Shoulder butt or scapulars
- 2 Wing bow coverts
- 3 Lower wing coverts
- 4 Secondaries
- 5 Wing bow coverts
- 6 Axial feather (absent in waterfowl)
- 7 Flight coverts
- 8 Primaries (10 in total)



### 3.2.3 Different legs and toes

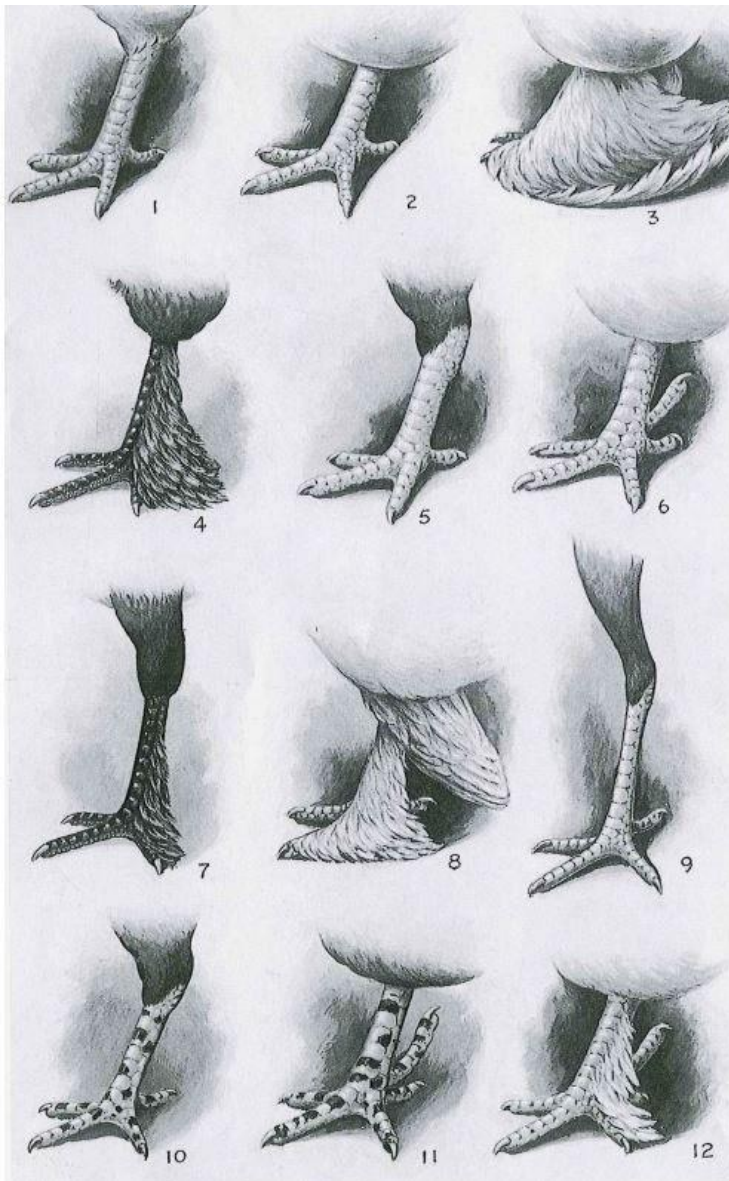


Figure 6

- |   |                                |    |                                 |
|---|--------------------------------|----|---------------------------------|
| 1 | Clean legged, flat side        | 7  | Slightly feathered shanks       |
| 2 | Clean legged, round shanks     | 8  | Feather legged & vulture hocked |
| 3 | Heavily feathered              | 9  | Thin, round shanks              |
| 4 | Feather legged, bare middletoe | 10 | Mottled shanks                  |
| 5 | Short, round shanks            | 11 | Mottled and five toed           |
| 6 | Five toed                      | 12 | Feather legged & five toed      |

### 3.2.4 Types of Combs

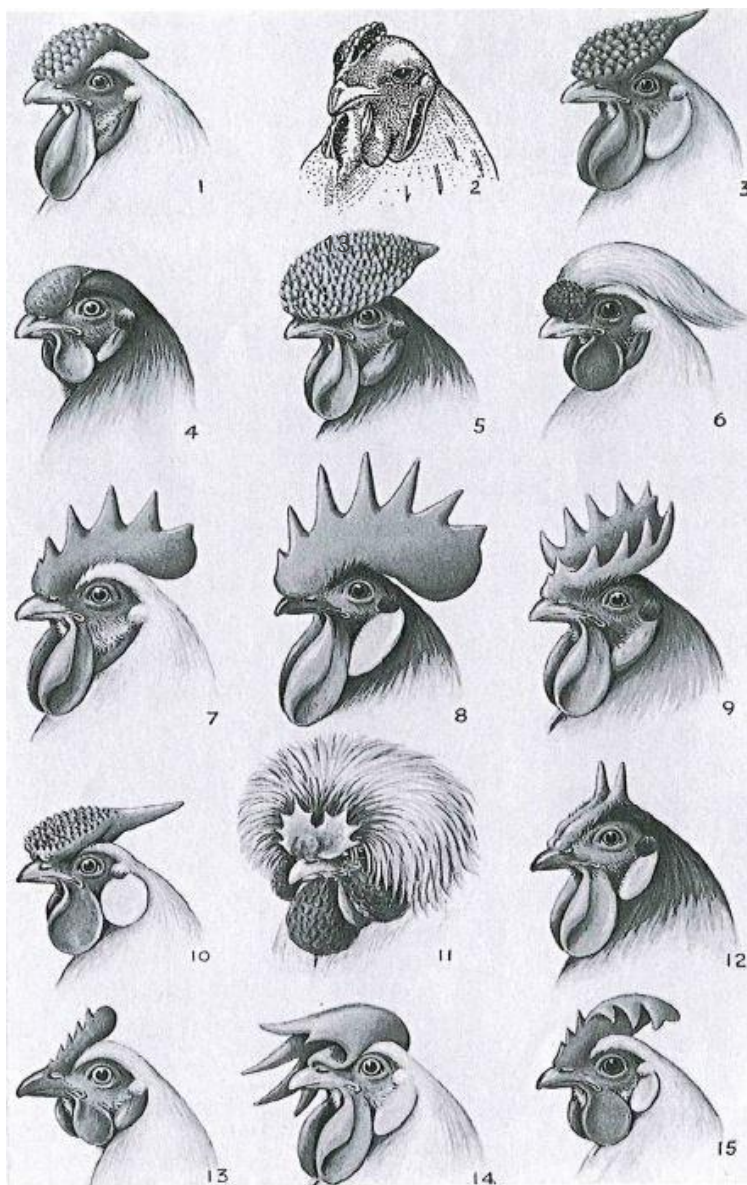


Figure 7

- |   |   |    |                            |    |                        |
|---|---|----|----------------------------|----|------------------------|
| 1 | Rose comb where leader following line of neck | 6  | Mulberry comb              | 11 | Leaf comb              |
| 2 | Pea comb                                      | 7  | Medium single comb         | 12 | Horn comb              |
| 3 | Rose comb, short leader                       | 8  | Large single comb          | 13 | Small single comb      |
| 4 | Walnut comb                                   | 9  | Cup comb                   | 14 | Folded single comb     |
| 5 | Cap comb                                      | 10 | Rose comb with long leader | 15 | Semi-erect single comb |

### 3.3 Classification of show poultry

Poultry is divided in various categories

#### 3.3.1 Soft Feathers

##### a Large Fowls

Heavy Breeds: Australorp, Plymouth Rock

Light Breeds: Minorca, Hamburg, Silkie

##### b Bantams

All large fowl equivalents: Orpington, Lakenvelder

##### c True Bantams

Rosecomb, Sebrights, Pekins, Dutch Bantam (Hollandse Kriel).

#### 3.3.2 Hard Feathers

##### a Large Fowls

Malay Game, Natal Game, Indian Game

##### b Light Breeds

Old English Game, Sumatra Game, Yokohama Game

##### c Bantams

Ko-Shamo, Aseel Game, Modern Game

The above-mentioned breeds are amongst the many breeds that are exhibited on shows.

### 3.4 Different breeds of show poultry

Name	Classification
Aseel Game	Hard Feather: Heavy + Bantam
Australorp	Soft Feather: Heavy + Bantam
Barbu d'Anvers	True Bantam
Barbu d'Uccle	True Bantam
Brahma	Soft Feather: Heavy + Bantam
Cochin	Soft Feather: Heavy
Cornish Game	Hard Feather: Heavy + Bantam
Faverolle	Soft Feather: Heavy + Bantam
Friesian	Soft Feather: Light + Bantam
Frizzle	Soft Feather: Heavy + Bantam
Hamburgh	Soft Feather: Light + Bantam
Indian Game	Hard Feather: Heavy + Bantam



Japanese	True Bantam
Jersey Giant	Soft Feather: Heavy + Bantam
Leghorn	Soft Feather: Light + Bantam
Malay Game	Hard Feather: Heavy + Bantam
Minorca	Soft Feather: Light + Bantam
Modern Game	Hard Feather: Heavy + Bantam
Natal Game	Hard Feather: Heavy
New Hampshire	Soft Feather: Heavy + Bantam
Old English Game	Hard Feather: Heavy + Bantam
Orpington	Soft Feather: Heavy + Bantam
Pekin	True Bantam
Plymouth Rock	Soft Feather: Heavy + Bantam
Polish	Soft Feather: Light + Bantam
Potchefstroom Koekoek	Soft Feather: Light + Bantam
Rhode Island Red	Soft Feather: Heavy + Bantam
Rosecomb	True Bantam
Rumpless	True Bantam
Sebright	True Bantam
Silkie	Soft Feather: Light + Bantam
Sumatra Game	Hard Feather: Heavy + Bantam
Sussex	Soft Feather: Heavy + Bantam
Transylvanian Naked Neck	Soft Feather: Heavy + Bantam
Venda	Soft Feather: Light + Bantam
Wyandotte	Soft Feather: Heavy + Bantam

### 3.5 A few general colours of show poultry breeds

Golden	Barred
Golden laced	Black
Grey	Black-tail - Buff
Lavender	Blue
Lemon	Blue Mottled
Light	Blue quail
Mahogany	Brown
Partridge	Buff
Porcelain	Columbia
Red	Chamois
Salmon - Favorelle	Cream
Silver	Crele
Silver Grey	Cuckoo
Silver Partridge	Dark
Tri-colour	Dark red
White	Fawn
White-crested black	Ginger

### 3.6 General Disqualifications

#### Earlobes

- a More than one quarter white in red lobes
- b More than one quarter red in white lobes

#### Eyes

- a Odd
- b Colour of iris foreign to standard
- c Blind in one or both eyes

#### Comb

##### Single

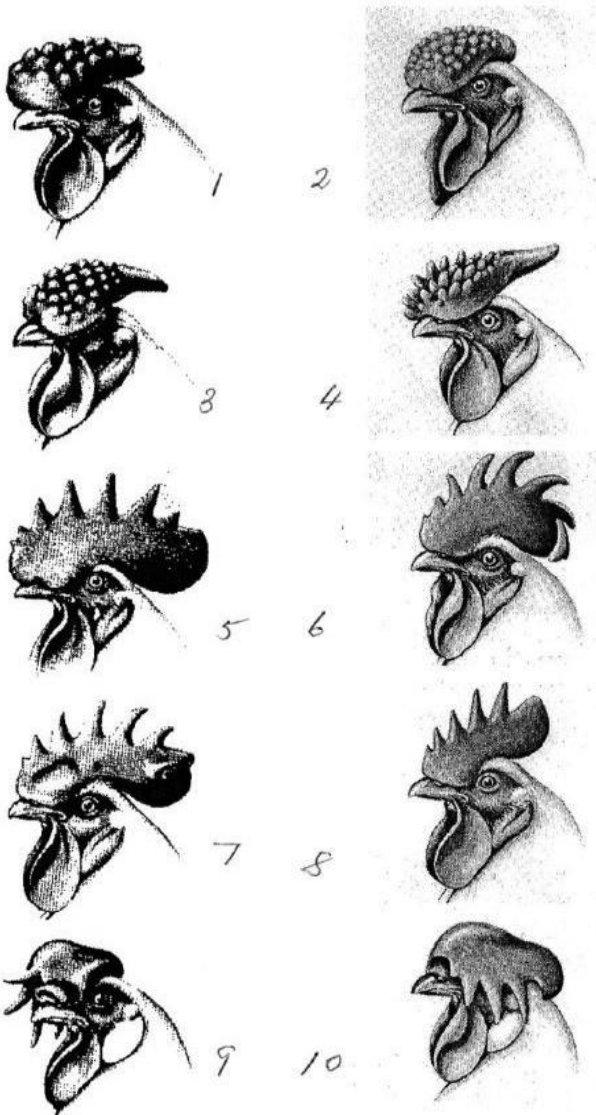
- a Flop comb blocking vision
- b Side sprig or sprigs
- c Split blade

Rosecomb

- a Lopped sufficient to obstruct sight
- b Over-large sufficient to obstruct sight
- c Absence of spike
- d More than one spike
- e Spike inverted

General

- a Comb foreign to breed or variety



- 1 Ingrown leader
- 2 Short of leader and uneven wattles
- 3 Rosecomb falling to side and blocking vision
- 4 Bad leader and coarse worked comb
- 5 Beefy, with part of blade to far forward
- 6 Badly curved at rear end with spikes falling over
- 7 Thumb mark and side sprig
- 8 Fly away comb
- 9 Double folded comb
- 10 Flop comb blocking vision

Figure 8

## Beak

All breeds

Deformed

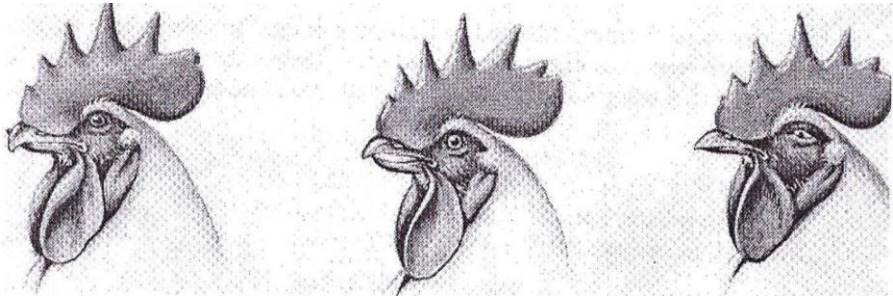


Figure 9

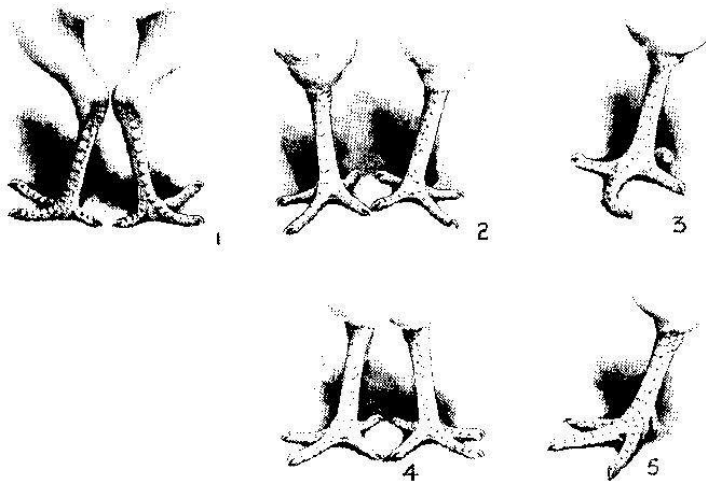
- 1 Crossed beak
- 2 Open beak
- 3 Sunken eye

## Plumage

- a Any feather or feathers of a colour foreign to the breed or variety showing on outer plumage.
- b Badly twisted hackle (frizzles excepted)
- c Hen feathers in males except Sebrights, Campines and OEG Hennies.
- d Clipped primary flights or secondaries or both.

## Legs and feet

- a Any colour foreign to the breed
- b More or less than four toes on either or each foot of four-toed breeds
- c The same applies for five-toed breeds
- d Any feathers on shanks, feet or toes on clean legged birds
- e Deformed foot or foot joints
- f Crooked toes
- g Missing toes or toenails
- h Knock-knees
- i Bowlegs
- j Webfoot in land fowl
- k Duck foot in land fowl

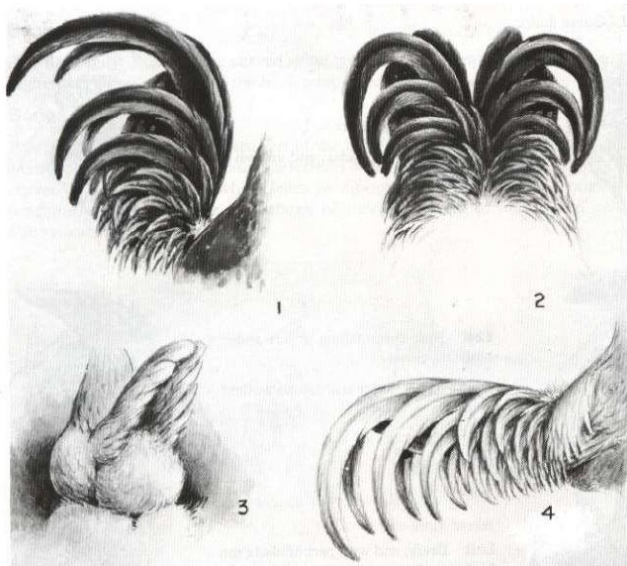


- 1 Knock-kneed
- 2 Bow legged
- 3 Crooked toe
- 4 Splayed toes
- 5 Duck foot

Figure 10

#### Tail

- a Absence of all tail feathers except Rumpless
- b Twisted tail feathers
- c Twisted Sickles except Frizzles
- d Split or divided tail
- e Squirrel tail except Japanese
- f Wry tail

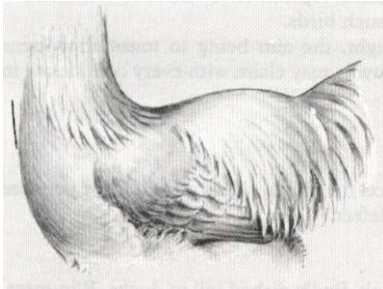


- 1 Squirrel tail
- 2 Split tail
- 3 Wry tail
- 4 Dropped tail

Figure 11

## Back

Crooked, roached or deformed



Roach back

Figure 12

## Wings

- a Twisted feathers
- b Split wings
- c Clipped wing

## Health

- a Any fowl showing symptoms of any disease
- b Bumble foot
- c Pendulous crop
- d Sagging abdomen
- e Lack of vigour and constitution

## Note

- a General disqualifications of which are highlighted above is applicable to each breed except where the breed standard specifically prescribes otherwise. The breed specific disqualifications are specified in the description of the Breed in the Standard of Perfection of the Southern African Show Poultry Organisation (SASPO). All general disqualifications are listed in the said standards. Available on [www.saspo.org.za](http://www.saspo.org.za).
- b Not all the illustrations contained in figures 7 to 11 is regarded as disqualifications. Each standard provides for defects which are penalized at judging for which points are deducted.

### 3.7 Classification for show-entries

Code	Sex
01	Cock (12 months and older)
02	Hen (12 months and older)
03	Cockerel / Stag (Under 12 months old)
04	Pullet (Under 12 months old)
05	Breeding Pen (1 Cock en 2 Hens)
06	Team of four pullets (Four Pullets)

### 3.8 Poultry Diseases

Prevention is better than cure. Well-kept poultry and constant tending of your flock ensure healthy poultry. However, the risk of infection and contamination from different sources are ever present.

#### Bacterial diseases

White Diarrhea	Chicks up to three weeks are at risk. Signs are drooped wings, ruffled feathers, standing aside with closed eyes, white diarrhea, weakness and lameness. No effective treatment. Cages should be kept clean and dry. Perform blood tests on breeders and eliminate carriers.
Infectious Coryza	General signs are swelling of the face, mucous discharge from the eyes and nose, sneezing, difficult breathing and death. Adult birds are at risk. Treat with Tylan. Prevent by vaccination with Haemofilus.
Mycoplasma gallisepticum	Signs are coughing, nasal discharge, watery eyes and head shaking. Treat with antibiotics. Fosbac Plus T, Baytril or Novabiotic.

## Virus infections

**Newcastle Disease** Symptoms difficult to see depending on type of virus, temperatures, resistance and age of the flock. Chickens are initially lethargic and quiet. Necks are abnormally twisted and general weakness occurs. The whole flock can die. Prevent by inoculation against Newcastle disease with La Sota or Hitchner BI.

**Infectious Bronchitis** Chickens yawn, cough, breathe noisily and heavily, eyes water and noses run. Treatment: good ventilation and Tylan. Prevent overcrowding. Vaccinate chickens twice a year.

### Note

Use combination vaccination for Newcastle and Infectious Bronchitis.

**Gumboro** Affected age group is two to six weeks. Signs are depression, loss of appetite, trembling unsteady gait, vent pecking. No treatment. Prevent by vaccination with Gumbovac.

**Fowl Pox** Signs are presence of wartlike lesions on the comb and wattles and of yellow caseous (cheeselike) accumulations in the mouth and throat. Treat lesions with mercurochrome, iodine or antibiotic ointment. Prevent the disease by vaccinating fowls with chicken pox vaccine. Mosquitoes spread pox quickly.

**Mareks Disease** It is a cancer of the nervous system. Symptoms are paralysis of the wings and legs with one leg stretched forward and the other backwards. Chickens lose weight till they die. There is no effective treatment. Inoculate chickens on day one with virus vaccine.



## Internal Parasites

### Coccidiosis

Is latent in all poultry. When condition of poultry declines, coccidiosis takes over. Affected chickens will stand with closed eyes. White to brown diarrhea occurs which later changes to bloody. There are various very effective remedies such as Baycox, ESB3, etc. Prevent overcrowding and contamination of feed and water.

### Worms

Round worms and Tapeworms are most common. Chickens lose condition and become anemic. Deworm flock at least once a year. There are many effective anti-worm remedies on the market.

## External Parasites

### Lice

Their bites cause irritation and restlessness. Use Deadline. Use one drop of Deadline under each wing, behind the head and under the tail. Karbadust is also a good product.

### Fleas

Same treatment as for lice.

### Mites

Red mite, chicken mite and tampans on fowls must be treated immediately. At the same time the pens must be treated by spraying or dusting and thoroughly cleaned out.

### Scaly Leg

Mites crusty stinking masses of debris under scales. It can cause loss of toenails and joints. Treat with Vaseline and Flower of Sulphur.

## Bumble Foot

This is caused by injury of the cushion of the foot, usually because perches are too high off the floor. Treat bumble foot by opening and cleaning the wound. Place a suitable ointment in the wound and protect the wound for a few days. Remove cause of the problem by lowering the perches.

### 3.9 General information

- a An egg hatches in 21 days.
- b The temperature in an incubator is between 37.5 and 38.0 degrees Celsius.
- c An incubator requires heat, humidity and oxygen to function properly.
- d The function of a hen's vent is to serve as a channel for eggs, propagation and discharge.

## 4 Acknowledgement

The manual was originally compiled by Dr. J P H Wessels and Mrs. M J Venter in 2002 and we acknowledge their contribution with great thanks. Since 2007 to 2022, Mr. B M F Hall and Mr. W J Hall updated, revised and supplemented the manual. Their contributions are also acknowledged with thanks.

The 2023 revision and redesign was done by B J van Wyk.

## 5 Amendments to the manual

Any revision, updating, supplement or amendment to the manual will be dealt with by a committee under the chairmanship of the SASPO Youth Representative. The committee will consist of two members who must be recognized judges of the Southern African Show Poultry Organization (SASPO).

## Wash and Preparation

Equipment	Points	Student Number		
		_____	_____	_____
Bucket	1			
3 Basins	1			
Towel	1			
Nail Brush (hard & soft)	1			
Omo Washing Powder	1			
Shampoo	1			
Sponge for washing	1			
Hairdryer	1			
Cloth for applying the mixture	1			
Mixture: 1 x white vinegar, 1 x surgical spirits, 1 x camphor oil	1			
<b>Wash</b>				
Check water temperature.	2			
Start with comb and wattles in basin with cold water.	1			
Put Omo in the first container and wash the chicken.	1			
Wash the feet with the hard nail brush.	1			
Clean the cloacal area with shampoo.	1			
Use a sponge to wash the chicken along with the grain of the feathers.	1			
Rinse in the second container.	1			
Squeeze out excess water.	1			
Rinse in the third container.	1			
Squeeze out water.	1			
Dry with a towel.	1			
Blow-dry with a hairdryer.	1			
Dry in the direction of the feathers, not against it.	2			
Begin under the wings.	2			
Keep your hand nearby to check the temperature.	2			
Apply the mixture to the comb and wattles, not on the feathers.	1			
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>			

## Showmanship

Description	Points	Student Number		
		_____	_____	_____
Breed	1			
Characteristics of the breed	5			
Color description	1			
Head description, eye color, beak	5			
Leg description, color, number of toes, preparation for the show	5			
Opening wings and feather description	5			
Handling the chicken	5			
Faults of the chicken	3			
Common disqualifications, mention 3	3			
Placement in the cage	2			
Judge's stick	1			
Presentation of the chicken	5			
Removing the chicken from the cage	2			
Exhibitor's attitude towards the judge	5			
Cleanliness of the exhibitor	2			
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>			