EVALUATING YOUR COCHIN BANTAM
By Matt Lhamon, May, 2023

The Cochin Bantam evaluation sheet was designed to help a breeder define and quantify the improvement progress in their birds. It uses the ABA Bantam Standard Scale of points as I believe that better breaks down the bird, section by section, than anything else.

First, an evaluation of all the breeder birds is completed and then the decision to mate the birds up can be made. Since you complete the evaluation, you can use the scale of points to decide how a bird rates through all the categories. I have this in a spreadsheet format so it auto calculates the bird's score. *(See following page.)*

I like to mate strengths to weaknesses when it is possible and define a few things I want to improve on during that breeding season.

Once we decide what birds to mate, I make a mating card and track laying ability, fertility, hatch and mortality rate. Chicks from the mating are culled along the way for obvious faults and disqualifications. Once the birds you decide to keep are mature, I use the same sheet to evaluate the offspring. This is when I can ask several questions about the mating. Did the offspring score higher, lower or maintain the same quality? Did I improve the areas I was focusing on? Would I make this mating again?

This method has proved to force the breeder to evaluate every mating and strive for continued improvement in their lines. It also shows that you are not just whilly-nilly perpetuating birds with no end goal in mind.

~ Matt Lhamon

Cochin Bantam Evaluation and Scoring Sheet

Other than White:

Ideal			Total		
Total	Shape	Color	Score	Shape	Color
12	6	6			
3	2	1			
8	4	4			
10	5	5			
5	5				
10	10				
4	2	2			
4	2	2			
4	3	1			
8	5	3			
6	1	5			
4	4				
8	4	4			
2	2				
4	4				
8	3	5			
100	62	38			

Frizzle:

Ideal			Total		
Total	Shape	Color	Score	Shape	Color
11	5	6			
3	2	1			
7	3	4			
9	4	5			
4	4				
10	10				
10	10				
3	1	2			
4	2	2			
3	2	1			
7	4	3			
5	2	3			
4	4				
7	3	4			
2	2				
4	4				
7	4	3			
100	66	34			