

DEPTH OF FLUFF

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An important factor often overlooked by breeders, judges and exhibitors is the “depth of fluff” applicable to the feathers in Pekins.

This, simply is the amount of fluff present on each feather from the base of the quill to where the webbing begins.

Better specimens of Pekins that have a good depth of fluff (as depicted in Fig. A below) will have a much softer, rounded feel to them than birds with a lack of “depth of fluff”. Feathers of the latter specimens (Fig. B) will appear to be longer and sometimes narrower and also appear to lay flatter against the body. This particular appearance is sometimes referred to as “close” or “tight” feathered.

Another aspect of the “depth of fluff” is the dander feather which is often piggy-backed at the base of the quill of each feather in better specimens. The length and amount of fluff on this dander feather also contributes greatly to the fullness of feathering.

Concentrated selection of breeding stock, adhering to the required feathering qualities, will assist exhibitors to eventually put this quality into their stock.

One must be careful, however, to not carry the search for abundance of fluff to excess whereby the outline of an otherwise good bird is destroyed by excess profusion of feather fluff protruding through the line of feathers to actually break to contour of the cushion.

