

WHITE COCHIN BANTAMS

By George Fitterer

The first American White Cochin Bantams were originated by A.P. Groves about twenty years ago. Since that time, many American fanciers have taken to breeding the Whites with the keenest precaution that they might be brought to the highest degree of perfection, and through their care and foresight the popularity of the White Cochin is steadily increasing.

The White Cochins in late years have been indeed a great deal improved both in shape and color. The breeders of today are striving to produce stay-white bantam males.

The three important features in the Cochin Bantams that should be given careful attention are color, shape and feathering. When I mate for type, color, and feathering, I select females that are small and vigorous, possessing good shape and heavily feathered. Color indeed is not overlooked, for only females that are white to the skin are selected. The shafting of the feathers should be white, not yellow, if you want to breed stay-white males. A male is selected that is strong in points where the females are weak. Such a mating is bound to give good results.

As to the size of Cochin Bantams, they are guided by the standard which fixes a uniform weight as follows: 30 oz., 26 oz., 24 oz., for cock, hen, cockerel and pullet, and to exceed this weight 4 oz. is to disqualify. The Cochins should have a broad, deep and well-rounded body, short legs with loose and abundant feathers, and in fact they should be full feathered in cushion, fluff, hocks, shanks, and toes. Long, soft, fluffy plumage is the main characteristic of the Cochin Bantams.

The comb should be single, neat and erect and rather small.

The face should be smooth and fine in texture of skin, wattles and ear lobes rather long, but thin and bright red; neck short and neatly arched with an abundance of hackle plumage; body carried slightly forward with head and tail almost equal in height; back should be short and broad; wings short and tightly tucked up. The main tail (as in the hen) should be short and spread at base, well filled underneath with soft fluffy feathers and enveloped with the coverts or side hangers; thighs are set moderately wide apart and well feathered; shanks short and stout with heavy feathering.

White Cochins hatch out yellow, white and gray. All three colored chicks when feathered out turn out to be nice and white.

The baby chicks are fed on bread first soaked in milk then squeezed dry, for the first week. After the first week a small quantity of a good chick feed is added to their daily feed. For the adult Cochins feed a mash in the morning and some grain in the evening will answer the purpose. Equal parts of wheat, kaffir corn and rice makes an ideal summer grain mixture. Equal parts of wheat and of a good commercial scratch feed will do for the winter months.

A beginner will make no mistake by selecting White Cochin Bantams, for they bred true to color, are easily raised and above all the stand at the head of the list as little egg machines.