

# Russian Orloff Breed Standard GB



*Bantam*

*Large*



# THE RUSSIAN ORLOFF BREED STANDARD

## LARGE FOWL

Origin: Iran and Russia

Classification: Heavy, Soft Feather

Egg Colour: Cream to Light Brown

This breed originally came from the Gilan province of northern Iran, where it was known as the Chilianskaia. Some were taken to Moscow and renamed by Count Orloff Techesmensky. From Russia they became known to British, Dutch and German poultry experts in the 1880s and 1890s, and an Orloff Club existed in Britain in the 1920s and 1930s and was reformed as the Russian Orloff Society in 2011. Orloff bantams have been known in Germany since 1925, but did not reach Britain until the 1970s. As this standard indicates, Orloffs are mainly judged on type and character, especially of the head.

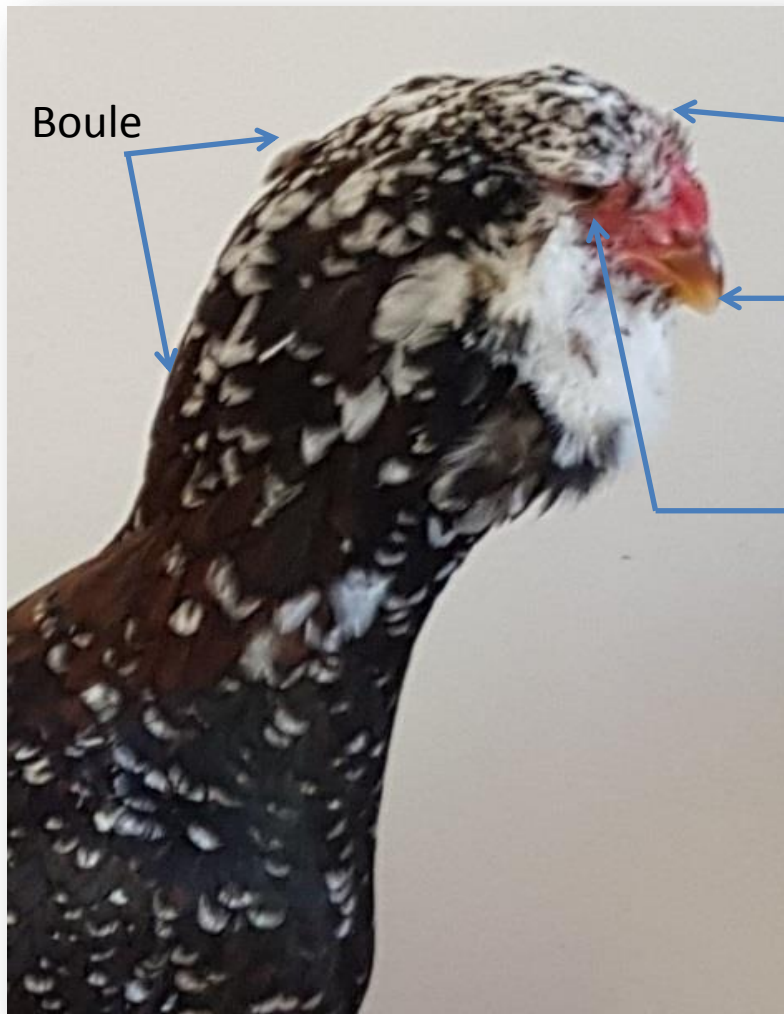
# Scale of Points

Before reading any Breed Standard, look at the Scale of Points, this will immediately tell you what is important when judging this breed.

- **Comb and other head points including beard, whiskers and boule - 35**
- **Type and carriage – 25**
- **Colour – 15**
- **Condition – 15**
- **Legs – 10**

**TOTAL: 100 Points**

# Comb and other head points including beard, whiskers & boule – **35 Points**



Large Spangled Female Head

- **Skull** wide, of medium size
- **Beak** short, stout and well hooked (*yellow*).
- **Eyes** full and deeply set under well projecting (beetle) eyebrows, giving a gloomy, vindictive expression

(**NOTE:** *Eye colour to be red or amber*)

# Head continued

- **Comb** low and flat, shaped somewhat like a raspberry cut through its axis (lengthwise), covered with small protuberances mingled with small, bristle like feathers, which peculiarity noticeable in the female.
- **Face** muffled, beard and whiskers well developed.
- **Ear-lobes** very small, hidden under the muffles.
- **Wattles** small, and show only in the male

**NOTE** - In both sexes and all colours: Comb, face, ear lobes and wattles red.

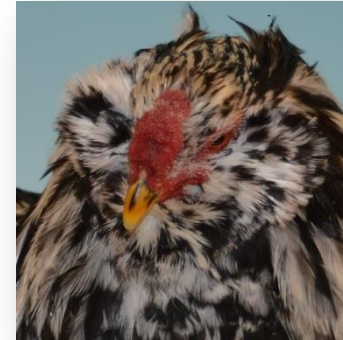


**Large Spangled Male Head**

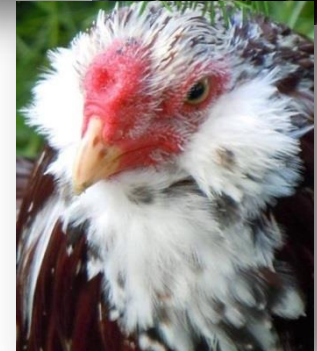
# Large and Bantam Heads for Comparison



Good Large  
Male heads,  
showing wide  
skulls and  
correct (Beetle)  
brow.



Good male  
Bantam  
heads



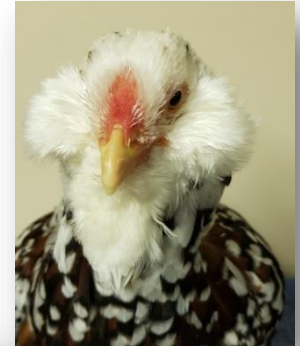
Poor Large and  
Bantam male heads,  
long, narrow and  
lacking in the  
required "Brow", and  
well developed muff,  
beard and whiskers.



# Large and Bantam Heads for Comparison



Good Large female heads showing excellent brow and expression



Good female Bantam heads



Poor female head, long, narrow skull and beak. Lacking in brow and well developed muff, beard and whiskers. Untypical expression.

# Incorrect combs

**Serious Defects:** Comb of any other form than as described'



**Single, Rose and Pea combs are totally unacceptable.**

# Correct combs —

Combs vary in Orloff and do change as the bird gets older and in the case of a female, when she starts to lay. Combs with dints and creases are considered acceptable, but any suggestion of a ridge down the centre of the comb, from back to front (Pea comb) is not acceptable.



Male  
Combs



Female  
Combs

# Notes on heads:

- **SERIOUS DEFECTS:** The Absence of beard, whiskers and boule are considered a serious fault. Comb of any other form than as described.
- **DISQUALIFICATIONS:** The main characteristics of the Orloff are its peculiarities of shape, comb, head and carriage and judges are earnestly requested to bear this in mind when awarding prizes.
- **....Orloffs** are mainly judged on type and character, especially of the head.

# Type and carriage— 25 Points

- **Carriage:** Upright, with slightly sloping back
- **Type:** Body Broad and fairly long. Flat slightly sloping back.
- **Breast:** rather full and prominent
- **Wings:** Closely carried wings of moderate length.
- **Tail:** Tail of medium size with fairly narrow sickles. Carriage rather low but slightly above horizontal



Large Spangled male

# Type and carriage — continued female

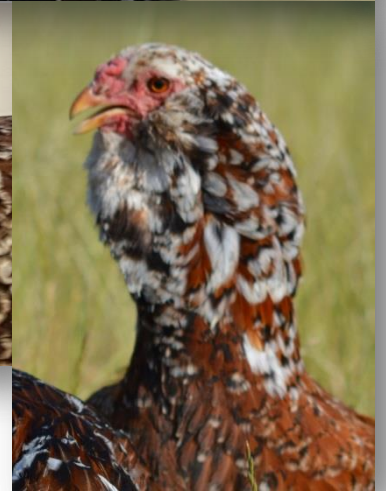
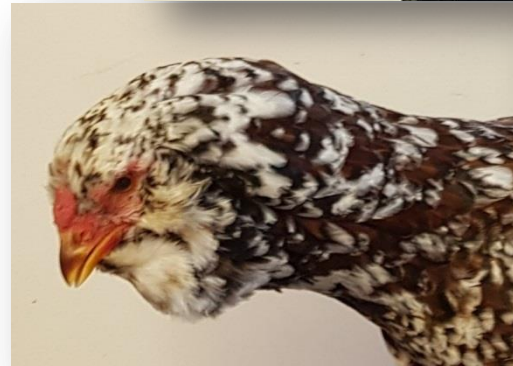
## Female:

With exception of the muffling (which is more developed) and the tail (comparatively long) the general characteristics are similar to those of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences.



# Type and carriage continued

- **Neck:** Fairly long and erect, very heavily covered with hackle (boule), the feathers very full at the top but so close at the base of the neck as to appear thin there, and forming a distinct angle with the back.



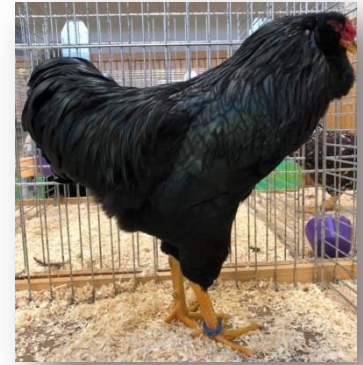
Examples of “Boules” on Large Spangled females and male.

# Notes on Type & carriage

- The basis for the evaluation of any pure breed of poultry is the “Breed Type”.
- What is “Breed Type”?
  - Breed Type encompasses a particular feature or a combination of features unique to that particular breed and is described in the corresponding Breed Standard.
  - The Russian Orloffs unique appearance and carriage makes it an excellent example to demonstrate Breed Type.
- The Orloff resembles no other breed of poultry, its Breed Type is defined by:
  - Overall head appearance and shape, tri-lobe head furnishings, beak shape, brow, eye and expression.
  - Upright stance and carriage, length of neck and boule, tail carriage, outline e.g. the Orloff is easily recognised even from a silhouette, more so than any other breed.
  - Other factors which contribute to Breed Type – Clean legged with moderately long yellow legs and feet, feather quality, colour, temperament and attitude.

# Colour – 15 Points

- There are 6 Standardised colours of Orloff:
- Black
- Mahogany
- Spangled
- White
- Cuckoo
- Black Mottled – Standardised 2016



Black



Mahogany



Black Mottled



Cuckoo



White



Spangled

# Notes on Colour

➤ **DISQUALIFICATIONS:** In this breed the colour is of secondary importance and is a deciding point only in close competition.

**NOTE:** This term in the Breed Standard is sometimes interpreted as colour is of no importance and can seem contradictory, particularly as the 6 colours are clearly described in detail and 15 points are awarded to colour alone, so we must assume colour does have a value and should be rewarded when judging them.

Reading the Breed Standard as a whole what this actually means is, if you have two birds of equal merit in head properties, type and carriage, condition, legs and feet - the bird which meets the nearest description to its colour, would be the winner.

**Popular Colours:** The Spangled variety is by far the most popular colour in both large and bantam. Black Mottled, Mahogany and White are occasionally seen. Black and Cuckoo are extremely rare.

# Condition – 15 Points

- Serious defects: Weak, deformed or diseased specimens.

NOTES: It goes without saying that a judge should expect to find an exhibit well prepared for the show pen, the bird to be fit and in good, clean condition and free from parasites.

The bird should be alert, bright eyed and in full feather with a lustrous sheen and presented to the best the exhibitor can achieve.



Large Spangled male in  
good condition

# Legs – 10 Points

- **Legs and feet:** Moderately long and stout.
- **Thighs** muscular and well apart.
- **Shanks** round and finely scaled.
- **Toes**, four, long and well spread



## NOTES on legs & Feet

- **In both sexes and all colours** – Legs rich yellow. *The exception is the Black Mottled variety, standardised in 2016 where it says: Beak should be yellow and legs bright yellow, but black or horn coloured mottling or shading not to be penalised.*
- **Disqualifications** – Slight feathering or down between the toes is not to constitute a disqualification. *NOTE: No feathers are permitted on the legs and shanks.*
- *It should also be mentioned that on a first year bird, judges would expect to see a bright and vibrant yellow leg colour, less so on an adult bird.*

# General Notes on the Breed Standard

BANTAM - Orloff bantams follow the large fowl standard.

NOTE: Although the Breed Standard is exactly the same for both large fowl and bantam, judges will notice as in many other breeds, the two sizes are often quite different in appearance. It is likely that the bantam variety doesn't even contain any large fowl blood, as it was created in Germany around 1925, from what is believed to be Belgians, local bearded breeds and Thuringians. Although UK breeders strive to breed birds which replicate the large but in bantam form, it is a continual challenge to breed a rangy and a unique type of bird in miniature and within the constraints of the bantam weight range.

## WEIGHTS:

Large - Cock 3.6kg (8lb); Cockerel 3.2kg (7lb), Hen 2.7kg (6lb); Pullet 2.25kg (5lb)

Bantam – Cock 1300g (46oz); Cockerel 1200g (43oz), Hen 1000g (36oz); Pullet 900g (32oz)

NOTE: The weight does not feature in the scale of points when judging Orloff, and is used as a guideline. Generally in poultry, a bantam is a third of the size of its large counterpart.

The End