

Breed Classification

There are well over one hundred breeds and varieties of poultry in this country, with many others in existence throughout the world. Each of these breeds has distinct attributes and character, and is classified by The Poultry Club accordingly. This can also be based on a breed's historical origins, original purpose, popularity, or size.

Two sizes of fowl exist - **Large Fowl** and **Bantam**. Both sizes can be found in many breeds, the Bantam version having been created as a miniature of the Large. **True Bantams**, are those with no Large Fowl counterpart and the breeds under this heading are usually for ornamental purposes. Waterfowl are similarly divided into 'Light', 'Medium' and 'Heavy' Geese, and 'Heavy', 'Light', and 'Bantam' Duck.

In fowl, another important distinction is that made between 'Hard' and 'Soft' feather breeds. Generally speaking, the 'Hard' feather breeds are the 'Game' varieties, whose historical origins lie in the outlawed pursuit of cockfighting. Having been developed over generations for exhibition purposes, they would be most unsuitable for this now. As the term suggests, they also have tighter feathering. The 'Soft' feather breeds are those remaining.

Although many of the breeds, and varieties or sizes within a breed, are very rare, the Poultry Club classifies 'Rare' breeds as those without their own specialist Breed Club or Society. The 'Rare Breeds' are looked after by a Breed Club known as 'The Rare Poultry Society'. You can also access contact details for all the UK Breed Clubs and their websites on this website.

CLASSIFICATION OF BREEDS

Chickens

Soft Feather: Heavy

Australorp
Barnevelder
Brahma
Cochin
Croad Langshan
Dorking
Faverolles
Frizzle
German Langshan
Marans
New Hampshire Red
Orpington
Plymouth Rock
Rhode Island Red
Sussex
Wyandotte

True Bantam

Belgian
Dutch
Japanese
Pekin
Rosecomb
Sebright
Serama

Soft Feather: Light

Ancona
Araucana
Rumpless Araucana
Hamburgh
Leghorn
Minorca
Poland
Redcap
Scots Dumpy
Scots Grey
Silkie
Welsummer

Asian Hard Feather

Asil
Ko Shamo
Kulang
Malay
Nankin Shamo
Satsumadori
Shamo
Taiwan
Thai Game
Tuzo
Yakaido
Yamato-Gunkei

Hard Feather

Indian Game
Modern Game
Carlisle Old English Game
Oxford Old English Game
Old English Game Bantam

Rare Soft Feather: Heavy

Autosexing Breeds: Rhodebar,
Wybar
Breda
Buckeye
Crèvecoeur
Dominique
Houdan
Ixworth
Jersey Giant
La Flèche
Malines
Modern Langshan
Neiderrheiner
Norfolk Grey
North Holland Blue
Orloff
Penedesenca
Sulmtaler
Transylvanian Naked Neck

Rare Hard Feather

Belgian Game
Rumpless

Rare True Bantam

Booted
Nankin
Ohiki

Rare Long Crows

Bergische Kraher
Denizli
Jurlower
Koyoshi
Kurokashiwa
Tomaru
Tôtenkô

Turkeys**Heavy**

Bourbon Red
Bronze
Narragansett
Nebraskan Spotted

Rare Soft Feather: Light

Andalusian
Appenzeller
Augsberger
Autosexing Breeds: Legbar,
Cream Legbar, Welbar
Brabanter
Brakel
Breda
Campine
Danderawi
Fayoumi
Friesian
Italiener
Kraienkoppe
La Bresse
Lakenvelder
Marsh Daisy
Netherlands Owlbeard
Old English Pheasant Fowl
Sicilian Buttercup
Spanish
Sultan
Sumatra
Thüringian
Vorwerk
Yokohama

Light

Blue (Lavender)
Buff
Pied (Cröllwitzer)
Norfolk Black
Slate
White

Ducks

Heavy

Aylesbury
Blue Swedish
Cayuga
Muscovy
Pekin
Rouen
Rouen Clair
Saxony
Silver Appleyard

Light

Abacot Ranger
Bali
Campbell
Crested
Hook Bill
Indian Runner
Magpie
Buff Orpington
Welsh Harlequin

Bantam and Call Ducks

Black East Indian
Call
Crested
Silver Appleyard Miniature
Silver Bantam

Geese

Heavy

African
American Buff
Emden
Skåne
Toulouse
West of England

Medium

Brecon Buff
Buff Back
Grey Back
Pomeranian

Light

Chinese
Czech
Pilgrim
Roman
Sebastopol
Shetland
Steinbacher