

## DORKING STANDARD 2025

### Large fowl

*Origin:* Great Britain

*Classification:* Heavy: Soft feather

*Egg colour:* White/tinted

Its purely British ancestry makes the Dorking one of the oldest of domesticated fowls in lineage. A Roman writer, who died in AD 47, described birds of Dorking type with five toes, and no doubt such birds were found in England by the Romans under Julius Caesar. By judicious crossings, and by careful selection, the Dorking or Dorking breed was established.

### General characteristics: male

**Carriage:** Quiet and stately, rectangular in shape when viewed from the side..

**Type:** Body massive, long and deep, and tightly feathered. Back broad, level and moderately long with full saddle inclined downward to the tail. Breast deep and well rounded with a long straight keel bone, ideally at least 20cm (8"). Wings large, well tucked up and held horizontally. Tail full with curved sickles carried well out with abundant side hangers.

**Head:** Large and broad. Beak stout, well proportioned and slightly curved. Eyes full. Comb single or rose, either kind is allowed in Darks, single only in Reds and Silver Greys, and rose only in Cuckoos and Whites. The single comb is upright, moderately large, broad at base, evenly serrated, free from thumb marks or side sprigs. The rose is moderately broad and square fronted, narrowing behind to a distinct and straight out leader, the top covered with small coral-like points of even height, free from hollows. Face smooth. Earlobes moderately developed, wattles are large and long.

**Neck:** Rather short, covered with abundant hackle feathers falling well over the back, making it appear extremely broad at the base, and tapering rapidly at the head.

**Legs and feet:** Legs short and strong. Thighs large and well developed but almost hidden by the body feathering. Shanks short, moderately stout and round (square or sinewy bone being very objectionable), free from feathers, the spurs set on the inner side and pointing inwards. Toes, five, round and hard, the front toes (three) long, straight and well spread, the fourth toe in the natural position and the fifth toe well formed, placed above the fourth starting from close to it, but perfectly separate and pointing upwards like the capital letter K.

### Female

The general characteristics are similar to those of the male, allowing for the natural sexual differences, except that the tail is carried rather closed. The single comb should fall over one side of the face in the adult bird. It is permissible for adult females to have small single spurs.

### Colours

#### The Cuckoo

**Male and female plumage:** Dark grey or blue bands on light blue-grey ground colour, the markings uniform to the base of the feather including wings and tail, the free end of the feather ends in grey-black. The colours should shade into each other so that no distinct line or separation of the colours is perceptible. Males are often lighter in colour than females.

#### The Dark

**Male plumage:** Hackles (neck and saddle) white or straw more or less equally striped with black. Back various shades of silver or black and white or grey, mixed with brassy-white (bronze objectionable). Wing bows silver or white mixed with black or grey; coverts (or bar) black glossed with green; secondaries outer web white, inner black. Breast and underparts jet black; white mottling not permissible. Tail richly glossed black, and a little white at the base on the two sickles is permissible, but white hangers decidedly objectionable.

**Female plumage:** Neck hackle white or pale straw, dominantly black-grey surrounded by white or pale straw. Breast brown-red, each feather tipped with dark grey verging on black. Tail nearly black, the outer feathers slightly pencilled. Remainder of plumage nearly black, or approaching a rich dark brown, the shaft showing a cream-white, each feather slightly pale on the edges, except on the wings, where the centre of the

feather is brown-grey covered with a small rich marking surrounded by a thick lacing of the black, and free from red. Another acceptable colour is every feather over the body grey pencilled with darker lacing, with the breast colour and shaft as described above.

### **The Red**

**Male plumage:** Hackles (neck and saddle) bright red. Back and wing bows dark red, wing coverts red- brown, secondaries outer web red-brown, inner matt black. Breast and underparts jet black glossed with green.

**Female plumage:** Hackle red-gold heavily striped with black. Tail and primaries black or very dark brown. Remainder of plumage red-brown, the redder the better, each feather more or less tipped or spangled with black, finely pencilled and having a bright yellow or orange shaft. Breast red, tipped with black.

### **The Silver Grey**

**Male plumage:** Hackles (neck and saddle) silver-white free from straw tinge or marking of any kind. Back, shoulder coverts and wing bow silver-white free from striping. Wing coverts lustrous black with green gloss; primaries black with a white edge on outer web; secondaries white on outer and black on inner web, with black at the end of each feather, the corner of the wing when closed appearing as a bar of white with a black upper edge. Remainder of plumage black, free from white mottling or grizzling, although in old males a slight grizzling of the thighs is not objectionable.

**Female plumage:** Hackle predominantly silver-white, striped with black-grey. Breast robin red or salmon-red ranging to almost fawn, shading off to ash-grey on the thighs. Body clear silver-grey, finely pencilled with darker grey (the pencilling following the outer line of the feather), free from red or brown tinge or black. **Note:** The effect may vary from soft dull grey to bright silver-grey, a weathered grey slate best describing the colour. Tail outer feathers darker grey than body feathers, inside feathers matt black.

### **The White**

**Male and female plumage:** Pure white throughout and to the skin.

### **In both sexes and all colours**

Beak white or horn, dark horn permissible in the Dark. Eyes bright orange/red. Comb, face, wattles and ear-lobes brilliant red. Legs white and feet (including nails) white or horn with a pink shade.

### **Weights**

Cock 4.55-6.35kg (10-14lb); cockerel 3.60-5.00kg (8-11lb)  
Hen 3.60-4.55kg (8-10lb); pullet 4.44-5.70kg (7-9lb)

### **Scale of points in all five colours**

Type	30
Size	26
Colour	22
Feet, including fifth toe	12
Head	10
Total	100

### **Disqualifications**

Total absence of fifth toe. Legs other than white or with any sign of feathers. Single comb in Cuckoo or White, rose comb in Red or Silver Grey. Any deformity. Wry tail in adults (growers can go through a stage of a loose tail), squirrel tail, split wing.

### **Serious defects**

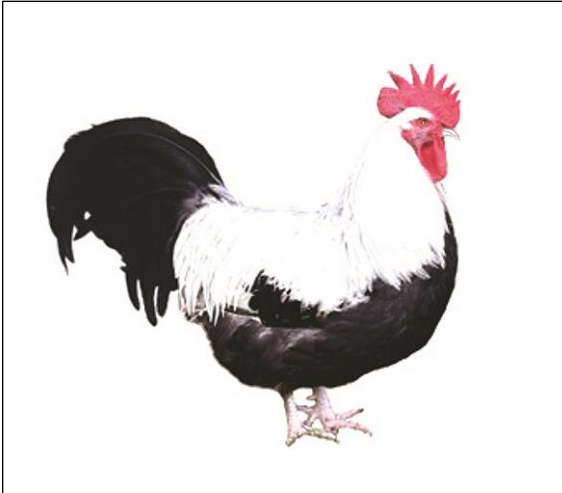
Spurs outside the shank. White in breast or tail of Silver Grey male. Any coloured feathers in White. Very long legs. Crooked or much swollen toes. Bumble foot. Over-large combs. Pale eye colour in adult birds.

### **Bantam**

Standards for large fowl to be used for Dorking bantams.

### **Weights**

Male 1530g (54oz) max  
Female 1130g (40oz) max



Silver Grey Dorking



Dark Dorking



Red Dorking



Cuckoo Dorking



White Dorking