

AMERAUCANA BANTAM BULLETIN

Ameraucana Bantam Club - 6442 Chestnut Ave., Orangevale, CA. 95662

Fall, 1979

Vol. 1, No. 3

President's Message

Now that the busy summer season has passed and fall approaches, please take the time to jot down your ideas and questions about Ameraucana bantams. Mail them to the above address so that we can all share in one another's ideas and experiences in raising these unique little bantams.

We hope to begin sponsoring show meets for our breed in the near future. If you have a favorite show or any other ideas regarding such, be sure to write to your secretary.

Finally, be sure to vote for your choice of officers in the upcoming election. The direction our club takes in the immediate future, a critical period of time in our club's history, depends on your vote.

Mike Gilbert
Interim President

Election Time

The last page of the Bulletin contains a ballot for election of officers. President Mike Gilbert has appointed Bernard Kellogg, of Viroqua, Wisconsin, as our first Election Commissioner. Please mark your ballots and send them directly to Mr. Kellogg so that they arrive on or before Wednesday, October 17. His complete address is listed at the bottom of your ballot.

We would like to thank those members who have consented to run for office for our first Board of Directors. Of the eight members nominated for the various offices, seven have agreed to having their names placed on the ballot. This is the type of participation that will make our club grow and prosper. It is now up to the membership as a whole. Please vote.

Until such time as we can establish our club meets, it is imperative that you enter your bantams as AMERAUCANA bantams whenever possible. By doing so, we can begin to secure recognition for our birds and prepare host clubs and the fancy at large for eventual acceptance for our breed. With this in mind, the first of our A.B.A. qualifying meets will be held at the Golden Gate Bantam Club Fall Show on November 17-18, in Pleasanton, California. A premium list may be secured from Pat Coker, 10750 Calvine Rd., Elk Grove, CA. 95624. I would like to encourage as many members as possible to take part in this important meet and will look forward to seeing each of you at the show.

Don Cable
Interim Secretary

Welcome New Members!

Kenneth Huffstutter	2239 Lobert St., Castro Valley, CA. 94546
Todd Lamkin	Rt. 1, Box 104, Arcadia, Indiana 46030
Joyce Maikish	9207 Los Coches Rd., Lakeside, CA. 92040
Wayne Meredith	1319 N. Jackson, #107, Milwaukee, WI 53202
W.E. Miller	P.O. Box 15, Plymouth, CA. 95669
Pat Piper	Rt. 3, Box 451, Escondido, CA. 92025

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Members From Abroad

Dorian (Mrs. William) Roxburgh, of Henley-on-Thames, England, was our first member from beyond the United States. Mrs. Roxburgh is secretary of the British Araucana Club, with members throughout the British Isles, continental Europe, South Africa and South America.

Mrs. Roxburgh breeds black, black-red and white rumpless Araucana bantams and lavender tailed Araucana bantams. A pair of her lavenders may be seen on page 64 of the third edition of "Bantams and Miniature Fowl", by W.H. Silk. In type they are much like Ameraucana bantams, with pea comb, beard and muffs and a full, well furnished tail, but differ in that they have a compact crest. Standard weights are virtually the same as Ameraucana bantams and the lavender (self blue), is a striking color.

Mrs. Roxburgh has been sending the British Araucana Club newsletter along periodically, and coupled with her interesting correspondence, makes for enjoyable and informative reading. Items of general interest from these sources will appear in our club bulletin from time to time.

Our second member from abroad is Mr. William Ploeg, of Slochteren, Netherlands. Mr. Ploeg lives on a small farm in the north of Holland and is a poultry judge. He raises muffed, tailless Araucanas along with Phoenix, La Fleche, Cochins and Appenzellers. In bantams, Mr. Ploeg has Javas, Leghorns, Cochins, Sumatras, Yokohamas, La Fleche, Phoenix, Twentse Gryzen and Wyandottes.

Other than the Ameraucana Bantam Club, Mr. Ploeg is a member of the International Cochin Club (Germany), the Europese vereniging voor zeldzame hoenderrassen (Holland), Brahma, Cochin en Langshan Club (Holland) and a number of other organizations.

Curiously, we seem to know more about our members from abroad than we do of those living here in this country, often within areas of the same state! An effort will be made to change this and future editions of the Bulletin will help us get to know one another better by including thumbnail biographies of various members, including those who are elected to our first Board of Directors. Let us not be an organization of strangers.

Muff & Beard Genetics and Application

By N.K. Gilbert

It is necessary to understand the genetics of muff and beard trait in order to establish a strain of Ameraucana bantams which is pure, i.e., a strain which never produces clean-faced birds. It is hoped the following information will help club members avoid improper selection of breeders, saving them valuable time and resources. The writer has only come to appreciate these elementary principles of genetics after years of trial and error and much frustration and wasted effort.

Each bantam offspring inherits one genetic blueprint from each parent for any given characteristic, such as facial furnishings. The characteristic of muffs & beard (M) is DOMINANT over the trait of clean faced (c). The facial furnishings which Ameraucanas and/or Araucanas may inherit include: 1) muffs & beard (M), 2) clean faced (c), and 3) ear tufts (T). Since ear tufts are peculiar to the Araucana breed, and we as Ameraucana breeders are to strive for muffs & beard in our bantams, no further mention will be made here of ear tufts other than to say the relationship between M and c and the relationship between T and c is basically the same.

From the above facts we may surmise the following:

1. A bird which is genetically pure (homozygous) for muffs and beard has inherited the trait from both its parents, not just one. He (or she) may be symbolized as MM. ~~Such a fowl will usually be visibly apparent to the practised eye due to the relatively greater size of its muffs and beard in comparison with a bird which is Mc (heterozygous).~~
2. Mc in this article symbolizes genetically impure birds, those which have inherited the genetic factor or makeup for muffs & beard from one parent, and the genetic factor for being clean-faced from the other parent. Such a bird always has muffs & beard due to the dominance of M over c. Its facial furnishings will usually be a little smaller than those of MM Ameraucanas.
3. The symbol used here to designate birds which are genetically pure for being clean-faced (lacking muffs & beard altogether) is cc. Fowl which are cc carry no genetic ability to produce muffed offspring when mated among themselves. The mating of cc birds with muffed birds will result in some muffed offspring, however. All such muffed offspring will be Mc, genetically impure.

The table on the following page illustrates the long-run, average results one can expect when mating Ameraucanas which are MM, Mc, and cc. It makes no difference which parent is the male and which is the female.

Parent "B"

	MM			Mc			cc		
	large muff	small muff	clean-faced	l. muff	s. muff	c. f.	l. muff	s. muff	c. f.
MM	100%	0%	0%	50%	50%	0%	0%	100%	0%
Mc	50	50	0	25	50	25	0	50	50
cc	0	100	0	0	50	50	0	0	100

Questions and Answers:

- Q. If I mate two birds with muffs and beards and the resultant first generation offspring all have muffs and beards, can I be sure I have a genetically pure strain?
- A. No. One parent bird may be heterozygous (Mc), which means that 50% of the offspring would be Mc also. As the above chart indicates, the mating of two Mc birds (second generation mating) will result in about 25% clean-faced (cc) offspring.
- Q. How can I be sure that I am mating only MM Ameraucana bantams?
- A. To test for genetic purity, mate the muffed bird with one that is clean-faced. ~~If the muffed bird is MM (pure), all offspring of this cross will be muffed (Mc). If the tested bird happens to be Mc, about 50% of the offspring will be clean-faced.~~
- Q. Should I ever use for breeding purposes a bird which is known to be Mc?
- A. Perhaps. If the Mc bird has some desired trait (such as an ideal comb, proper shank color, plumage pattern) which is not available from an MM bird, he can be used. But future effort must be exerted to rid your strain of the clean-faced gene.
- Q. Do genetic factors always act in the same manner described above?
- A. No. Genes are not always paired in dominant/submissive relationships. For example, the crossing of black plumage with white will often result in blue or gray offspring, a blending of the two color factors. Size is another example of this, as is the cross of pea and rose combs resulting in cushion comb.

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A Worthwhile Publication

Once in a great while something free arrives in the mail that is really worth reading. This past week the Backyard Flock, a quarterly publication by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service from the Texas A&M University System arrived and is well worth receiving. For a copy, contact: William O. Cawley, Extension Poultry Specialist, 107 Kleberg Center, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843.

Excerpts From The Backyard Flock

On feeding bantams:

The first six to eight weeks is the most important in the bird's life and it is essential they receive a well balanced ration during these early days. A recommended ration for exhibition bantam breeders is Gamebird Starter (30% protein) for the first six weeks of age, Gamebird Conditioner (19% protein) for seven to twenty-five weeks of age, and Gamebird Breeder (20% Protein) for twenty-six weeks of age on. Heavy breed bantam layers should be limited to .2 to .22 pounds per day per bird to prevent excessive abdominal fat.

On feeding grain:

Pullet chicks raised to produce eggs should not be fed in the same manner or the same diet as chicks raised for meat. Feeding of grain (corn and milo) can be another source of trouble. We would think a person crazy if they put their children on a diet of half candy. Yet, this is exactly what the poultryman does who feeds his flock 50 percent grain. Supplemental feeding of corn and milo will lower egg production, reduce hatchability and cause purple sheen and barring in black feathers. The exception to this is whole oats. In fact, whole oats are one of the best feather conditioners going.

~~Most of poultry rations today are designed to be fed as the sole diet.~~ Anytime you feed extra grain, you have cut or diluted the protein, vitamin and mineral levels of the starter, grower, finisher, layer or breeder ration.

On feeding for good hatchability:

Another common mistake we make is to think eggs will hatch well on a regular 15 to 17 percent protein laying ration. This is not true. Although the 15 to 17 percent protein laying ration will give a good rate of lay, the vitamin, mineral and protein levels stored in the egg are just not high enough to carry some of the embryos through the 21 days of incubation and they just flat run out of gas before they can pip the shell. Exhibition breeding flocks need a special breeder ration at least 30 days before and all during the hatching season.

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Classified

Ameraucana bantams in white, light brown, and very limited amount in silver, black, blue, and brown-red. Stock for sale in Fall, 1979. Availability a matter of correspondence.

Jerry A. Segler, Sr., Box 14, Spear, Illinois 61479

AMERUCANA BANTAM CLUB

Ballot #3 1979

For President:

X

Nike Gilbert, Wisconsin

For Secretary-Treasurer:

X

Don Cable, California

For Eastern District Director:

Ken Carpenter, New York

X

Harry Cook, New Jersey

For Central District Director:

~~D.L. Keeney, Jr., Texas~~

X

Jerry Segler, Sr., Illinois

For Western District Director:

X

Mary Allison, California

Please mail marked ballots to:

Mr. Bernard Kellogg
P.O. Box 62
Viroqua, WI. 54665

They must arrive On or before Wednesday, November 17 to be valid.

*my copy
mailed out 10/20/79*