

Characteristics of Hungarian goose and its frizzled variant



Colour variants of frizzled Hungarian goose (Gödöllő, 2000); Photo: István Szalay



Varieties of Hungarian goose (Városfalva, Székelyföld, 2004); Photo: István Szalay

Common characteristics

Body weight: Male: 6.00–8.00 kg
Female: 5.00–6.00 kg

Male's characteristics:

Head: narrow with flat forehead, the feathers on the head are middle-sized in length and thick

Beak: very strong at the base middle-sized in length and orange coloured

Eyes: big, light blue

Neck: middle sized in length, slightly curved

Trunk: long, middle-sized in depth, plump, cylinder-shape

Breast: strong, well-muscled, round

Back: long, wide, slightly bending down

Wings: long, well-closed, fit close to the body, large

Tail: short, close, horizontal

Thighs: well-muscled, strong

Shins (tibias): support the trunk well, vertical, the same colour as the beak

Plumage: fit to the body, thick underfeather.

Colour variants: white, grey or white-grey spotted.

Female's constitution is the same as the male's. Apart from the differences caused by the secondary sex characteristics there is no other major difference between the two sexes except the shorter, thinner and slightly curved neck and somewhat deeper-placed trunk.

Frizzled Hungarian Goose

The Frizzled Hungarian Goose does not show any difference from the normal-feathered one, except the structure of the feather. Frizzling (F) in chicken is an autosomal incomplete dominant single gene character. It is a mutant gene which causes the contour feathers to curve outward away from the body. In homozygotes the curving is extreme and the barbs are extremely curled so that no feather has a flat vane. Heterozygotes are less extremely affected (*Somes, Jr., 1981*) F gene has the same effect in goose. Frizzled Hungarian goose is thought to have smoother feather and frizzled goslings' feathering is somewhat slower than in normal feathered ones (*Tóth P., 1956*).

Colour variants: white, grey (*Tóth P., 1956*) or white-grey spotted. At present, all colour variants are under conservation programme.

As the frizzled goose is found in the Carpathian Basin only (or used to be found in the southern part of Europe) which is a territory with warmer climate compared to the northern territories where goose is native, the author thinks that this type of mutation of goose could survive and reproduce here because of better ventilation of the body through frizzled feathers. In that case, the trait might also be used by goose breeders of hot climates.