

STANDARD CHARACTERISTICS OF OLD HUNGARIAN CHICKEN BREEDS

Hungarian chicken breeds

Common characteristics of Hungarian chicken

Body weight: Male: 2.50–3.00 kg
Female: 2.00–2.30 kg

Head: small, short and round.

Beak: short, curved and thick at the base.

Eye: bright, expressive, distrustful look.

Comb: single, medium size, erect, curved back behind the head.

Face: almost totally unfeathered.

Ear lobe: big, oval-shape.

Wattle: big, oval or round-shape.

Neck: getting thicker toward the body (less in hens) with thick neck-plumage.

Trunk: medium size, cylinder-like; the trunk of the hen is longer.

Breast: round, broad and fairly prominent.

Back and saddle: the back is hollow and shows distinct slope towards the saddle; the back line of the hen is more horizontal.

Wing: fairly big, fits close to the body.

Tail: Erect, closed, comparatively big.

Shanks and toes: medium-size shank and toes; number of toes, 4.

Posture: stately, rather wild and distrustful.

Plumage: fit to the body, thick underfeather.

Among Hungarian chicken breeds three different breeds are maintained as close populations. Special characteristics of these breeds are given below:

Yellow Hungarian chicken



Beak: yellow.

Eye: orange-red.

Comb, face, ear-lobe and wattle: blood-red.

Shank and toes: yellow.

Plumage: the hen is bright-yellow, with the lower neck feathers tipped with brown or black, the webs dark-brown and the main tail feathers brown or black; the basic colour of plumage of the cock is similar, with somewhat darker, bright yellow surface colour of the neck, wing bows and saddle. The main feathers of the tail are greenish-black.

White Hungarian chicken



Beak: ivory-white

Eye: orange-red.

Comb, face, ear-lob, wattle: blood-red.

Shanks and toes: flesh, ivory-white (might be yellow, according to *Báldy, 1954*).

Plumage: brilliant, pure white.

Speckled Hungarian chicken



Beak: ivory-white.

Eye: orange-red.

Comb, face, ear-lob and wattle: blood-red.

Shanks and toes: flesh, ivory-white (might be yellow, according to *Báldy, 1954*).

Plumage: plumage colour is bluish-grey, each feather is crossed by narrow, not regular black bars.

The pattern should be neither too fine nor too hard (the hen has the same but darker pattern).

Partridge colour Hungarian chicken



Partridge colour Hungarian chicken (Gödöllő, 2005) Photo: Szalay István and Dögei Imre

Beak: white, yellow or flesh.

Eye: orange-red.

Comb, face, ear-lob and wattle: blood-red.

Shanks and toes: flesh, ivory-white or yellow.

Plumage: Plumage colour of cockerel: saddle is gold, head is orange-red, breast and thigh feathers are black, sickle tail feathers are black with steel shade. Female's basic colour is brown (partridge colour), neck feathers are gold with black pattern. Tail feathers and primaries are black or dark brown. Neck, back and wing feathers show special pattern.

Transylvanian Naked Neck chicken breeds

This type of chicken was first mentioned as Szeremley chicken after the name of its first known breeder in Erzsébetváros (Elisabethstadt), Transylvania. It became well known all over Europe after a poultry exhibition in Vienna, in 1875.

Body weight: Male: 2.50–3.00 kg

Female: 2.00–2.30 kg

Head: medium-size, round. Feathers on the top are fit to the head and make a pointed tip backwards.

Beak: medium-size, thick, slightly curved.

Eye: large, fiery.

Comb: single, medium-size.

Face: unfeathered.

Ear-lob: small, round.

Wattle: medium-size, oval or round, pendulous.

Neck: unfeathered, long and strong but not thick.

Trunk: strong, medium-size, oval; unfeathered from the prominent crop through the abdomen towards the cloaca.

Breast: broad and strong-muscled; the skin over the carina is unfeathered.

Back: broad.

Saddle: slightly rising.

Wing: fairly long, almost totally horizontal.

Tail: curved backward, not held erected; main feathers are long.

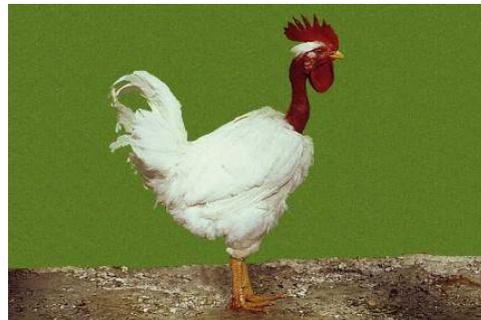
Shank and toes: long and strong, unfeathered; number of toes, 4.

Posture: brave, vivid.

Plumage: fit to the body.

Among Transylvanian Naked Neck chickens the following three colour variants can be listed.

White Transylvanian Naked Neck chicken



This is as the Hungarian White, except that yellow shank and toes are not allowed:

Beak: ivory-white

Eye: orange-red.

Comb, face, ear-lob, wattle: blood-red.

Shanks and toes: flesh, ivory-white (might be yellow, according to *Báldy, 1954*).
Plumage: brilliant, pure white.

Black Transylvanian Naked Neck chicken



Beak: slate-grey.
Eye: orange-red.
Comb, face, ear-lob, wattle: blood-red, the wattle is round.
Shanks and toes: slate-grey.
Plumage: black with steel shade.

Speckled Transylvanian Naked Neck chicken



This is as the Hungarian Speckled, except that yellow shank and toes are not allowed:

Beak: ivory-white.
Eye: orange-red.
Comb, face, ear-lob and wattle: blood-red.
Shanks and toes: flesh, ivory-white
Plumage: plumage colour is bluish-grey, each feather is crossed by narrow, not regular black bars.
The pattern should be neither too fine nor too hard (the hen has the same but darker pattern).