

The Dominique News



Volume 40, Issue 2

August 2012

I'm Curious

From Mark Fields

With this year's record breaking heat wave I'm curious how your Dominiques fared, specifically how did it affect breeding? Is there anyone who noticed a change in fertility? From my experience old worn out roosters often are fertile in the heat of summer, but was this too much?

How about broody hens? Did you notice any more or less going broody this year?

What about the eggs themselves? We sat at "incubation" temperatures for so long this summer that I suspect there were many eggs which started development prior to the hen settling tight on the nest. Did this result in early hatches, hens leaving before incubation complete or did it result in dead embryos due to start and interruption of the incubation?

And finally, how did your chicks grow out? Mine always did better in cool weather. I can't imagine what it was when those young Dominiques reached that critical "fleshing out" stage.

Let me know how your birds did in this year's extreme heat. I'd like to document it for posterity!

Financial Statement

From Julie Gupton

Hello all! This has been a brutal summer for everyone. Hope all our members have been able to get through this challenging weather.

Just wanted to point out to everyone the total cost of publishing (on paper) and mailing the DCA Newsletter! This is one of our biggest expenses (money and time wise) for the DCA. THANK YOU to our members who have elected to have their Newsletter sent to them electronically. If you have not elected to have this done PLEASE consider doing so. You not only get your copy of "The Dominique News" QUICKER but it will come to you in FULL COLOR (only available digitally)! Just send your email info to our Secretary, Suzette Ellington, via her email addy: suzetteellington@yahoo.com. She will be glad to get you set up for this special delivery.

The following is a summary of our account info, from 2/29/12 to 6/29/12 (last bank statement date)

Starting balance: \$2,777.44

Deposits:

3/7	\$45.00	(Treas. Deposit)
3/15	\$10.00	(Sec. Deposit)
3/19	\$40.00	(Sec. Deposit)
4/25	\$35.00	(Treas. Deposit)
5/4	\$150.00	(Trans. from PayPal acct.)
subtotal:		\$280.00

Withdrawals:

5/25	\$30.00	(MPF show premium payment)
5/25	\$140.00	(Ohio National show premium payment)
5/25	\$110.75	(Member of the Year awards - 6 total)
5/25	\$65.00	(BYP mag. ad. 2012-13)
6/1	\$75.00	(ALBC ad 2012-13)
subtotal:		\$420.75

Avail. Bal. on 6/29/12: \$2636.69

Praying for a mild and spectacular fall for everyone!

Respectfully Submitted by:

Julie Gupton

DCA Treasurer

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Financial Statement
- 2** Shape of Back
- 3** From Facebook
- 7** Message from our President
- 8** Poultry Show Secrets
- 10** Bad Advertising Photos
- 13** Master Breeder Award Proposal

Poultry Display in Canada!



Irene Wiggins sent this picture of an informational table on the Dominique at a recent event.

Irene helped host an info/display day up in Saskatchewan, Canada on April 21/22. They held an interactive educational day for school kids with animal and poultry displays and tours on the Friday, then on Saturday they were open to the public and had market style sales. Her son set up the poultry exhibit which included his club and breed affiliations. The Dominique Club of America sent information for him to display as well as contact information for memberships.

Irene reports "This turned out to be a great event with plans in place for next year already! We had lots of interest from people new to heritage poultry who were surprised to find there were more than two kinds of chickens, white and brown! The Dominiques attracted quite a lot of attention as did the White Chanticleer rooster and the incubator w/ chicks hatching was a huge draw."

Article Reprint - Breeding Dominiques – Shape of Female Back

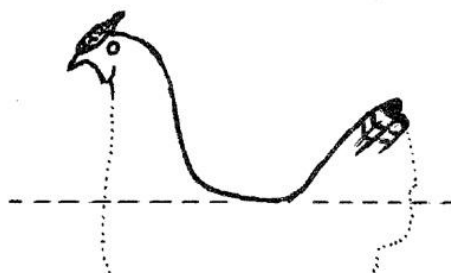
Written by Roger Voter, first published in Dominique News April 1978, Volume 5 Number 2

Prior articles in the News in our series on breeding Dominiques have dealt with many aspects of this subject, including general type and shape, feather

markings, combs, sexing, health and disqualifications.

Since in the recommended scale of points for judging poultry the back is assigned more points than any other of the sixteen listed items, it is appropriate that we consider this feather in more detail. Consequently, this article is the first of three on the shape and characteristics of the Dominique back as seen in profile. In this issue we will study that of a Dominique hen.

First, consider what the Standard calls for. The back, starting near the base of the neck, should be of medium length with a curve that is so slight as to be almost flat to a point where the tail rises. The next important point is that the back should slant to the rear over the entire distance from the neck to the tail. The outline figure shown below, with a dashed line to show the horizontal plane, indicates these points.



In contrast, the back of the Dominique male has a definite "U" shape, and thus does not show the characteristic slant of the hen's back. It is also proportionally shorter than the hen's considering the comparative size of a Dominique rooster and hen.

Crosses with Barred Plymouth Rocks and the Wyandottes have obviously been used in the past to instill new vigor or other characteristics into Dominique lines. However, the imprint of their breed characteristics clearly shows up in later generations of Dominique females. The source of this influence can easily be seen from pictures of the Plymouth Rock and Wyandotte females in the Standard of Perfection. Their backs slant in the opposite direction, toward the head.

In summary, when selecting birds for your base flock and in setting up breeding pens, be sure that the female's back is almost flat, that it is long enough and, probably most important, that it slants downward from head to tail.

From Facebook

John Hrycek Jr

Sitting today watching this years pullets running around the yard. Figuring which ones to keep. How are they going to make an impact on my breeding program?

At 16 weeks they are showing such good type. It got me to thinking. As my girls grow out they start to lose length in the back. Am I having a problem with cushion being too pronounced of an angle? The back has the downward slope off the hackle, but seems to look short as the pullet matures. Is it because the cushion seems too much of a sharp angle going up to the tail off the back of the bird? I see it in my birds mostly when they are matured (laying). Tail angle is good, spread is nice, sometimes too much. Main tail feathers over lap properly. not a venetian blind. The birds are accepted by judges. But I feel that the birds should be closer feathered and more 'gamey', More towards the standard of old.

Anyone have a suggestion on a pullet double mating for a longer back, with less cushion. What type of male should I look for?



Heaven Roberts

I would like to hear what other breeders have to say but here is what I have noticed, because we have this issue too and it drove me nuts for some time however - if we look at the SOP Schilling hen, she was very tight feathered. If you took the pullet above, and tightened up her feathering a bit, her cushion would not take that length and sweep away from the back but would instead follow a more gradual slope up to the primary tail feathers, which are stiff already. So I -think- it may be an issue more with tightness of feather all over, not necessarily an overabundance of cushion.

I know there ARE many Dominiques with much too much length in the cushion area and we all know of the dreaded "fluff butt" where the cushion is really loose.

Robert Blosl talks about this same moderate tight feathering in RIRs and recommended to us all that we choose only the fastest feathering chicks in each hatch and that will tighten up the feathers a bit and give better feather quality for what we are looking for.

Again, hoping someone that has been there done that with these thoughts can weigh in - Rhonda Jones and I have not been able to get to that stage yet but maybe in the next couple of years will know for sure if it is just that these pullets are a little more loosely feathered.

John Hrycek Jr

Good point. I feel you are on the right track. Last spring hatch, I marked and kept some chicks as you described. They had a tighter feathering and the ones that made it through culling just would not meet standard weight.

Looking at my records I kept one pullet and I see she had less cushion. So I think you are right on target. I did breed her but I only have two pullets left. Will compare them to the others as they grow out. No difference in feather growth rate on these pullets compared to the others.

Breeding this season, I used two closer feathered cock birds that is showing me improvement, so I am thinking along the same lines as you, but as you said I could be schooled more on this subject by other breeders. Looking forward to other replies.

Mark Fields

The old Hyman birds were very short and tight feathered. I like this pullet's color though! Notice how clean the barring is at the base of the neck at the back. this tells me she is going to be clean crisp barred

Heaven Roberts

How long have you had this line of birds or if you haven't had them too long where did you get them? I think you've said in the past but I can't remember for the life of me.

John Hrycek Jr

That particular pullet is a F2 generation Cackle/Stichler/Urch/Oliver/Voter The last two being distant blood lines from another breeder, here in my state. Cackle birds have thick hackles, "barring is clean, but to close to black and white in color for my

taste. She is from last fall's mating.

I have many strains but after this year's birds will be down to just about three. I find myself leaning more towards the closer feathered birds. All my cock birds are now very tight feathered. Weights are correct. Color pattern is not as even as I would like it to be. But I am working on tails this year and the cock birds are finally giving me a very wide main sickle which was something I really pushed for in this breeding

Heaven Roberts

Not sure if we talked about this yet but do remember that in these young birds there are often many blood feathers left and these blood feathers are farther away from the skin because they cannot be laid as close together as mature, hollow feathers. I try to keep this in mind anytime I think a pullet or cockerel is a bit too loose.

Those White Dominiques

By Mark Fields



Just where are all these white Dominiques coming from? I go years without this question, then "poof" in the same day I get two inquiries in my email about them. One email was from Colorado and one from Georgia.

The short version of the story is that Robert Henderson used a white game hen to save his Dominiques from dying out because of severe inbreeding. The Henderson flock was the basis of the Voter line and every few years the planets align and a pair will throw which chicks.

So, if you have birds with Voter ancestry and you linebreed or inbreed then sooner or later you may get a few white chicks.

The Early Years of DCA

By Paul Kroll

Although I have never raised Dominiques in my forty-plus years in the poultry fancy, I have always admired them. Most know that my specialty is Japanese bantams.

I enjoy the friendship of David Hyman and always will! It was through David that I learned to know about the Dominique breed. David encouraged me to meet Roger and Carol Voter and Carl Gallaher as well as Bob and Lucille Brachmann. The Voters became great friends as well. It was their idea for me to judge a Dominique National in the late 70s which was held at the Frederick Maryland show. That was the first National meet of my judging career. I got my APA license in 1976. What a treat to handle all those marvelous large fowl specimens of the Dominique breed! Bantams were not too prevalent at that time.

I do not see many Dominiques in the northeast shows I judge, but I do see them when I judge elsewhere in the country. I always enjoy them.

I am afraid that I have not been a very faithful member of the Dominique Club. For that I am sorry. I do want to see the club continue and to flourish. Let's all do what we can to assure that happens.

The Show Room News

By Heaven Roberts

It gives me great joy to be able to read results from across the country and also to talk to judges at the shows I attend who have judged some of these birds and have great comments about them.

Humboldt Poultry Fanciers Show

February 11th-12th, 2012 in Eureka, CA

No large fowl or bantams entered.

Delmarva Poultry Fanciers Show

March 31st-April 1st, 2012 in Harrington, Delaware

Open Show – 3 Large Fowl, 1 Exhibitor
Best and Reserve of Breed to Ferlin Matthews of Nokesville, Virginia (pullet, cockerel)

No Cocks or Hens entered
Cockerel 1st to Ferlin Matthews
Pullet 1st to Ferlin Matthews
Pullet 2nd to Ferlin Matthews

Open Show – 2 Bantams, 1 Exhibitor
Best and Reserve of Breed to Noah Secowsk

(youth) of Forest Hill, Maryland (hen, cock)
Cock 1st to Noah Secowsk
Hen 1st to Noah Secowsk

Congratulations Ferlin and Noah on your wins, thank you for exhibiting!

Pacific Northwest Poultry Association Spring Show
April 20th-22nd, 2012 in Stevenson, Washington

Open Show – 1 Large Fowl, 1 Exhibitor
Thank you Mr. Emmitt Wild for showing!

United Poultry Fanciers Spring Double Show
May 12th-13th in Avoca, Iowa

No large fowl or bantams entered.

Upcoming Shows

Wisconsin International, September 22nd-23rd, 2012 in Portage, Wisconsin (pending)

Rochester Poultry Association Show, October 7th, 2012 in Mumford, New York

Michigan Poultry Fanciers Fall Show, October 13th-14th, 2012 in Birch Run, Michigan

Central Indiana Poultry Show, October 20th, 2012 in Lebanon, Indiana

Northwest Winter Classic, October 20th-21st in Salem, Oregon

Heart of the Ozarks Poultry Assoc. Double Show, November 3rd, 2012 in Fayetteville, Arkansas

Nebraska State Poultry Association Show, November 3rd-4th, 2012 in Lincoln, Nebraska

Ohio National, November 10th-11th, 2012 in Columbus, Ohio

Virginia Poultry Breeder's Assoc. Show, November 17th, 2012 in Doswell, Virginia

Eastern Iowa Poultry Assoc. Show, November 24th-25th, 2012 in Iowa City, Iowa

Northeastern Poultry Congress, January 18th-19th, 2013 in Springfield, Massachusetts

Pacific Poultry Breeder's Assoc. Winter Classic, January 26th-27th, 2013 in Stockton, CA (NATIONAL)

We are currently slated to have our 2012 National Show in Shawnee, Oklahoma at the Oklahoma Poultry Federation show on December 8th and 9th.

Our 2013 National will be shortly behind that, in Stockton, California at the Pacific Poultry Breeder's Association show and ABA National January 26th and

27th.

I am really looking forward to finally dragging some of your out here to the west coast!

Missouri State Fair & A Conversation

From Mark Fields & Heaven Roberts

I attended the Missouri State Fair for the first time in a couple years. Due to the heat some entries were down including the Dominiques. There were only 2 large fowl and 6 bantam Dominiques exhibited.

While there I received a "back handed compliment" from Judge Dwayne Jonas. He was judging the Asiatic Class when I walked in. He shook my hand and asked why I hadn't entered. Dwayne commented that he knew the birds in the show weren't mine and that it had been awhile since he'd seen a nice string of Dominiques. I assured him we are trying to change that.



In fairness to the exhibitor of the large fowl, I will not give a name as I did not have the opportunity to speak with the individual. I believe it may have been a 4H entry due to the obvious inverted spike on one hen and the young age and lack of development in both. The bantams were out of my stock. I recognize the tell-tale signs. But they were too large. Again, I did not have the opportunity to speak with the exhibitors, but I know one of them. I'm going to recommend she seek out a very small typey male to put with her females. In two generations she could have some outstanding bantam Dominiques.



When Heaven and I were corresponding about this newsletter I relayed the above observations. She replied with what follows and gave permission to use in this article. What she has written has long been a pet peeve of mine!

From Heaven : “That's too bad. We have way too few quality Dominiques being shown all across the country. It's hard when I go to a show and see one or two birds but they are more hatchery quality. We took 16 or 17 to the PNPA show last fall even though we had to make a lot of last minute substitutions and the ones we took were in poor shape. I was a bit embarrassed by some of their condition but at least we filled part of a row and got the conversation going. We did take a few nice pullets though and the hens we showed were good. I actually think that the hen that the judge placed 2nd in the hen class would have been my pick for BOB - he thought she was too small. To me she looked compact but very typey, beautiful head and as good a back as any I've seen in my short time with the breed. We took them home and weighed them and I think she weighed 1/4lb more than any of the other hens or pullets.

I really like nice small compact Dominiques, I think they make better meat birds and you can house more of them in a given space, so more eggs. A lot of impressive looking Dominiques are five inches too big and three pounds overweight - we need to get that look but in a more compact size. Unfortunately I don't think we will win with those compact birds unless there are enough breeders showing them at a enough shows to make the judges realize that yes, they are smaller - because they are supposed to be! They are more properly sized for the Mediterranean class but they have to compete with the big boys in the American Class.... Well, someday!!!”

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New Members

By Suzette Ellington

Thank you all for your continued support of the Club.

I would like to welcome our newest members: Terry Watts (TN); Michael Walkup (IL); Daniel Winter (CO); Gregory Anderson (TX); Kimberly Nolley (TX); Lance Barker (OR); Janie Burgess (KY); Erin Greene (VA); Max Woehle, Jr. (FL); Camille Kenney (TX); Shannon Morgan (OR); Jennifer Solano (MS) and Martin Milner(TN).

A message from our President

From Tracey Rodenbach

Greetings Fellow Fanciers! I hope that the summer weather has not been too harsh on your flocks, and your hatches were fruitful. The county fair season and the show season are already underway, and I look forward to visiting my local county fairs in search of great examples of our breed. I hope you too will be able to visit your local poultry shows and county fair shows, and perhaps even be an exhibitor! I'm hoping to attend our 2012 National in Shawnee, OK, and our 2013 National in Stockton, CA. I'm really excited that the DCA will be hosting a National on the west coast. We're hoping that these shows will be a great chance for our members in the midwest and the west to exhibit at a National and meet other DCA members.

Looking at the calendar, I notice that it has been one year since our board stepped into place. I would like to thank all of my board members, Mr. Mark Fields, our newsletter editor, and all those who offered encouragement and advice along the way. Our club has added many new members to its roster, and we hope that we have served your club well as a board. We're still working down our "To-Do" List, and we have more we're working to accomplish. As always, we welcome your comments and ideas for how we can make the DCA even better. I hope to meet many of you in my travels, and thank you for all you do to boost "America's Oldest Breed"!

Why an eBook?

From Mark Fields

Occasionally I'm caught totally off-guard by questions that are thrown my way. Recently I received a very nice but pointed letter asking why I was putting effort into making an eBook available when the fancy would be better served by making another print run of "The American Dominique".

Now, I have to admit that I'm very concerned about the "modern media" that will disappear when their technologies become obsolete. A printed book can sit on a shelf for decades or even centuries while an electronic file might disappear tomorrow.

Add to that the fact that currently on Amazon.com used copies of my book are selling in excess of \$700 and it does beg the question why another print run wasn't made. It came down to a few factors.

- 1) Cost. The cost of a short print run is prohibitive and would have necessitated my setting the selling price at somewhere close to \$100 a copy.
- 2) Time. I wanted the book available quickly as demand for the information continues to grow.
- 3) Modernization. Simply put, there are some people that want it as an eBook.
- 4) Preparation for 2nd Edition. I have collected a file drawer of information to incorporate into the book. The process that was used to create the eBook will allow me to integrate this new material much more easily than the old printing press method.

So, forgive me for taking the easy way out, but in the long run I believe it was the right decision. For those who may not have heard, the eBook is now available at most online retailers.

I want to take this opportunity to solicit material for the 2nd edition of the book. Photos, essays, articles, material you may have collected, etc. I want this edition to be as complete as possible as I'm selling my poultry library once the book is completed. There will be no 3rd edition.

A tear in my eye as well.

Mark,

I just saw the photo of Daddy and one of his favorite Dominique cocks. It brought tears to my eyes to see the joy and pride he had at that show. It is wonderful that you continue to honor breeders like Jack Bloomer, Elva Hemphill, and Roger Voter who loved their Dominiques so much. Thank you again for the wonderful memory.

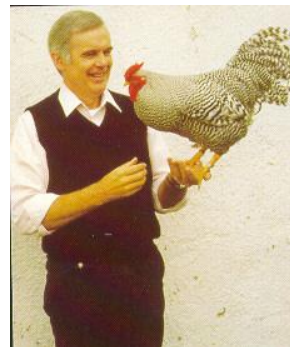
I only have a very old trio of bantams left. Maybe as family obligations decrease I will have the time to rebuild a flock. Until then, I encourage young people to choose Dominiques if they want to raise a few chicks.

Most sincerely,
Christina Kiser

Poultry Show Secrets

By Suzette Ellington

I estimate that probably no more than 20% of our members show their Dominiques. One reason is because showing can be complicated. Here are some tips for those who have thought of showing but didn't know where to begin.



When and where are they? Most shows are sponsored by your state or local poultry club. It's a good idea to join that club. Chances are they can use the members and the help. Or check <http://www.poultryshowcentral.com/> or <http://www.showbirdbid.com>

Get a copy of the APA American Standard of Perfection. You don't have to have an up to date copy. Google free eBooks has the 1915 version. The glossary and chapters in the front of the book are important. DCA has a copy of the Dominique Standard available on the website. The most important thing is to try to enter a Dominique that truly meets the breed standard. If you go to your first show and aren't disqualified, that's a great first step! You'd be surprised the number of DQs you may see. Once you've found your show, the entry form can be found on the show's website or you can contact the show secretary and they will send you one. The entry forms can be confusing. There are new acronyms to learn. Ask the show secretary or send an email to me or Heaven Roberts and we will be happy to help you.

Testing requirements:

Go to http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_dis_spec/poultry/. Near the bottom of the page there is a link to official state agencies. All you have to do is contact your state representative and them and tell them you are looking to show and they will be able to help you. Timing is important. Most states require Pullorum-Typhoid (PT) testing 90 days before a show. If required, Avian Influenza (AI) is typically done 14 days prior for most states. Individuals trained by the state can meet you or go to your farm to test for PT. The State Agency will provide contact information for the certified testers. You must contact the tester to arrange testing and there may be a fee involved. AI is typically done by a state representative. This is done by swabbing the bird's throat for a sample. It only takes a minute, however analysis is done at the lab and you won't get results for a few days. Take the results form with you to the show. PT requires a sample of blood that is taken and examined for a reaction. The test is done on site and also only takes a few minutes. A numbered metal band will be placed on your bird's leg and you will be given a copy of the test results. Take this form with you to the show. If the band happens to fall off, you can still show the bird. Just make sure to bring the band and your paperwork with you to the show.

Some shows have on site PT testing, but you have to make sure you arrive early enough. AI testing must be done prior. If you are going to enter a lot of shows it is easier to just have your whole flock NPIP certified. Check the link above or contact your State Agency for more information. Getting these tests done can be an inconvenience, but they are normally done free of charge. I think that the testing requirements are one reason more folks don't show.

When you arrive at the show, give the show secretary your name and test forms and they will give you an exhibitor's list. Find your name and your exhibitor number will be listed. The birds are grouped according to class, the show secretary can show you but you should be able to find your cages no problem. Check your cage tag. Your exhibitor number will be listed with the breed and type. K - cockerel C - cock P - pullet and H - hen. Place the corresponding bird in its cage. Cups for food and water will be provided. I recommend bringing your own food and water. Some folks do not feed during a one day show.

What they don't tell you:

Don't be surprised if you are the only one showing Dominiques.

If your bird looks nice and clean, washing prior to showing is not a must. Sometimes washing can do more harm than good.

It takes approximately 2 months for most feathers to grow back in.

Sometimes the birds on Champion Row were fed the same feed that you give every day, no special additives or treatment.

VetRx is used to shine up the legs and also makes the combs and wattles nice and red. It is available at farm supply stores or online. It's like Vicks Vapo-Rub for chickens. Apply before placing in cage.

Show sheen. You'll hear folks talk about it. Some use what's called pink oil moisturizer you can pick it up at WalMart in the hair care section. I don't like the smell but it makes a great shine. Try any sheen product on a bird you don't plan on showing before to see how it turns out. Dominiques usually don't need shine products, though.

If it's your first show, there's a good chance no one will talk to you. Hopefully you can make a friend or two and ask questions. Don't just go to one show. Go the next year and the year after that. These folks have seen their share of one time showmen, if you want to connect with folks it's important to keep going.

As soon as the judging is over, you'll know how you did. Typically this is in the morning for a one day show. If you won Best of Breed with your Dominique Large Fowl, you will still be in the running for Best American. Bantam placing is different. Dominiques are in a larger class, RCCL or Rose Comb Clean Legged. There is no grand reveal at the end of judging. You just have to keep an eye on your coop tag and the tags of the competition. Once another bird has placed Champion or Reserve Champion American or RCCL the competition is over for you. For a one day show, you have received this news and it's not even lunch time. You must wait until after the awards and coop out (normally 4 p.m.) before packing up the birds and going home. It is a full day event and if you came by yourself, it can be boring. Unless you are a junior or there is a special club meet, there will be no ribbons or awards, even if you won best of breed.

Your family/friends and coworkers will not understand the point of showing. Personally I get the "oh you didn't win and that was a waste of time and money" lecture after every show. Think of showing as a fishing trip where you didn't catch anything. You still had a good time and maybe learned something new. Again, even if you had a miserable time, give it another chance.

Last, a warning. There is a good chance you will be introduced to a new breed and maybe even come home with something new. Don't bring too much cash because this will happen. On the other hand, you'll need cash for food and drink and also there are often vendors selling poultry supplies.

Happy Showing!

Speaking of the heat

Heather Roberts passed along this Show-Ready Tip:

If you are in a dry part of the country, make sure you add a bit of moisture to your bird's feathers to avoid brittleness throughout the summer months. A brittle feather shrinks and curls on itself, and can get the bird DQ-ed if mistaken for a genetically twisted feather.



Bad Advertising Photos

From Mark Fields

Recently I've begun to notice how bad many of the photographs are that are used in advertising Dominiques. In this article I've collected a few with comments on why this photograph should have been passed over. Hopefully the pictures are not representative of the seller's breeding flock.



Our first cock bird is missing a spike on his comb. The comb is probably too coarse anyway as the wattles are wrinkled and pendulous. Often these faults go hand-in-hand.



The cock bird is missing a spike on his comb. The tail feathers are short, but I believe in this case it may be the age of the bird. The hens have poor type along with poor tail carriage.



This old male has a very rough comb, though his carriage does appear nice. The hens are not uniform and the one in front does not have a good tail. In fact I think the hens may be a little on the heavy side.



This male “may” have potential. Comb is a little rough, but he seems well balanced. I’d like to see him with his tail grown out. His back appears flat but that may be caused by the picture being taken in mid-stride. The thing that worries me the most is the “stitchiness” that is on the wing covers as they appear almost brassy. Additionally, the wing length and carriage is suspect, but again that may be because the bird was in motion.



Oh-my-goodness. That is one rough, beefy comb.



It has been awhile since I’ve seen a “flat top comb” on a Dominique. The back appears flat and those short pointed sickles are not desirable. The uniform barring screams of “Barred Plymouth Rock.



I bet she makes a good broody hen, but that and chicken soup is the only good use for this hen.



This picture makes me cringe. I'd bet a good clean dollar bill that this flock has its origin in the Ideal Hatchery birds. I see absolutely nothing in these birds that I like. They are identical to the ones I received when I did the "hatchery trial" a few years back.

If I've included a photo of your flock, please reconsider your advertising campaign. We need to put out best foot forward at all time. If the photo is not representative of your flock please try to get a better one.



And just because there is a little extra space, here's a fun picture from our Dominique Club Facebook page.

Do you think maybe these girls are a little spoiled?

Dominique Club of America

Master Breeder Award

In order to further its goal of protecting and promoting the Dominique breed of chickens and to encourage its members to achieve high levels of proficiency in breeding Dominiques, the Dominique Club of America shall provide appropriate recognition to any Club member who qualifies for the award of Master Breeder, Large Dominiques or Master Breeder, Bantam Dominiques, according to the following requirements and upon approval by at least four of the five elected officers of the Club.

A. General Conditions

1. Application for this award shall be made by the Club member to the Club's Show Secretary, who will provide advice, information and application blanks and will forward the completed application to other elected officers.
2. The applicant will be notified of the outcome of the application by the Show Secretary within a reasonable length of time.
3. Accumulation of points and "qualifying years" toward receiving either of these awards can be retroactive and can start on January 1, 1974.
4. In matter not covered by this resolution and in case of dispute the decision of four of the five elected officers shall be final.

B. Requirements and Rules for the Master Breeder Award

1. The applicant must have been a member of the Dominique Club of America in good standing and have supported the Dominique Club, its goals and its purpose of promoting large and bantam Dominiques during the period of point accumulation.
2. To qualify for either award a member must have earned at least 30 points per year according to the attached table, in showing either category of Dominiques during six calendar years over a period of up to twelve years. Each year with 30 points according to the attached table shall be called a "qualifying year". A member who writes or has written a significant article on breeding Dominiques which is published in a recognized poultry publication, including Dominique News, shall receive five points for each article up to a maximum of ten points per year. Members who are qualified APA or ABA judges can receive credit for three points per major show judged, up to a maximum of nine points per year.
3. Members must have conducted a continuing and effective breeding program for the category of Dominiques in which he or she applies.
4. The applicant shall have actively encouraged and helped other persons to keep, breed and show Dominiques.
5. As a breeder and exhibitor of poultry, the applicant must have demonstrated high ethical standards.
6. Birds for which points are claimed must have been hatched and raised by the applicant from eggs from his or her own flock. Eggs or stock from other sources may be procured when necessary for continuing a breeding program, but may not be used for qualifying points within one year after being obtained.

C. Earning of Qualifying Points

1. Point totals and numbers of entries are for large Dominiques or bantam Dominiques, not the combination of both categories.

2. Points can be earned by the applicant's large or bantam Dominiques only when judged by an APA or an ABA Judge.
3. Meets that qualify for members to earn points according to the attached table shall be Dominique Club of America Annual National, Regional, State and Special Meets; APA or ABA Annual (National) or Semi-Annual meets; or any other APA or ABA sanctioned show which had previously been announced in the Dominique News, the Poultry Press, or Exhibition Poultry, or any other APA or ABA sanctioned show provided the total show entry is 400 or more birds and other requirements of the table are met.
4. Results of any qualifying meet, in order for points to count, must be verified by the show's Meet Secretary to the Dominique Club of America Show Secretary or another Club elected officer.
5. Extensions to the length of time allowed for obtaining "qualifying years" may be granted by the Club's elected officers upon application by a Club member contending with extenuating circumstances such as his or her severe illness, Federal or State quarantines or job relocation.
6. Consideration may be given for special arrangements for the award for potential applicants living in areas of infrequent Dominique meets, e.g. Oregon, Washington or Idaho.'

D. Recognition for Members

1. Members completing the requirements for Master Breeder, Large Dominiques or Master Breeder, Bantam Dominiques will receive an appropriately lettered patch, and their achievements will be duly announced and noted in the Club minutes at the next annual meeting and in the Dominique News, and submitted to Poultry Press and Exhibition Poultry.

E. Changes in Requirements

1. Changes in requirements for these awards can be made upon an affirmative vote of 4 elected Club officers and two-thirds of the qualified members at the next annual meeting at which a quorum is present.