

GENERAL DISQUALIFICATIONS AND DEFECTS IN POULTRY

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In judging a class in which disqualifications and defects are considered, look over each section of the bird carefully. A good order in which to look over the bird is: legs and toes; back; breast; wings; head and neck; be sure to spread open both wings, tail and body feathers.

A complete description of all disqualifications and defects found in poultry is given in the AMERICAN STANDARD OF PERFECTION. The most common disqualifications are:

1. Stubs or feathers on shanks or between toes.
2. Leg and toe color foreign to breed
3. Decidedly squirrel tailed or decided wry tail.
4. Slipped wing, split wing or clipped wing.
5. Twisted main feather in wing or tail.
6. Entire absence of mail tail feathers.
7. Side sprig on single comb.
8. Split comb.
9. Comb foreign to breed.
10. Rose comb falling to one side.
11. Lopped single comb except in female of the Mediterranean class and the New Hampshire breed.
12. Absence of spike on rose comb varieties.
13. Crooked backs.
14. Deformed beaks.
15. Bowed legs or knock-kneed (matter of degree).
16. Duck-foot.
17. Enamel white in the earlobe of American or Asiatic varieties.
18. Entire absence of spurs on cock birds.
19. Brown or buff quills of primary or secondaries in white varieties.
20. Foreign color in any part of plumage of white varieties except slight gray ticking.
21. One or more entirely white feathers in outer plumage of Rhode Island Reds or New Hampshires.
22. Two or more solid black primaries, secondaries or main tail feathers in Barred Plymouth Rocks.
23. Red or Yellow in any part of the plumage of the Barred Plymouth Rocks.
24. Red covering more than 1/3 of the surface of earlobes in cockerels pr pullets in White Leghorns, and more than 1/2 in cocks and hens.
25. Faking in any manner.
26. In all breeds having weight clauses, except leghorns, Anaconas, Bantams, and turkeys, any specimen falling more than two pounds below standard weight.
27. In Leghorns and Anconas males falling more than 1-1/2 pounds and females more than one pound under standard weight.

A few of the most common defects found in poultry are:

1. Scaly legs.
2. Frosted (frozen) combs.
3. Thumb-marks on comb or wattles.
4. Blindness of one eye, injured or missing eye.
5. Missing or broken feathers.
6. Crooked toes.
7. Crooked breast bone (economically important).
8. Crowhead.
9. Buff or creaminess in white varieties (not to be confused with the rich color in the plumage of pullets about to come into production).
10. Gray specks in white varieties.
11. Poor barring.
12. Black feathers in body of Barred Plymouth Rocks.
13. Smut in undercolor of Rhode Island Reds.
14. Light undercolor of Rhode Island Reds
15. Single combs having more or less than the required number of points.

STANDARD WEIGHTS

	Pullet	Hen	Cockerel	Cock
Single Comb White Leghorns	4	4.5	5	6
Rhode Island Reds	5.5	6.5	7.5	8.5
New Hampshires	5.5	6.5	7.5	8.5
Wyandottes	5.5	6.5	7.5	8.5
White Plymouth Rocks	6	7.5	8	9.5
Barred Plymouth Rocks	6	7.5	8	9.5

Rule of thumb: Any deviation from the normal is a defect; a serious deviation from the normal is a disqualification.

Examples: 5 toes on a breed normally having 4 toes – disqualification
Crossed beak – disqualification
Thumb mark – defect