

Steller Cropper German Standard 2002

A slender, upright-standing Pouter of just-under-medium size and elongated build, with a stance of medium height. The rear section is shorter than the fore-section (approximately 3/5 front and 2/5 rear); it features a pear-shaped crop and plumage colors with exceptional luster; the bird is lively and eager to both inflate its crop and fly. A characteristic trait of the breed is its flight style, involving loud clapping and a "dropping" action with the wings held high and close together. The head and tail must not be lowered during the drop.

Breed characteristics:

Head: Smooth, elongated-round, forehead rising slightly.

Eyes: Pearl-colored; a pure white ring encircles the pupil, while the rest of the iris is more or less streaked with fine red veins; dark in white birds (with or without a blaze) and in pied birds. Eye-ring smooth, not very wide, coral-red.

Beak: Medium length, medium thickness, resting midway on the wattle; tip wax-colored, fading to pinkish-flesh color at the base. Wattles smooth, slightly developed, finely powdered.

Neck: As long as possible; wattle medium-sized, pear-shaped, with a visible taper at the base.

Breast: Not protruding and not too broad.

Back: Long, sloping, slightly concave; shoulders rounded and not protruding.

Wings: Strong, covering the back well; tips not crossing or crossing only slightly.

Tail: Narrow, closed, forming a gently curved line with the back; not touching the ground.

Legs: Medium length, not set too wide apart, feather-free; lower legs visible, blending smoothly into the body, with tight-fitting plumage; claw color immaterial.

Plumage: Smooth, tight-fitting, broad-feathered; frayed flight feathers permitted.

Color varieties: Self-white; white with black, red, yellow, or blue blaze. Self-colored with white blaze or white-flighted in black, red, yellow, blue with black bars, blue barless, blue-dull, red-dull, yellow-dull, blue-checked, blue-dull-checked, red-dull-checked, yellow-dull-checked. Tiger-marked, pied, and white-shielded in black, blue, red, yellow. Magpie-marked in black, silver, red, yellow, blue, blue-checked. Blue-grizzle, red-dull-grizzle.

Color and markings: All colors are uniform, rich, and have an intense metallic sheen, which is strongest in the neck and crop feathers. The sheen is blue-green in blacks, rosy-white and greenish-tinged in reds, golden-yellow in yellows, and blue-green in blues. Pale birds have clean, unclouded wing shields; red and yellow pale birds have no gray in the breast and belly feathers. All bars are continuous, clean, and do not merge. 'Hammered' birds have the most even, sharp wing markings possible. White-winged birds have 5 to 9 white primaries. The snips must (even in 'Gansel' birds) be set at the wattle, extending to approximately the level of the middle of the eye and not reaching the eye rims or corners of the beak. Grizzled birds have white markings distributed as evenly as possible throughout their body plumage and must have bars. Tiger-patterned birds have evenly distributed white markings on a colored background on the head and upper third of the crop plumage, on the wing shield, shoulder and back plumage; the lower part of the crop plumage, the breast and belly plumage, primary flight feathers, and tail feathers. Pied birds feature colored markings evenly distributed (not in large solid patches) against a white background, including on the flight feathers and tail. "Gansel" (magpie-marked) birds feature magpie-like markings, a colored

back, a white head with a colored almond-shaped spot above the beak, and a medium-sized white bib; the wedge-shaped mark is colored.

Major faults:

Clumsy or overly weak body, rear section too long, flat posture, weak, crooked, cylindrical, or round crop, stance too low or too high, strongly protruding breastbone, bulging thighs, excessive red in the iris, pure white iris, coarse or light-colored eye-ring, beak too thin, impure beak color, discolored wattles, flight feathers crossing significantly, tail held too tightly or too broadly, hairy or loose feather structure, dull or impure colors, gross marking defects; for white-flighted varieties: fewer than 5 or more than 9 white flight feathers, or a difference of more than 2 white flight feathers.

Judging criteria:

Overall impression – body shape and posture – stance – crop formation – uniformity and richness of color gloss – eye and eye-ring color – beak color
– markings.

Ring size: 8