

The Helmet is a jaunty pigeon with a peppy, active personality. When on show it should give the viewer a zestful impression of a bird with vigor and enthusiasm. Cowering or crouching in a corner are not and should not be characteristic of the breed. When taken in hand, it should not be unduly frightened or struggle. The Helmet captures one's attention, in effect calling out, "I enjoy life, and I have a right to. I am intelligent and healthy, poised, and I appeal to people." Other things being equal, the bird with these qualities is preferred.

**HEAD** - Should be medium in size, with broad frontal, showing no indication of flatness. The frontal should rise sharply from the wattle with a well defined forward curve, rising to a full top skull (on the short faced varieties, the distance from the eye to the frontal should be greater than from the eye to the top skull), then flowing back to the base of the crest without any breaks to mar it's continuity. There should definitely be more front than back skull. Top skull should not be lacking. Viewed from the front, the face should start to develop right behind the wattle with broad cheeks and rising with fullness across the eyes, appearing slightly arched, instead of flat or angular. Any indication of a narrow face or pinched appearance should be avoided. Despite the desire for a broad full frontal, "eye brows" (feathers protruding over the eyes) must be avoided. The crest should be the only interruption in the smooth flow of head into the neck.

**CREST** - Should be shell-shaped and prominent. It should stand well above the head and be as thick and full as possible without hugging the skull. It should reach from ear to ear showing no breaks along it's edge and end in completely formed rosettes. Rosettes should be symmetrical and of corresponding size and shape with their centers in line with the bottom of the eyes. Rosette diameter should be approximately ½ inch. The crest should blend with the mane in such a way that the continuity of the crest is enhanced.

**BEAK** - Beak length is dependent upon the variety, Short Faced or Medium Faced (see "Measurements"). In both varieties however, it should have sufficient substance to avoid a pinched effect. A stout beak is preferable to a spindly beak in each variety. The beak should be compatible with the desired fullness of the face. It should be set straight with an imaginary line passing between the mandibles to the bottom of the eye cere and through the center of the rosette. A bleached bone colored beak is preferred in all colors.

**WATTLE** - Should blend with the beak and form an abrupt connection with the feathers of the frontal. It should be powered white and fine and smooth in texture.

**EYES** - Should be bright pearl in color and have a well defined, round pupil. Vertically, the bottom of the eye should be on the imaginary line continuing back from the mandible joining. Horizontally, it's center should be no further back than  $\frac{11}{32}$  inch from the mandible gap on the Short Face and no closer than  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch from the mandible gap on the Medium Face.

**CERE** - Should be thin and fine in texture, definitely not coarse. Flesh color is preferred with a light pink being acceptable.

**NECK** - Should be medium length, short rather than long, and fairly stout with a "bullish" appearance. Viewed from the side, it should arch slightly. The mane is a very important asset to the neck and the bird's overall appearance. The mane should extend backward from the rosette area, blending with and supporting the crest while flowing smoothly down the neck with no breaks to the point where it joins the body.

**BODY** - Medium sized and well proportioned, short rather than long. Should have a cobby appearance, broad in front, tapering in a wedge-like manner to the tail. The neck and crop region should blend into the chest in a graceful curve with the feathers of the chest covering the wing butts. There should be no suggestion of a "roached" (humped) back. To the feel, the body should suggest good muscular tone and firmness (see "MEASUREMENTS").

**WINGS** - Should be tightly folded onto the sides of the body with secondaries resting on the back. Secondaries which rise above the back ("sideboards") are undesirable. The wings should be folded neatly over the tail, riding on the tail, and not crossing or drooping below the tail.

**LEGS** - Should be sturdy and medium to short in length (see "MEASUREMENTS"). Hocks should be substantial and blend smoothly into the body. The tarsus (shank) should be bright red, smooth textured and free of feathers.

**FEET** - Should be bright red, smooth and free of feathers. The toe nails should be bleached bone color (see "TYPE" for presentation).

**TAIL** - Should be neat, narrow and straight (neither tipping up nor drooping down, in line with the body) extending no more than  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (Short Faced varieties) or ½ inch (Medium Faced varieties) from the tips of the primaries. The tail should be made up of no more than twelve pennae (main tail feathers), and be tightly packed with a width of no more than one and one half feather widths.

**FEATHERS** - The bird should be covered by a smooth feather system without protrusion of loose, broken or deformed feathers. Feathers should be profuse and reasonably loose from the neck up, becoming hard, close and tight fitting on the body, wings and tail, reflecting good condition.

**TYPE** - Should be proportioned in such a way as to present an evenly balanced appearance in all respects. Should be sprightly in manner and stand very erect, appearing to try to thrust it's chest upward. The head should be positioned so that the eyes are vertically in line with the balls of the feet. Ideally, the bird should be on it's front toes with it's rear toes off the surface.

**MARKINGS** - All markings should be straight and definite, clearly showing the contrast between colored and white areas. The head and tail should be colored (see "COLOR" for a list of colors), the rest of the bird shall be white.

**HEAD, Crested Varieties** - The head markings shall extend from the point where the upper and lower mandibles join, thence to the rosettes, making a straight line along the bottom of the eye. There shall be no colored feathers in the crest, it's lining, or below the eye (often termed "sideburns"). The cap shall be free of white feathers.

**HEAD, Plainhead Varieties** - Same as above except, the demarcation line shall continue straight back, wrapping around the head in a straight, unbroken line.

**TAIL** - The color shall extend to the vent and in an even, sharp, line cross over the rump.

**COLOR** - The color of the head and tail shall be as close to the same color as possible, with the most points being awarded to the bird who's head and tail match (providing of course, that the color is in accordance with the Standard requirements). Color should be even and extend to the feathers' base.

**IDEAL MEASUREMENTS:**

<u>Measurement</u>	<u>Medium Face</u>
Body length in show stance from the front of the breast to tip of tail	7 ½"
Height while in show stance from the top of skull to the balls of the feet	8"
Body width from the outside of the wing butts	4"
Ball of foot to center joint between the tarsus (shank) and leg (measured in hand)	1 ¼" - 1 ⅜"
Beak length measured from mandible gap to tip of beak	5/8"

