

CHINESE OWL STANDARD OF PERFECTION

OBJECTIVE: With all the points totaled, the best Chinese Owl should be compact, smooth, and, above all, a balanced bird.

HEAD (6 points): An arched, oval shape rising fairly quickly from the back of the beak to just before the eyes creating a bold frontal. Then gradually curving back to meet the neck forming a smooth profile. Width equally proportioned to avoid a pinched look to the front. Should be bold and strong in appearance.

Minor fault: Flat spot on top, front, or side of head.

Minor fault: Eyebrows, whiskers, tufts, or any inverted feathers on the face or head of the bird (except for the neck frill).

Major fault: Pinched face or lack of frontal.

EYE AND EYE CERE (2 points): Eyes alert and clear. Eye cere fine and smooth, following the contour of the eye. See the color definition section of the standard.

Minor fault: Coarse, droopy, mis-shaped cere.

Minor fault: Pink eye cere (not red).

Disqualification: Red eye cere.

Disqualification: Split or cracked eyes or odd colored eyes not permitted in the color description.

BEAK/ BEAK SETTING/WATTLE (3 points): Beak should be dainty, but stout, not spindle-like. See the color definition section of the standard. The beak should be set at a 120 degree angle with the fore part of the head and large enough to feed their young. The wattle should be fine in texture, neat and heart-shaped. White in color.

Minor fault. Beak too long or short.

Minor fault: Beak setting more than or less than 120 degree angle. More than is referred to as horse-faced.

Minor fault: Coarse, scarred, or bumpy wattle.

Minor fault: Wattle color other than white.

Major fault: "Scissor" or "eagle", uneven beak mandibles.

NECK (4 points): Neck rather thick and powerful from the head tapering down to the shoulders, forming a smooth profile. Medium in length to allow the neck frill to be visible above the top of the breast frill from the front view.

Minor fault: Inverted or irregular feathers in the neck (except for the neck frill).

Major fault: Neck too short or too long effecting the position of the neck frill.

NECK FRILL/COLLAR (15 points): A smooth, unbroken, and even collar of feathers that flare up and away from the neck and eyes in a horseshoe shape. The back of the collar should extend to the back of the head, ending evenly on both sides, and must be open a minimum of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, flowing smoothly down into the neck. There should be no break of the collar shape in the front. The top of the collar should be even with the bottom of the eye from the side view and visible above the breast frill from the front view.

Minor fault: V-shaped neck frill.

Minor fault: Uneven in length at the stopping point on the back of the collar.

Major fault: Breaks or gaps in the normal contour of the collar shape.

Major fault: Less than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch gap on the back of the head (like a crest).

Major fault: Excessive “horns” on the back of the neck frill not flowing down into the neck and back skull.

Major fault: Neck frill that totally lacks flare and touches the side of the head or eyes.

BREAST FRILL (15 points): A profuse display of reverse feathers completely covering the breast, directing feathers up to the neck frill, down towards the pantaloons, and out over the wing butts in the center. The breast frill should be unbroken and even on the sides from top to bottom. The top outer portions of the breast frill should come up over the shoulders before making a slight curve toward the very front of the neck frill to form a smooth dome shaped top. A horizontal break that covers approximately 2/3 of the breast width should be centered from top to bottom, disregarding the pantaloons, and free of any visible skin. Density of feathers should be such that it has a thick, pillow-like appearance.

Minor fault: A break that extends beyond the wing butts.

Minor fault: Frill radiating from one center point (rosette frill), with no horizontal break and no skin showing.

Minor fault: Feather in lower breast frill that covers the pantaloons that could be trimmed or removed.

Minor fault: Break positioned higher or lower than center.

Minor fault: Break that is crooked (not horizontal) or uneven.

Minor fault: Top or bottom half not as wide as other half creating a pyramid or inverted-pyramid appearance.

Major fault: A vertical split on upper or lower portion.

Major fault: A break that shows excessive bare skin.

Major fault: Enough feathers growing down from the base of the neck or top of the breast rather than up and over the shoulders (referred to as “down-frilling) to the extent that it affects the appearance of the upper breast frill.

Major fault: Lack of density causing a flat appearance from the side or top views.

PANTALOONS/PANTS (15 points): Two large (in size and quantity of feathers), distinct puffs of feathers protruding from the lower breast in front of the legs. Almost round in shape and nearly touching in the center. Should be even in size and fine and fluffy in texture.

Minor fault: Gap between pantaloons caused by all feathers pointing to the sides.

Minor fault: Coarse feather texture.

Major fault: Uneven in size or wispy (lacking in quantity).

CARRIAGE/STATION/TYPE (15 points): Bold, alert, and upright. The eye in a perpendicular line above the ball of the foot from the side view. The breast thrown out prominently; balanced in length and height, wide at the shoulders, forming a teardrop shape from the top view. Height; eight inches from floor to crown of head. Length; eight inches from front of chest to tip of tail as viewed from the side. Cocks are typically larger than hens.

Minor fault: Eye position slightly ahead of or behind the perpendicular line above the ball of the foot.

Major fault: Crouching to the point where feet are not visible from the front view or rump is touching the floor from the side view.

Major fault: Standing so tall that legs above the hocks are visible from the front view.

Major fault: A bird that won't "show", excessively trying to go through the wire or cooing and strutting.

FLIGHTS/TAIL/BODY (12 points): Wing feathers should be smooth and the flights should be tight, resting on the tail, with the tips nearly meeting. The secondary back cover feathers should be smooth and cover completely, leaving no gap on the back. Tail should be 1 ½ to 2 feathers wide, with either natural ten or twelve feathers, and carried just clear of the floor.

Minor fault: A small number of holes in the feathers (no live bugs).

Minor fault: Flights dropping below the tail.

Minor fault: Tail wider than 2 feathers wide.

Minor fault: Narrow outside tail feather that fits naturally into the tail.

Minor fault: Missing tail feathers even if outside are present.

Minor fault: 3 or 4 Spanish frill or inverted feathers.

Minor fault: Droopy secondary flights.

Minor fault: A few dirty, broken, or tattered feathers.

Major fault: Rudder, twisted, or backward inside tail feather referred to as an inside forked tail.

Major fault: "Bishop winged" or flights stacked backwards in the wing.

Major fault: "Sideboard" flights. Flights that lay vertically instead of flat on the tail or back.

Major fault: Large quantities of Spanish frilling.

Major fault: Lack of back cover leaving an open gap.

Major fault: Heavy molting.

Disqualification: Forked or split tails. Tail must contain the two outside tail feathers.

Disqualification: Birds carrying live parasites, such as lice or feather mites, or excessive pin holes in the flights or tail feathers.

Disqualification: Excessive trimming or plucking (reference to removal of Spanish frilling on the back or horns on the neck frill).

Disqualification: Birds out of condition at the discretion of the judge.

FEET AND LEGS (3 points): Legs short, but long enough to give grace to the carriage, free of feathers below the hocks. Feet should be rather small and neat. Toes well spread apart. The color should be bright red. See the color definition section of the standard.

Minor fault: A few feathers below the hocks that could be easily plucked.

Minor fault: Excessively long toe nails.

Minor fault: Excessively dirty legs and feet.

Minor fault: Webbed toes less than $\frac{1}{4}$ the length of the toe.

Major fault: Webbed toes more than $\frac{1}{4}$ the length of the toe or trimming of the webbing (permanent alteration of physical characteristics).

Disqualification: Grouse legs or excessive feathers below the hock.

COLOR (10 points): All colors should fit the color description for their respective color. All patterns should fit the pattern description for their respective pattern. The eye, beak, and toenail colors should also fit the color description for their respective color. See the color definition section of the standard.

Minor fault: Eyes, beak, or toenails of the wrong color.

Minor fault: A few white feathers on self-colored birds.

Major fault: Birds that don't meet their color or pattern as defined in the color description.