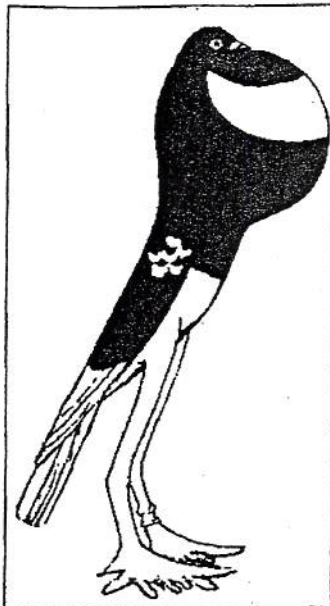


The English Pouter

HARMONY

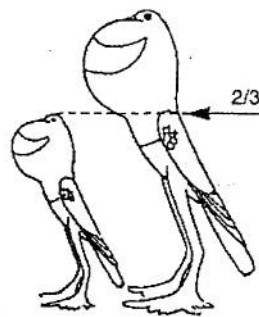
Throughout the body



The English Pouter is the largest and tallest of all Pouters. Due to its stature, it is also very slim in body.

The Pigmy Pouter should be only two thirds the size of its English counterpart. It is therefore much thinner, more delicate, and fine boned.

In appearance the English should meet all requirements for breast, back, and wings.



English Pouter

Desires: Taller & thinner.
Faults: Too small in body.
Bad Fault: Too thick in body.

Pigmy Pouter

Desires: more delicate.
Faults: too coarse.
Bad Fault: thick body.

The breeding of the English and Pigmy pouters is becoming ever more difficult. In addition I have this feeling/sense that the Standard used in our shows varies considerably from show to show. That causes me, with the agreement of our clubs, to attempt to establish clarification of our Standard and a Breeders Guide. Feel free to contribute:

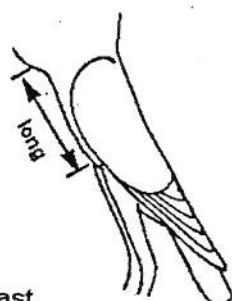
- To institute a more uniform use of our standard.
- To help the Judges by providing them with a uniform, comprehensive guide.
- Most of all to give the breeders a guide to use before the Show season to help them determine which birds are worthy of showing. Those that are not yet affiliated with the English and Pigmy Pouter Club will find this an offer of guidance.

A Slimmer, more Elegant Pouter. One point I would like to make before we proceed. In any case the following Standard characteristics must be preserved in the order given: Type, Leg setting, Station, Foot feathering, Color, Markings, and Eye Color.

In the evaluation (Judging) of our slim, elegant Pouters; the following characteristics must be considered:

- Length, width, waist.
- Narrow, almost closed wings.
- Narrow back. Slightly hollow between the shoulders.
- Feather condition (through care in feeding and housing)
- Fineness and length of bone.

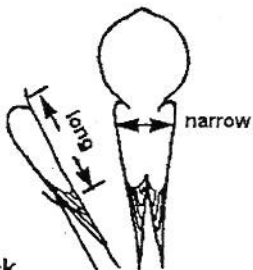
The Crop, the most elegant point of the breed, should be fully blown and round as a ball. It must be well situated on the top of the breast. A long neck enhances appearance. In the last few years great advances in shape and projection of the globe have been made. However there is still room for improvement.



Breast

Long from crop to leg position. Breastbone may protrude slightly.

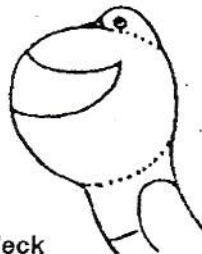
Desires: Longer & narrower.
Faults: Short, wide.



Back

Narrow, to slope downward in line with the tail.

Desires: narrow
Faults: Wide or rounded.



Neck

As long as possible. Crop when fully blown to be round as a ball. Well aligned on the breast, with good break. A slight backblow desirable.

Desires: Longer neck. Better alignment of crop on breast. Larger Globe. Larger head.

Faults: Short neck. Flat forehead. Irregular Crop.

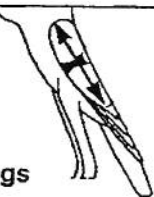
Bad Faults



Short Neck

No Break

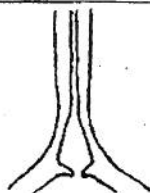
Lack of Globe



Wings

Long, narrow and well closed; not crossed.

Desires: Less crossing, narrower, tighter closing.
Faults: short, rounded feathers.
Bad Fault: Frayed feathers.



Legs

Well able to support the body. Closely aligned, stable, and well feathered.

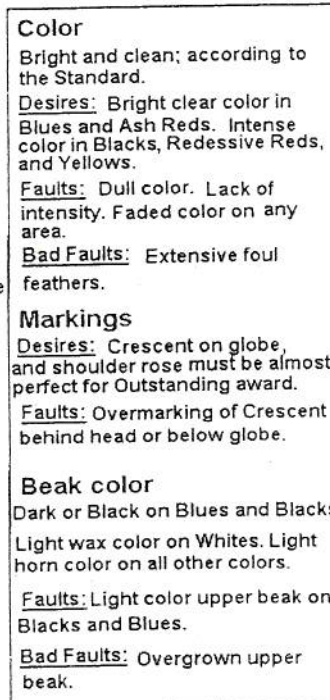
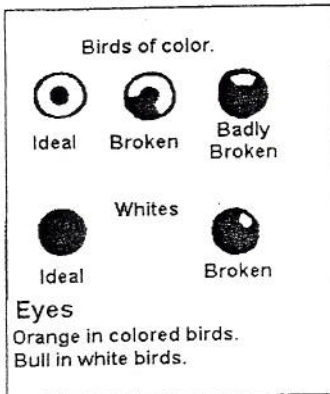
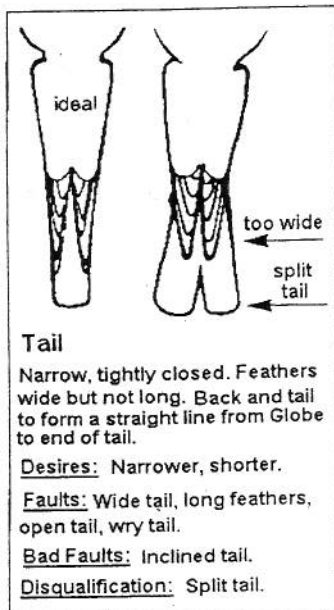
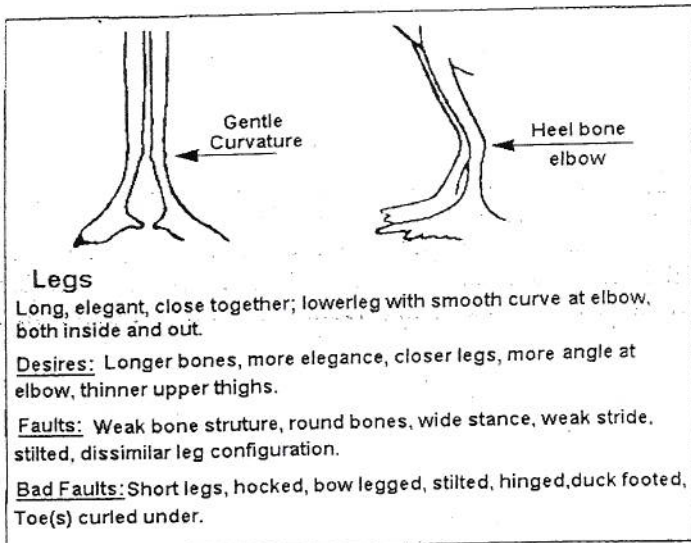
Desires: Closer and more stable.
Faults: Not closely aligned. Not stable in stance.
Bad Fault: Sprattle legged.



Station

Upright such that the eye is directly over the ankle.

Desires: More upright. Back and tail in straight line.
Faults: Not erect. Tail not aligned with back.
Bad Fault: Crooked stance.



From the front they look like the legs are so close that they

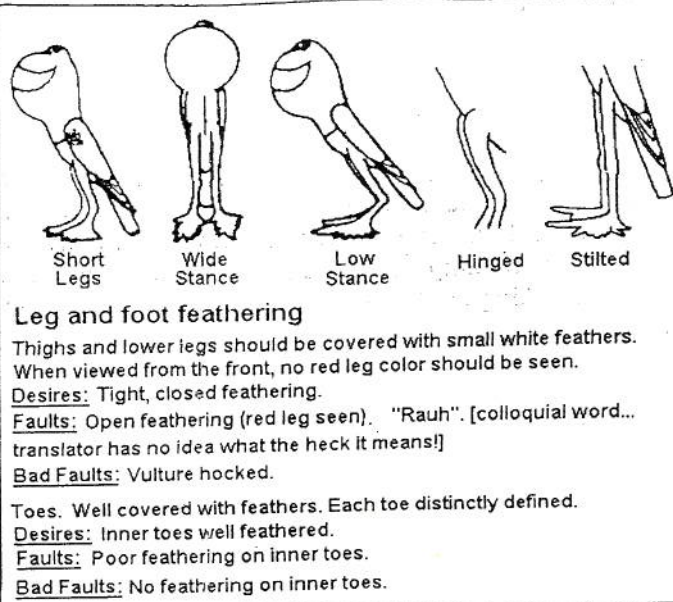
In English Pouters is a lack of good foot feathering. That contradicts the Standard. In all things we must adhere to the Standard. Also, not all birds have adequate globe and waist feathering.

Leg placement and pitch.

There are many things to consider about the legs; placement, pitch, elbow angle, elegance, and grace. The most elegant shape of leg is "elliptical" in cross section, not round. Much attention should be given the thighs and lower leg with respect to angles. All angular lines should be smooth and "flowing".

The lower leg should be as long as possible. Birds with short lower legs should not be kept for breeding.

Those birds with severe knocknees or other bad leg defects are prohibited in Show cages. Knockneeed birds are also not to be bred.



Leg feathering should be smooth. Legs should be lightly knock kneed. Not a lot but ... slightly. They certainly should not be bow legged. The thighs should come down *very* close together. The lower leg to be more widely placed. It is difficult to express in words the positioning of the legs. Study the sketches as shown above. The legs should be attached to the body at 2/3 from the globe and 1/3 to be behind the legs. Hens will have a bit more width between the legs then do cocks. Birds with short, thick or rough legs should not be bred.

English and Pigmy Pouters:

Of the afore mentioned attributes it is more applicable to the English Pouter. In keeping, therefore, the BIG English Pouter must be "BIG"! To fulfill that requirement, the body must be long and strong. Then when listed within the category of Large Pouters it is also lighter in weight that is a goal. The Pigmy Pouter is considered to be just the opposite. The goals for the Pigmy are for it to be delicate and dainty. It should be only two thirds the size of the English Pouter. If a Pigmy has an overly large Crop, it follows that the back, waist, and wings are too wide. It is then more of an English Pouter than a Pigmy. Therefore we must select birds with all the right body parts and the proper Type will follow. Birds with short fleshy waists, wide round backs, and with wide roughly feathered wings; can not be considered to be within range of being called good specimens. If good body type, crop, and leg stance are the goals, then we will see a proper English! If the above characteristics are met, then refinements for improvement can be a goal. In example: an exact wing rose, a perfect crescent on the globe, a perfect round globe. Station with the eye directly in a vertical line with the soul of the foot.

To obtain the best view and action of a Pouter, and best appearance before a Judge, the bird must have room to display. The height of the cooping must be such that it can stand erect with the tail down. The area of the cooping must be adequate. All these things are important for an Outstanding bird.

Color and Markings: The foot feathering is certainly an embellishment on the English Pouter, nevertheless the foot feathering is an important part of the bird. If it isn't perfect, the bird is not perfect. One can not be overly concerned about every single feather, or every body proportion. Color in Whites, Faded Yellows, Faded Blues, and Faded Reds present minimal problems. Blacks, Reds, and Yellows present the color problems. Last year almost 80% of the Blacks in Shows... lacked a good shiny black color. It is desirable that wide promotion of color improvement be made in these areas. We must make sure the colors are improved. How often is a picture imperfect if the color is faded out? If we want our English/Pigmies to be as is described in the Standard; the globe crescent and wing rose must be more exact. We tend to tolerate mis-markings of globe and rose. Perfection indeed comes from you; why should we not hope for better? A bit of feather plucking is always in order.. [I can't resist the German word "Putzen"... (cleanse) the foul feathers off of your birds!]

Werner Vogel