MODERN GAME BANTAMS

By I. deGaris

The Modern Game Bantam came to this country from England and Scotland one hundred or more years ago and gradually gained popularity. They are quite different in type or carriage from other Bantams but their colors and color patterns are somewhat the same as certain other breeds. The popularity of the various varieties continues to change. Back in the days of large shows, such as Madison Square Garden and Boston, the Duckwings predominated. Later the Black Breasted Reds became most popular while today the Birchens are most popular. Blacks, Whites and Blues have always been few in number while Brown Reds have become more numerous in recent years. When the A.B.A. provided a Standard for Bantams, that for Brown Reds was changed from lemon hackles, saddles and lacing to orange. It was practically impossible to produce rich lemon color while it is fairly easy to produce rich orange color.

Moderns, by comparison with other breeds, are somewhat delicate and can not stand extreme cold weather unless some heat is provided. They have small bodies and are not heavily feathered. Although they are not heavy layers, they produce sufficient fertile and hatchable eggs to permit one to raise all he may wish to. To add to their gamey appearance, the cockerels are dubbed. By careful mating of good birds, a fair percentage of the offspring will also be good, particularly in the non-laced varieties. At the shows and meets we find a lot of good Moderns today. My observation is that the greatest faults seen are narrow shoulders, too long bodies and wings, poorly dubbed males and birds not properly trained to show. Tallness or reach is desired but along with this, we want broad shoulders and short bodies and wings. A well balanced Modern with fair reach is a much better bird than a very tall one with long body and wings. Judges could emphasize this important fact by sticking to the Standard and not placing a bird first just because it is the tallest one in it's class.

If you are interested in a sporty, little Bantam of many colors and one that responds quickly to kindness and training, try Moderns! They are sponsored by the Modern Game Bantam Club of America which, of course, is affiliated with the American Bantam Association.

Editor's note: this article appeared in the Modern Game Bantam Club's 1972 Year book

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