

Franconian Goose

Classification: Light

Origin: Germany

This is an old breed that developed along the flood plains of the winding Rivers Main and Fränkische Saale. This area was part of the former Duchy of Franconia, in southern Germany.

Various coloured (blue, buff and pied) small geese living in this region were selected and bred by farmers, resulting in a small, hardy

active goose capable of raising good numbers of fast-growing goslings. They required little feed in harsh winters and were good for meat and feathers.

At the beginning of the twenty-first century, good examples of the breed were collected by Ernst Messinger and Martin Wirsching, who began selective breeding to refine the breed. They produced birds of impressive quality that they took to top shows. They began distributing young stock to other breeders and the breed quickly gained popularity and was bred and exhibited widely throughout Germany. Small numbers were imported into the UK from this time. The breed was first included in the *British Poultry Standards* in 2018.

Colour Genotype: TBA

Overall type: Both sexes

Small, fairly stocky, active goose with a well-rounded, broad body.

Carriage: Horizontal or slightly sloping.

Head: Relatively short with well-rounded crown, throat with no sign of gullet. Bill short but not too stout.

Neck: Medium length, strong, nearly straight or slightly curved.

Body: Medium length, broad, well rounded. Chest broad, fully rounded, carried at a slight angle. Undercarriage well defined, neat and smooth, or with a small single lobe, which may be pronounced in older females. Female slightly smaller and more compact than male.



Tail: Forming a straight line with the back, relatively short and well closed.

Wings: Well set, but not to reach beyond tail. Not or only slightly crossing.

Legs and feet: Thighs well developed, muscular, barely visible. Shanks short to medium length.

Plumage: Tight, dense, close fitting.

Colour

In both sexes

Plumage: Pure medium blue as ground colour on plumage, lower front neck and breast. Blue shading gradually into white on abdomen and stern. Lower breast, back and wing feathers have narrow white lacing. Tail blue with white edging.

Eyes: Gold-brown with orange-coloured eye ring.

Bill: Orange with pale flesh-coloured bean.

Legs and webs: Orange with horn-coloured nails.

Weights

Gander 5-6 kg (11-13 lb)

Goose 4-5 kg (9-11 lb)

Scale of points

| | |
|-----------------|------------|
| Carriage | 10 |
| Head and throat | 10 |
| Neck | 5 |
| Body | 15 |
| Legs and feet | 5 |
| Condition | 10 |
| Colour | 25 |
| Size | <u>20</u> |
| | <u>100</u> |



Minor Defects

Oversized, but also specimens which are too small. Dual lobe. Lacking in specified plumage colour and type.