



White Crested Cuckoo

By Courtney DuCharme

White crested cuckoos are a barred variety which call for feathers that that have stripes that alternated white and black through the feather and end with a dark tip.

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You want to avoid pure black feathers on the birds and any red or yellow leakage in the feathers. Any feather other than in the white part of the crest should be barred and not solid colored.

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You want the stripes as crisp as possible (not color coming into the white area).



Currently WC Cuckoos are only recognized in bantam size white crested black cuckoo (single barred) through the ABA only. There are other colored projects in both large fowl and bantam, but those are not able to show above variety.

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Cuckoos legs are normally whiteish, sometimes spotted. Even though breeding your cuckoos to WC blacks can help with adding new bloodlines and improving type, remember the resulting WC Black babies that hatch from a cuckoo parent often have poorly colored legs and may have white spots in their feathers.

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Cuckoo is a sex-linked pattern.

Cuckoo males can produce both cuckoo boys and girls when bred to non-patterned color (Black, blue, chocolate, khaki).

Cuckoo girls bred to a non-patterned color will give you cuckoo boys and non-patterned girls.

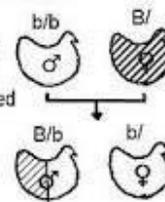
Double cuckoo males will only produce cuckoo (or barred pattern on another pattern) when bred to any color.

Double cuckoo males bred to cuckoo females, will give you double cuckoo boys and cuckoo females.

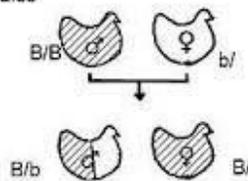
Barred Breeding Chart

Barring is a sex linked trait. Males carry two possibilities, females can only be one. It is useful for making sex linked chicks.

To make sex links using this gene, cross a non-barred rooster over barred hens. All the males will have a dot on their head.

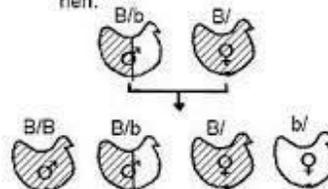


The other direction is not useful for sex linked breeding, but will make barred females



Both of these children carry one copy of barring

Split barred roosters will produce a few different results over a barred hen.



The Polish Breeders Club is currently looking for people who breed either bantam or large fowl cuckoos to form committees to help get this variety accepted in both sizes in the American Poultry Association as a recognized variety.

Please email polishbreedersclub@gmail.com if you would like to help with one or both committees.

