

Exhibition Poultry

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Tommy Francis with his Black Muscovy Old Duck. Hatched and raised by Tommy Francis, Francis Farms, Arizona. Arizona State Fair 2023 Youth Show, Best of Show, Best Heavy Duck, Best Waterfowl.



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Exhibition Poultry

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Exhibition Poultry Magazine®

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Exhibition Poultry Magazine

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From the Editor . . .

Rain, glorious rain. After five months of drought it is finally raining today and supposedly will continue to do so for the next week, off and on. I never thought I would be so happy to see cold weather coming in. Summer has never been my favorite season and five months of it was just a bit much. I know that most of you, especially here in the south, will agree. It's not easy to condition birds and grow nice feathers in month after month of this hot dry heat. At least not for me. One positive is that none of my birds succumbed to the heat this year. I believe that is a first, it is also the first year I did not try to keep fans on them. Is there a correlation? I don't know. Maybe they are just getting really tough when it comes to the climate they can survive out there.

We had so many great win photos submitted for this issue! Thank you to everyone! The quality of the photos is improving geometrically and the wins are impressive, also. Congratulations to all of our readers who are really cleaning up at these late Summer and early Fall shows. May the rest of your show season be as successful.

We are a couple days past our normal publish date for this issue (a number of format changes and improvements are in the works) and I finish this issue up just in time for this weekend's Ohio National Show. Mary Lewondowski-Rekow is loading videos from all over the Ohio National on the EPMag group page as I type this. Be sure to give them a look, and a like. All I can say is "WOW" to 1000 sale cages alone!? I wish I was there. To all of you attending BEST OF LUCK!

Ann Charles, Editor



ABA Happenings

The 2024 leg bands will be here in a few short days. Visit our website to order yours today. The best way to insure you get the low numbers is to order early!!

Our 2023 ABA national Meet will be held in Shawnee, Oklahoma. For more information, contact Wade Walker at wt.walker@yahoo.com. This is going to be a great show and a good event for all. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the ABA to show a presence and recruit some new ABA members. I hope you can make this show as it has been a while since the ABA was out this way.

Shows are added as sanctions come in so check the ABA website often for the most up to date information or head over to the linked ABA page on Poultry Show Central!

If you would like more information on sanctioning your upcoming show, contact Michelle Lynch at ABApoul-trysows@gmail.com.

Regarding future deliveries of your ABA Quarterly newsletter:

Going forward, we will be sending the Quarterly news-

letters to your email box. (electronically). They will also be posted on the ABA website:

www.bantamclub.com

We will continue to provide a

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tinue to receive these news-letters uninterrupted. You can do this directly with Michelle Lynch at membershipaba@gmail.com. The yearbook will continue to be provided to all and sent via regular mail. We appreciate everyone's understanding as we navigate this transition. This will take effect with this version. We only will mail to those without email address on file.

Regarding the Starred Win Programs: We are amid a reformatting project with all starred wins. This is ongoing so please make note that I have not forgotten you. The current wins are posted on our website under Starred Wins.

Karen Unrath
ABA Secretary

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EPMag.News

For The Beginner . . .

Selecting & Conditioning Bantam Ducks for Exhibition

By Ann Charles

Exhibiting bantam ducks is another of the rewarding avenues offered by the world of exhibition poultry. These small, beautiful and ornamental waterfowl are one of the most popular of the aquatic breeds. As a beginner, to ensure your bantam ducks are in prime condition for exhibition, it's crucial to pay attention to the source of your stock, their health, grooming, and overall presentation. In this article, we'll explore some essential tips for your bantam ducks to excel in the show ring.

1. **Selecting A Breed:** There are several breeds of ducks included in the bantam duck class. The APA approved varieties are Call Duck, East Indie, and Mallard. The American Bantam Association's bantam duck class includes those three plus the Mandarin and the Carolina Wood Duck. The latter two breeds are rarely seen at shows. Of the three main breeds, the Call Duck is most frequently seen in exhibition. These breeds all vary in traits such as feather patterns, coloration, body shape, and also size. Consult the APA and ABA breed standards, plus visit a few shows to determine which of these breeds appeals to you personally.
2. **Start With Healthy Stock:** Healthy ducks are more likely to excel in exhibitions. Contacting reputable bantam duck breeders for available stock would probably be a first step once you

have settled on a breed. Your bantam ducks should come from breeders with proven exhibition quality birds. Be up front about what you are looking for. Don't ask and pay for pet quality birds and then expect them to win at shows with them.

3. **Feeding:** Feeding plays a crucial role in conditioning your ducks. You may want to check with others who are successfully breeding and exhibiting their bantam ducks and ask for suggestions on what feeds work for them. Both successful exhibition and breeding require nutrient levels well above most commercial rations. Adequate nutrition will contribute to vibrant plumage and overall health.
4. **Grooming And Hygiene:** Regular grooming includes cleaning their feathers, bills, and feet, as well as keeping their living quarters clean. Many bantam ducks are raised above the ground in 4 x 8 pens with wire floors. These pens allow the ducks to retreat to an enclosure at one end, and swim freely in an easily cleaned pool at the other end. Feces and excess water fall to the

Editor: "Do you swim your Call Ducks at shows in plastic containers?"

Cindy Rusk: "Yes I do! The night before, they get a really good swim. Then, on the morning of the show I just give them a quick dunk so that they will preen themselves and be fluffy. I change their bedding to fresh the morning of the show, also."

ground below, keeping the ducks high and dry - when they want to be.

5. **Train For Handling:** Although most water fowl are not handled by the judges, bantam ducks should be accustomed to being handled by judges during exhibitions. Spend time gently handling and training them to stand still for inspection. This will reduce stress during the show and improve your ducks' presentation.
6. **Proper Transportation:** When transporting your bantam ducks to exhibitions, provide a secure and comfortable carrier. You may or may not want to include food and water during the journey.
7. **Learn From Others:** Attend poultry shows, join breed clubs, and network with experienced breeders and exhibitors. Try to learn from others who have been successful exhibiting bantam ducks. If they have the time and inclination, they can provide valuable insights and guidance.

More on Conditioning: **Swimming Bantam Ducks at Shows**

Swimming bantam ducks in a small tub just before they are shown can be a helpful practice to encourage preening and enhance their appearance.

The safety and well-being of the ducks during the process should always be of utmost consideration. Ensure that the tub or pool is shallow enough to prevent any accidents or drowning, and use clean, chemical-free water. Additionally, be mindful of the ducks' stress levels. Clear plastic storage containers work well for this and can be stored under the cages at a show.

Some of the benefits to consider are:

1. **Preening And Feather Alignment:** Swimming is especially beneficial if the birds have been confined to a show cage for an extended period of time. Ducks naturally preen and groom their feathers by spreading oil from their preen gland. A brief swim will stimulate preening behavior. This process should help in promoting clean, well-aligned feathers. Swimming in water also helps give the duck a neater and more polished appearance.
2. **Stress Relief:** A short swim in a small container before the show can provide your bantam ducks with a brief period of relaxation and stress relief. This can go a long way toward keeping them quiet, calm, and in top exhibition form.

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EPMag Fall 2023 Win Photo Submissions



Veda Overton, Champion Large Fowl Asiatic, Grand Champion 4-H Large Fowl, Black LF Cochín Pullet, Iowa State Fair 2023.



Tom Parsons, Standard White Sultan Cockerel, Champion AOSB, Stevenson Poultry Classic, Stevenson WA Oct 14, 2023



John Caddo exhibiting a Single Comb White Leghorn Cockerel. Volunteer State Poultry Club. Dickson, TN. Grand Champion Bantam of both shows.



Polish Breeders Club 2022 Eastern National at Michigan Fowl Fest. Best Youth Polish and Reserve Overall Show Champion in both youth shows. LF Bearded Buff Laced Polish Pullet bred and owned by Anna Stoltzman.



Lisa Beverlin, Stevenson Poultry Classic, ABA show, judge Gary Overton, BB Serama (Exchequer) & Res. SCCL to Daxon Beverlin.



Steven Berry . . . Very first ribbon. Very first show. Old Dominion Poultry Association, Virginia State Fair show. Reserve Champion, bantam duck class.

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Tanya Baetje, Light Sussex. Champion English and Grand Champion Large Fowl at Sauk County Fair, Wisconsin.



Sue Dobson, Crevecoeur pullet, Champion large fowl, 2021 Dixie Classic, Knoxville, TN. Sue Dobson, breeder, exhibitor.



Skylar Clark, Light Brahma Hen, Best of Show, 2023 Nebraska State Fair 4-H Show



Austin Noah, Khaki Campbell Old Drake owned by Austin Noah. Show: 2023 Missouri State Fair. Awarded: Reserve Champion Light Duck.



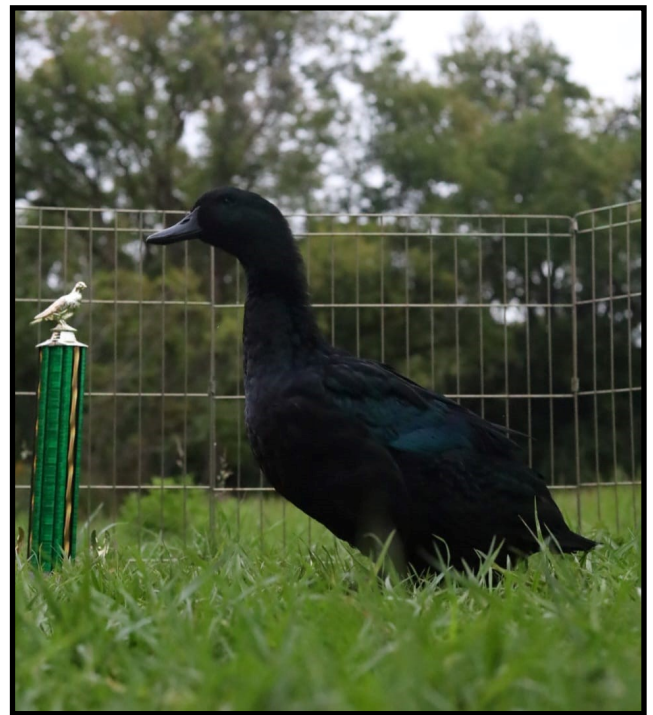
Wendy Valonis, Champion FL, Champion Bantam, Champion Bird of Show. The Great Frederick Fair, Frederick, MD. Bearded White Silkie pullet.



Jessy Graham. White Silkie Pullet. Red River Show 2021. Champion Featherleg and District 4 ASBC Best of Breed.



Jerry Craig Couch, Heart of Dixie Poultry Show, 3rd Best in Show.



Adrienne Francey, Black Cayuga Hen, Champion Waterfowl at the 2023 Northern NY Poultry Fanciers Fall Show in Gouverneur, NY



Skylar Clark, Light Brahma Hen, Reserve of Show and Champion Large Fowl, 2023 Nebraska State Fair Open Show.



Greg Cole, Black Cochin cock bird, Best Feather Leg, Champion Bantam, Grand Champion of Show APA Meet, Kingston District Poultry Stock Association, Odessa, Ontario, Canada.



Patrick PJ Jones, January 6, 2022 Super Show
Champion Fort Worth Stock, Large Fowl Light
Brahma hen.



Heather Terrell, Blue Feather Farms. Cayuga Young
Male, Champion Medium Duck, Champion Stand-
ard Duck, Best of Breed. Bluebonnet Classic 2023,
Texas.



Lisa Reardon, Reserve Champion Featherleg, Jr. 2023
Eastern NY Poultry Show in Cobleskill NY



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Photos courtesy of Kathy Mormino, Cassandra Haring, Andrea Jacobs, and Joanne Glaudini.

Crossbreeding and New Varieties in the Serama

Article and Photos by Dario Scotto

Crossbreeding to introduce new features has occurred in nearly every breed we know. To give a Serama example, there are many admirers of Blue and Barred/Cuckoo Serama which can be found in the Traditional style encountered in the United States, and even the Malaysian style seen in their homeland and neighboring countries. Both Blue and Barring are controlled by incomplete dominant genes. Dominant genes cannot just appear suddenly as throwbacks like is often seen with recessive white or recessive silkie feathering.

Would you believe it if you were told that Blue and Barred Serama all came from crosses to other breeds done within the last 10 years? This is because not a single Serama in Malaysia before the last 10 years, and especially during the only two US imports around 2000/2001, had any blue or barring. The author never saw any during that time, no one else did either. You will not find a photo of Blue Serama older than 2012 overseas, or older than 2006 in the US. You will also not find a photo of a Barred Serama older than 2015 overseas, or older than 2008 in the US. That is likely because Blue and Barred were not present after the breed was initially created and were later introduced via crossing to a breed known for having those genes.

In fact, we know of at least one cross between Barred Cochin bantams and Serama attempted by an unnamed breeder in 2008 who would give the resultant F1s to Mr. Jerry Shexnayder, founder of the Serama Council of North America. It is unclear however if this line was continued, but even if they were not, someone else must have performed a similar cross to a barred variety of another breed. Blue Serama were first made in the USA by Jeff Sumner, who in 2005 would cross a splash Old English Game Bantam male to a black Serama female of very good American type. Subsequent backcrossed offspring soon came into the hands of other breeders, establishing Blue Serama in this coun-



Jerry Schexnayder's cuckoo Serama. Five generations of backcrossing to Serama after receiving the initial Serama x Cochin cross. Jerry confirms neither blue or cuckoo were present in his imports. The bulky body is in part an illusion by the soft and multiple feathering, as well as the frame, of the Cochin inheritance.

try. Later, Blue chicks would be hatched by Adrian Ciprian with eggs he received from the Philippines in 2017, most likely from birds several generations into backcrossing.

How do these mixed-breed Serama varieties look today? Quite fantastic! Take the Hopkins line of Blue, Cuckoo, and Crele Serama, who fit very well into the Traditional standard with several specimens also conforming to the Ayam standard. The Couch line of Cuckoo and Crele also has specimens of the Ayam style. The Don Nguyen line of Cuckoo Ayam Serama and the Linh Nguyen line of Blue Serama are the envy of many breeders. Be mindful that the author is not asserting that any of these breeders themselves performed a cross, but that the ancestors of their birds necessarily came from such crosses.

Nearly every color in every breed we know was produced through the crossing of breeds to introduce color genes not originally found in the breed. If we were in the habit, as some people are, of call-



Jeff Sumner's Blue BC1 Serama x OEGB cock in 2006 at the ABA-APA Joint National in Indianapolis, Indiana. The forward carriage from the donor OEGB would take more time to breed out. Photographed by Catherine Stasevich.

ing birds derived from crosses “mixed mutts”, “unpure”, or “not true”, there wouldn’t be a single breed in the world that could be said to be pure! Such thinking may come from the world of exhibition pedigree breeding animals such as dogs and horses. Though, as we know, there are no pedigree registries in the poultry world, and so, the only thing that matters is how well an individual specimen conforms to the standard of a breed, whether it is of mixed blood or not.

Let us consider an example of how normal crossbreeding for color is and how it doesn't have to ruin a breed. Golden-laced Wyandottes, today a very popular color variety, were produced by cross breedings between silver-laced Wyandotte females (the original coloring, developed in the 1870s) with gold-spangled Hamburg and partridge Cochin cocks. Partridge Wyandottes came from crossing gold-laced Wyandottes with Indian Game, partridge Co-

chin, gold-penciled Hamburgs, and a breed known as the Winnebago. For more history of additional Wyandotte varieties created through crossbreeding, read the article ‘Wyandottes: The American Breed with an Indian Name and Eurasian Background’ by Edgar L. Petty.

Purity of blood is not as important as some argue it to be. Standard type is what makes a breed, and conformance to standard, ie., phenotype, is the only rule. Pure bloods can fail to fit the phenotype and what good is purity of blood when the uniformity in the offspring and replication of the exact image of the parents is non-existent in the majority of Serama lines still today? This is why standards exist and are the only measure of the quality of a fowl within a breed category. They never ask for pedigrees at shows before awarding the Champion.

Let us consider another example. The German Phoenix was created sometime in the late-19th century by the crossing of long-tailed Japanese fowl (perhaps the Onagadori and Shokoku) with a variety of European breeds such as Leghorn, Old English Game, Ramelsloher, Bruegge Game, Kruger, in addition to Malay. Almost 100 years later, beginning in 1980, Rolf Ismer of Stroehen, Germany began crossing his Phoenix with Modern Game to “lift the birds off the ground”, in turn giving them an elegant look with a slightly sloped back. Soon after, to create a bantam version the same strain once established was crossed with Modern Game Bantams. This eventually became the new German standard for Phoenix. Proving that phenotype, not blood, is what makes a breed.

In recent years, Serama overseas have taken on a new appearance. Prior to the outbreak of avian flu in 2004, Serama in their country of origin, Malaysia, were rather short legged. This was true for most of the various phenotypes seen at this time as the Serama was still a landrace back then. About the time of 2010, some Serama overseas began to look longer in the leg. By 2020, several lines of champion Serama across that part of the world were long-legged, longer in fact. How did this shift happen?

If we refer to the great work of Brian Reeder, ‘An Introduction to Form and Feathering of the Domestic Fowl’, we find mention of the genes which can affect leg length. In Modern Games, who derive in

part from Asiatic game breeds, the gene which gives them their great length of leg is dubbed SkE, for Skel-etal Extension, an autosomal incomplete dominant. The wild type allele seen in the red junglefowl would be denoted as ske+. Another set of genes which have a skeletal shortening effect are discussed, though they are not allelic to SkE. These are an estimated two or more recessive genes which can greatly reduce the length of the shank. They are abbreviated cp1 or cp2 (for recessive creeper), as opposed to the lethal dominant Creeper gene, Cp, seen in Japanese (Chabo) bantams. Cp is not allelic to either cp1 or cp2, and none of them are allelic to SkE. As we know, Serama do not carry the Creeper gene, although this was an uninformed myth many years ago.

Back to our question, how did Serama, who seemingly were a population highly homogenous for short legs, produce long legged descendents if the genes which allow for longer legs are dominant? A dominant gene cannot be “hidden” in the same way a recessive gene can and be a throwback generations later.

At least two alternative scenarios lend themselves; A) Serama were not actually highly homogenous for cp1/cp2 and ske+, B) breeds without cp1/cp2 and seemingly carrying SkE were introduced sometime after the bird flu outbreak. Scenario (A) would be possible if long legged breeds were initially used in creating Serama, though this could be true and Serama still could have become homogenous for short leg genes due to selection or other events. In fact, several sources gathered by the author from archived websites (‘Ayam Serama: Kate Mini, Lagak Maksi’) and Asian books (‘Serama Ayam Mungil Nan Eksotik’) do recount that Ayam Kapan were crossed with Modern Game Bantams and Japanese bantams by Wee Yean Een, during the 70s and 80s when creating Serama. Despite there being a source for long legged genes early in the history of Serama, the Serama would still become homogenous for shorter legs by the year 2000. It would then seem that the simplest explanation would be scenario (B).

Overseas and in the states, crossing Seramas gets a bad rap, though not without good reason. Crossing when a flock's phenotype is unstable or subpar will generally make it more difficult to stabilize the breed or improve its quality. Only a carefully laid out pro-



A BC2 Serama x MGB cockerel produced by Maruzu Serama in the Philippines. The long legs have been set in. The owner is pictured with the cuckoo cockerel standing at full attention showing off his legs.

gram by a highly skilled breeder would be capable of managing these challenges. Despite this, some of our fellow breeders in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Myanmar have succeeded in crossing their Serama with Modern Game Bantams to achieve a sleek and long-legged look.

The first to attempt such a cross, or at least publicly admit it, was an Indonesian breeder who goes by the name of Redjungle Serama. Starting in 2016, a Modern Game bantam male was bred to a Serama female exhibiting extreme neck pull. His initial goals being to correct the scissor wing in his birds. The resultant F1 offspring were of intermediate phenotype, carrying their body at about 45 degrees above the horizontal, wings parallel to the body, longer legged

and longer backed than the Serama mother, without significant neck pull. Backcrosses to the Serama mother and a Serama cock were made to produce BC1 (first backcross) offspring. Some offspring would retain the long legs, though still not as long as a Modern Game bantam, though now the body was carried very upright, the wings held vertically, the back was shorter, and the neck pull was significant. This was a bird who would have fooled anyone into believing that he was a pure Serama, if not a little unique looking. Subsequent backcrosses (at least three) and F1 hybrids of the backcrosses were made, until the Serama form was perfectly placed upon graceful legs with proportions reminiscent of a Modern Game bantam.

Redjungle Serama dubbed his new strain 'Modern Serama', indicating two things; that they came from Modern Game crossings and they were a contemporary phenotype. Other breeders in recent years followed Redjungle's cue and attempted their own projects, successfully recreating Redjungle's notable long-legged Serama phenotype. Whether there were more secret admirers, or predecessors is not known. Is it possible that crosses occurring in secret are responsible for the appearance of longer legged Serama overseas since 2015? It would certainly be predicted by our earlier conclusion regarding possibilities A and B.

I applaud the breeders who are open to admitting that their slim, long-legged, hard feathered Serama are the product of crosses to Modern Game Bantams. I think they are brave to go against the current, facing criticism, as it attests to their skills as breeders when they are successful. Though I don't fault those who also made the cross but have kept it a secret to avoid criticism.

According to early Malaysian breeders, they had long avoided standardizing Serama in order to allow further development and experimentation. The Serama, especially overseas, is still in many ways not a true breed and is more of a "landrace", a certain class of styles similar in form which we recognize as 'Serama'. Even in the Western world, the Serama is still much like a landrace, despite the existence of standards. In the US, the variation seen among birds shown under a particular standard is



The author's own BC1 Serama x MGB cockerel. This bird was a standout amongst his siblings for his length of leg. Note the diminutive, nearly whipped tail and hard feathering inherited from the MGB side.

extensive, and birds falling between both standards are numerous.

Who's to say the breed was perfected and finished in 2000, 2010, or 2020? Maybe someday, this new style suspected to be produced from crosses may be recognized as its own breed, Modern Serama, by the APA/ABA, similar to the split in Old English breeding circles which gave rise to the Modern Game. Or understood to be an acceptable variation outside of APA/ABA sanctioned shows. Similar to several other, notably Asian breeds such as the Japanese (Chabo) bantam which has eight different variations of the Chabo phenotype in its country of origin! Something for everyone and their tastes.

If we refer to the great work of Brian Reeder, 'An Introduction to Form and Feathering of the Domestic Fowl', we find mention of the genes which can affect leg length. In Modern Games, who derive in part from Asiatic game breeds, the gene which gives them their great length of leg is dubbed SkE, for Skeletal Extension, an autosomal incomplete dominant. The wild type allele seen in the red junglefowl would be denoted as ske+. Another set of genes which have a skeletal shortening effect are discussed, though they are not allelic to SkE. These are an estimated two or more recessive genes which can greatly reduce the length of the shank. They are abbreviated cp1 or cp2 (for recessive creeper), as opposed to the lethal dominant Creeper gene, Cp, seen in Japanese (Chabo) bantams. Cp is not allelic to either cp1 or cp2, and none of them are allelic to SkE. As we know, Serama do not carry the Creeper gene, although this was an uninformed myth many years ago.

Back to our question, how did Serama, who seemingly were a population highly homogenous for short legs, produce long legged descendants if the genes which allow for longer legs are dominant? A dominant gene cannot be "hidden" in the same way a recessive gene can and be a throwback generations later. At least two alternative scenarios lend themselves; A) Serama were not actually highly homogenous for cp1/cp2 and ske+, B) breeds without cp1/cp2 and seemingly carrying SkE were introduced sometime after the bird flu outbreak. Scenario (A) would be possible if long legged breeds were initially used in creating Serama, though this could be true and Serama still could have become homogenous for short leg genes due to selection or other events. In fact, several sources gathered by the author from archived websites ('Ayam Serama: Kate Mini, Lagak Maksi') and Asian books ('Serama Ayam Mungil Nan Eksotik') do recount that Ayam Kapan were crossed with Modern Game Bantams and Japanese bantams by Wee Yean Een, during the 70s and 80s when creating Serama. Despite there being a source for long legged genes early in the history of Serama, the Serama would still become homogenous for shorter legs by the year 2000. It would then seem that the simplest explanation would be scenario (B).



A 9 month old Serama cockerel bred by KMHA Serama of the Phillipines, exhibiting the long legs of the new style dubbed 'Modern Serama' in the US. The wings are also carried beyond vertical.

Overseas and in the states, crossing Seramas gets a bad rap, though not without good reason. Crossing when a flock's phenotype is unstable or subpar will generally make it more difficult to stabilize the breed or improve its quality. Only a carefully laid out program by a highly skilled breeder would be capable of managing these challenges. Despite this, some of our fellow breeders in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Myanmar have succeeded in crossing their Serama with Modern Game Bantams to achieve a sleek and long-legged look.

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