

SERAMA Part 2

Short history

In 2000/2001 Jerry Schexnayder from the US imported 186 Serama from Malaysia. All animals are descendents from Malaysian Champs and the whole project cost him a small fortune. Because of border control and veterinary regulations it also caused him almost a nervous breakdown. While the Serama were on their way home to Louisiana after months of quarantine, two airplanes flew themselves into the Twin Towers and all planes were forced to stay on the ground for days. His precious Serama got stuck on an airfield and worried airport personnel phoned him what to feed the chickens... At that moment there were no or almost no Serama in the West. There was one small import of some 5 animals done by somebody else to the USA. Jerry started to breed with the Serama and established the Serama Council of North-America (www.SCNA-online.org) in 2003. It took only a short time for the Serama to become a fad in the US. There are app. some thousand+ animals today. Fad means also problems like crossbreeding Serama with other bantams,

which are sold as 'genuine' Serama as well as their bastard eggs. In the US the pure bred Serama are still very expensive. The real good ones change from owner for not less than a \$ 1000, show animals make easily 2500 - 5000 dollars. The same, still today, in Malaysia which explains the high price Jerry paid for them. In 2004 an Englishman imported a few pairs from Jerry Schexnayder and all UK Serama are descendents from those few. There is a story about another import to the UK of 4 animals but they got lost.

In The Netherlands there are a few fanciers with Serama. Some have Serama hatched from UK-eggs and only two have American Serama directly from Jerry's.

The biggest flock of app. 70+ pure Malaysian Serama is located at one breeder in The Netherlands and the offspring is just as superb as the breeders.



Serama between weeds.

Below: special colours.



Type

The Serama is bred for type first, size second and colour third. The type is a fusion of the several original Malaysian types the Serama came in during the import. Maintaining the different types was impossible due to too less animals per type. This fusion type is called the American type Serama, and is starting point and goal for the world standard as proposed and accepted by the leading national clubs/countries. There isn't much of a choice anyway because another import is

impossible due to bird flu. All has to be done, a bright future, with the present Serama flocks and therefore breeding with knowledge and sharing experiences is very important to maintain and improve the today's quality of the pure bred Serama.

Character and temperament

Character and temperament of the Serama are most important, which distinguishes the Serama from all other chicken breeds. Scary, flighty or aggressive animals are excluded from the breeding pen. Character is almost just as important as Type and is judged with only 5 points less (Type 30 points, Character 25 points of a total of 100 points). Therefore crossbreeding to other breeds will lead to disastrous results, whether for 'borrowing' traits from other breeds (which ones?) or for creating fake-Serama to sell at a high price to make fast money. Cross-breds never ever have neither character nor type of a Serama. The owner has to gain the trust of the Serama, it's a prey and a Serama knows that. Once you have the Serama's trust, which goes easily and fast (at the moment you meet each other), the Serama is extremely tame and comfortable with you. The tameness of the Serama is totally different from e.g. Asian games. Those are tame because they know no fear; if necessary they fight themselves out of a threatening situation. The Serama is loyal by heart and not aggressive at all. This makes the Serama very suitable as a pet, also for young children. A pair in a rabbit cage in the living room or kitchen will have the time of their lives and they want nothing but being part of your family life.



A cat transporting cage of the smallest size is suitable to carry several Serama. Thus they can go with you for traveling or paying visits to let them get used to any situation and environment. They feel at home fast and easy at any place. They're not scared of dogs and cats (nor horses), unless they have bad experiences. Their tameness is their weakness too. The owner has always to protect his Serama.



Serama aren't flighty. A fence of 80 cm/ 31" height is enough. Put a net on top for predators from the sky.



A Serama Marriage. With too less Serama, some birds move to another place because the Serama wants to.



A pair of silkied Serama.

Shows

Late March we were invited to the Cajun Show in Vacherie, a small town some 50 miles from New Orleans. A Serama only Show or 'Serama Extravaganza' was held. That was our first acquaintance with a real Serama show. Chickens are not allowed to travel by plane with their owners that live a few hundreds or thousand miles away. Serama come by mail. Tens of animals were mailed to Vacherie where they were taken care of, housed and 'dressed up'. A Serama Show takes only one day.

Unlike ordinary chicken shows where chickens are kept cooped up, poked with a stick and seldom handled by the judge, a Serama Show is different in that each Serama is brought before a judge, placed on a platform and allowed to 'strut it's stuff' for the judge and audience. It's judged for Type (20), Character (25), Tail carriage (15), Wing carriage (10), Feather quality (10), Condition (10), together a 100 points.

Every part of the six consists of several traits by which the Serama is judged. At the end all best animals per class do their things together on the table and they're judged again. From the Class Champions and reserves the overall champions will be crowned. See pics of the Cajun Show.



Weighing of a freshly arrived Serama.



The owner is present during the table judging, here feather quality is judged.



Table judging. On the background carriers who bring the next Serama.

When the owner hasn't arrived yet, club members dress up the Serama for them. Here cutting nails so those won't cost points on Condition.



The Serama Clubs

January 2007 the World Serama Federation went into the (virtual) air for breeding the Malaysian Serama according to the world standard. Next to this historical and lofty fact and sign of cooperation and unity it's unique in the chicken world. It's the result of shared pleasure and goals and responsibility for this tiny breed. The WSF (www.worldseramafederation.org) has an international forum on which Serama fanciers from all over the world share everything concerning the Serama. Serama Club Netherlands is also member of the WSF, as well as the UK Serama club: www.ukseramaclub.co.uk Next year Belgium joins the WSF with a national Serama club. The European clubs are joined in Serama Club Europe to keep the lines short. There is bred according to the world standard until 2011, when evaluation will take place to see if the goals are reached. Evaluation takes place every day on the forum on which the breeders keep each other updated of their breeding results. And by the virtual shows.

The Serama is different, the shows and table judging are a happening, and the Serama aren't bred for standard colors. They are bred for type. The Serama doesn't fit into the cage judging as known. The Serama clubs think that's an advantage instead of disadvantage because they add a valuable extra dimension to the chicken hobby as we've known for now. Serama Shows attract public when held during ordinary shows. The Serama that aren't show animals find quickly a place as a pet. Here fits a 'but'... a Serama develops slowly. A pet Serama can change into a show bird. That's more a rule than an exception! Also the rare exclusive micro Serama find a place to stay although not fit for breeding because the hens lay no eggs or not ones suitable for breeding. But the micro A-class Serama are wanted very much, they are the very most tiny miniature chickens in the world!

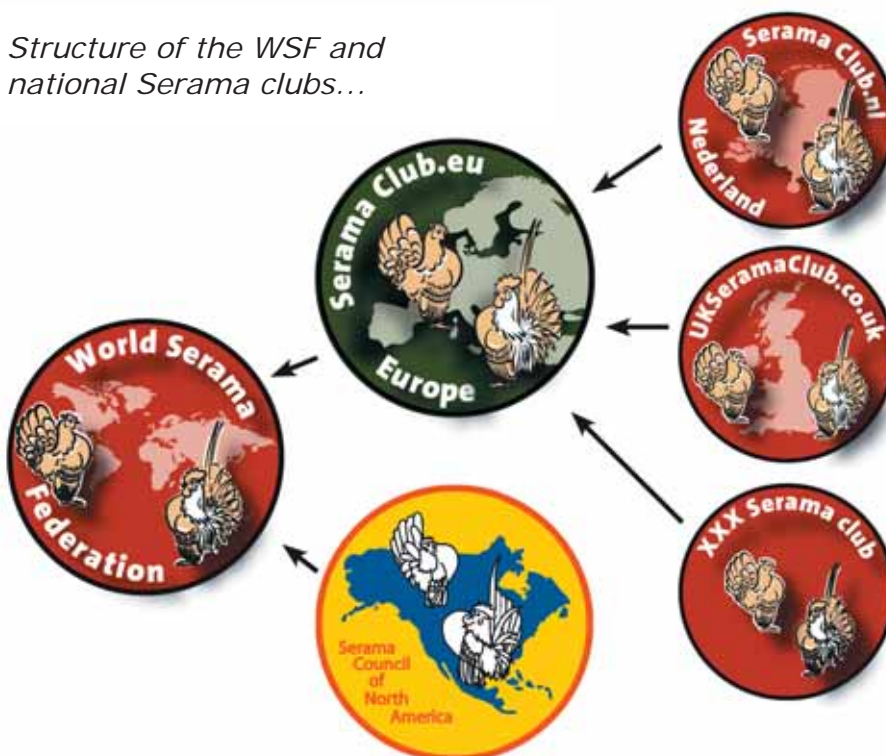


Serama Club Netherlands is putting a lot of energy into positioning the Serama good and honest. There are six flyers of different Serama facts.



The Dutch website: www.seramaclub.nl has over 80 pages of information and hundreds of pics. It's one of the biggest and most complete sites about Serama. Unfortunately not readable to anybody but visited from every corner of the world.

Structure of the WSF and national Serama clubs...



Serama Club Netherlands

... is young and small but has lots of experience and knowledge not only because of the visits to the US (coming November European Serama judges will judge the Serama on the Nationals, Columbus, Ohio, one of the biggest events in America), but also due to daily contact and constant deliberation with the most experienced and important breeders. The advantage of jumping into the breeding of Serama later is all the experiences from the US we can use to prevent everything that harms the Serama. One such experience is the fraud with fake Serama (crossbreds). To protect the pure Serama, from coming September on, every pure Serama bred in The Netherlands will have a certificate. Only breeders who are member of the Serama Club Netherlands and breed according to the standard can give such a certificate along with the pure bred Malaysian Serama they sell or give away. The club will keep track of the data of all registered Serama and will publish the show results on the website which adds extra value to the Serama.

Only Serama with a certificate are guaranteed pure Serama and also a guarantee or warrant for the new owner that they have a real Malaysian Serama and not a fake or bastard bantam. The club has big plans for a bright future for the Serama in The Netherlands. As a show bird and as a pet! It has already begun: September 1 the first Serama Show will take place in Europe incl. the table judging! By now it's already known there is a lot of national and international interest for this unique historical show. THE opportunity to get acquainted to these very special and unique heart melting little chickens! We hope to see you there!



The Dutch National Poultry Club, NHDB, accepted the Serama Club as breed club of the Malaysian Serama.



NAAM: Drakie	JAAR: 2005
RINGNUMMER: NL-12345	
♂ HAAN	♀ HEN
NAAM/STALNAAM FOKKER: S'Seramas	
NAAM/STALNAAM EIGENAAR: _____	
VERRICHT AAN NAAM/STALNAAM EIGENAAR: _____	

Zaterdag • 1 September • 2007
Markthal Barneveld
op de Gallinova Jongdierendag van 9.30 - 15.00 uur

UNIEKI! NEDERLANDSE PREMIÈRE VAN DE UNIEKI!

SERAMA

HET KLEINSTE KIPPENRAS TER WERELD!

... en nieuwste huisdier! Serama's zijn karakterdierpjes die hunkeren naar menselijk gezelschap. Serama's zijn géén kippen zoals we gewend zijn maar prinsjes en prinsesjes. Tijdens de show - op een tafel! - laten ze zien hoe mooi & trots ze zijn!

De zéér exclusieve Serama's zijn levende kunstwerkjes, oorspronkelijk uit Maleisië, en worden als zodanig verzorgd en gewaardeerd.

Een historische gebeurtenis want de Serama wordt voor het eerst aan publiek getoond op het Europese vasteland.

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...maak kennis met de betoverende Serama's!