

# AUSTRALIAN LANGSHANS

By: Greg Davies (Australia)



**Above: Standard Australian Langshan hen and cock.**

## **History:**

The Australian (or Chinese) Langshan was originally developed by breeders in New South Wales.

The original stock used to make up the breed were: imported Chinese Langshans, Croad Langshans, English Modern Langshans and the true William Cook type Orpington. The imported Chinese birds entered Australia from China in 1905. From these beginnings, one of Australia's finest utility breeds began.

## **Right: Another Australian Langshan hen.**

By 1920, classes at some shows were being put on for the Australian Langshan, (which for some obscure reason had been named Chinese Langshans) and the distinct V-shape type was emerging. The first breed standard was written up in 1920 by the newly-formed Langshan Club of Australia.



**Type:**

The Langshan can be described as a bird of V's. This V-shape should be apparent from almost any angle from which the bird is viewed. The back is broad and flat and tapers to the tail. The tail is inclined gradually upwards from the back, creating the V-shaped backline. The breast is full and well-rounded. The thighs and legs are medium length and set well apart. The shanks are feathered along the outer side to the tip of the toe. These feathers should not be profuse and should not extend to the other toes.

The head is fairly small, with a fairly long beak which is slightly curved. The eyes are dark and bold and should almost appear to protrude. The comb is single, of fine texture and medium sized, and angles upward and away from the neck line.

**Plumage:**

Generally, the plumage should be tight and with a medium amount of down. They are available in black, white and blue.

The black variety is by far the most popular and finest in quality of the three colours. The whites should be snowy with no hint of straw or cream colouring, while the blues are laced as in Andalusians.

**Right: Black Australian Langshan Bantam cockerel.**

**Below: White Australian Langshan Bantam cockerel.**

**Qualities**

The Australian Langshan was developed as a utility breed, that is, for both egg and meat production. In earlier years, the breed won many laying trials in Australia and their early maturity and white skin and flesh made them popular for meat production. No other breed in Australia has a better feed to egg ratio than the Langshan.

They are quiet birds, easily tamed and excellent with children.

Today, Australian Langshans are one of Australia's most popular show breeds which, more often than not, win the major awards. They are available in both large and bantam sizes in all three colours.