

# RUMPLESS: BREED CHARACTERISTIC OR ANOMALY?

By Luuk Hans

Many breeds have a tail-less or rumpless variety, meaning, they do not have any remnant of a tail, or more specific: no parsons nose. This trait is caused by an autosomal dominant, non-lethal gene.



For some it is breed specific. The Araucana has no tail (in USA and most European countries). This breed has more unique characteristics. The Araucana comes from Chile. It lays blue eggs. The breed has very large ear-tufts and no tail. The breed is at the basis of the American Ameraucana; hence the name of this breed. The Araucana is a genuine breed which is rumpless. They have a small pea-comb. And hardly wattles.



Above: Araucana hen; the blue colour of the egg does not show.  
Photo Luuk Hans, Noordshow 2012.

So is the Belgian Grubbe Bantam and the German Ruhlaer Bantam. Actually, the Grubbe Bantam is a rumpless Barbu d'Anvers Bantam, but has undergone its own process. The Grubbe Bantam is not, contrary to other Belgian bantam breeds, named after a town but after a big villa, called the "Grubbe". The Ruhlaer Bantam, rumpless also, is very rare.

**Right: Grubbe Bantam, rumpless cockerel.**  
**Photo: Luuk Hans.**

Also the Belgian Bearded d'Uccle bantam has a rumpless variety, which is called Everberg Bantam.

The Uccle Bearded Bantam is actually a Booted Bearded Bantam and occasionally we see the rumpless variety.

The rumpless variety of the Watermael Bearded bantam is called: Bosvoorde Bearded Bantam.



**Left: Everberg Bearded bantam, pullet, millefleur.**  
**Photo: Luuk Hans, Noordshow 2012.**

Some breeds have their own rumpless variety, for instance, the Dutch breed Drente Fowl (in large and bantam). It is a popular breed in the Netherlands and so is its rumpless variety.

(See photo next page)





**Above: Drente fowl, large, rumpless cockerel. Photo: Luuk Hans.**

The rumpless feature can occur in every breed. Mostly this feature is seen as a curiosity, sometimes it is a recognised variety that can be exhibited at a Poultry Show. Every breed can have a rumpless deviation or offspring.

It is known that rumpless chicks grow well and have no problems with themselves being rumpless.

**Right: Rumpless Araucana chicks, 1 month old. Photo: Anne Cushing (USA) - archives AE.**





For me it is mostly a curiosity, although I must admit that I like Araucanas and Grubbe Bantams the way they are!

**Left:**  
**Rumpless Japanese bantam cockerel at a Dutch show.**  
**Photo: Luuk Hans.**

**Below, left:**  
**Rumpless Poland**  
**Photo: H. Ringnalda.**



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