

THE PAVLOV CHICKEN BREED

**By Yuri Dmitriev
(Latvia)**

Part 2

THE HISTORY OF RESTORATION OF THE PAVLOV CHICKEN BREED

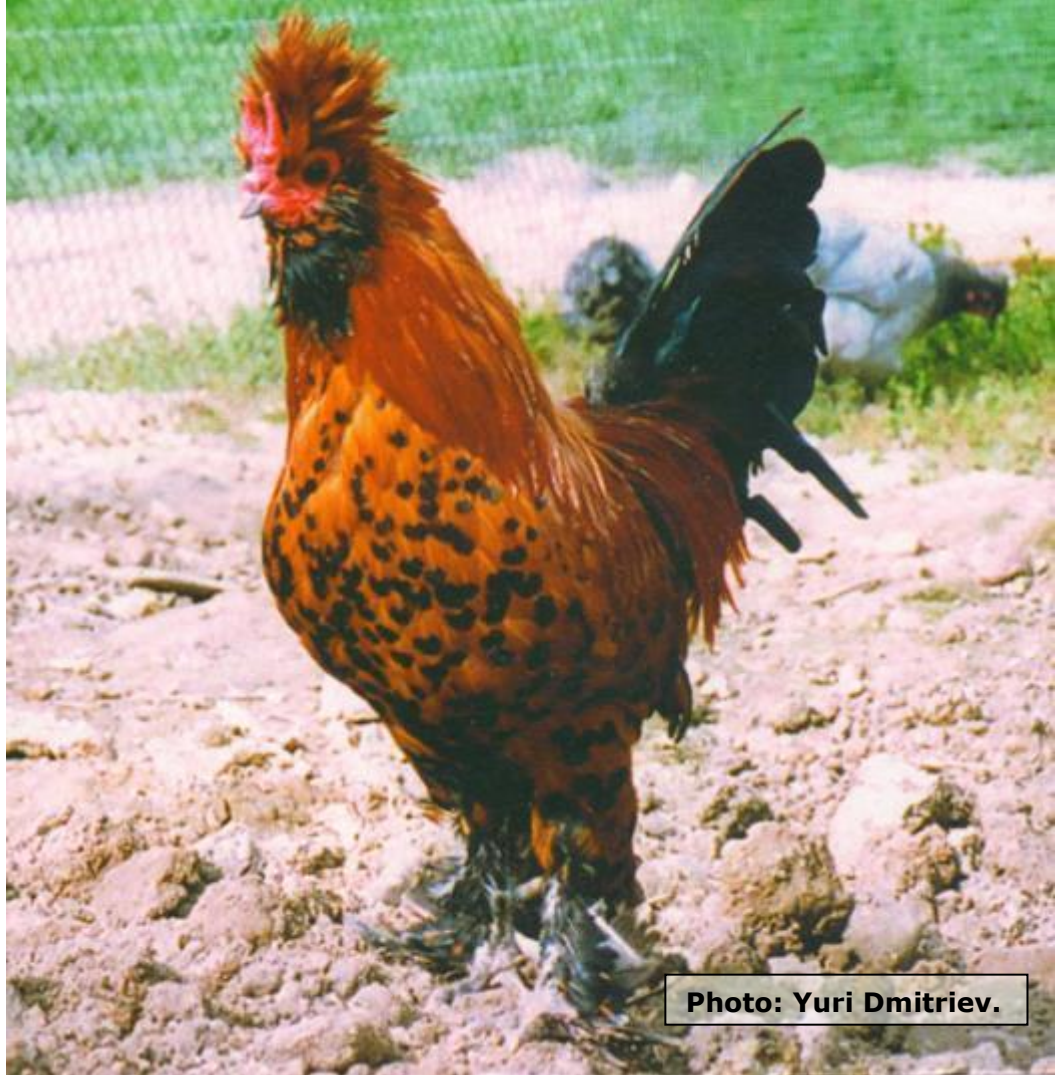


Photo: Yuri Dmitriev.

Time did not spare this pearl of the chicken breeds. For a long time the Pavlov breed was considered to be lost, although the breeders hoped to find its trace.

Around the 1980's poultry fanciers from different parts of the USSR started to look for descendants of the once so famous breed. The researchers investigated the regions in which the breed could have been saved. In 1991 there was a conference of the association of hobby breeders of backyardpoultry and they took the function programme for clubs of rare and disappearing fancy chicken breeds for looking for Pavlov breed. The hobby breeders were mainly inspired by the ideologist of the Russian society of bird-fanciers, the founder of the Russian school of experts B. Antonychev, who was born in the village of Pavlovo. On the conference they decided which farms were to restore that unique breed. They were: the A. Nikishin farm from Dedovska Moscow province; Y. Dmitriev from Riga (Latvia); V. Komov from Saint Petersburg (Russia) and N.V. Artemenko (Ukraine).

In the conference the project of a breed standard was prepared. All information about chickens that looked like the Pavlov was checked. There was exchange of information with collaborators of the Russian Science Research and Technology Institute of Poultry in Zagorsk and the Russian Science Research Institute of Breeding and Genetics of Agricultural Animals in Pushkin town. Of course, during that work there were disappointments and failures, but the process started. Some of the fanciers purchased 'mongrel chickens' which in former days had been crossed with the Pavlov breed. As to the pure breed, it was not found.

The work was started having only 3 cocks and 5 hens. In that work such old materials and documents as photos, articles and drawings helped a lot. And of course the mounted specimen. For instance, in the Darwin



Museum, which is situated in Moscow, there are taxidermy mounts of silver Pavlov chickens and in the Agricultural Museum in Pushkin, Saint Petersburg area, there is a couple of mounted white and grey mottled Pavlovs. By the way, the mounted white chicken has the ideal form of Pavlov leg feathering, which can be considered to be the standard ideal.

Above: Painting landscape with Pavlovs.

Right: Photo of mounted Pavlovs in the Pushkin Museum.

Below: Close-up of the typical leg feathering (1903).



Old postcards with the pictures of Pavlov chickens are also important

for chicken fanciers. Those postcards were published by the Russian Imperial Poultry Society in the Album of Husbandry Poultry Breeds (1905). In these drawings you can see not only this breed as a whole, but also some specific chicken parts as described in the Standard. The helmet-like crest is more rare than the round crest. But in the 20's of the previous century the poultry geneticist were working with those kind of birds.

A.Kolcov considered that the flattened crest was the clear sign of Pavlov breed. The scientist wrote: "They have genes as none of the other crested breeds have; the crest is flattened on the sides and they have peculiar feathered legs. It is the main sign of difference from other chickens. The chicken fanciers have such terms as 'Pavlov leg'. It means that the bird's



legs are feathered on the outside and inside, the feathers are so dense that it seems as if the leg is in a 'feather stocking' [photo to the left].

Left: The legs of a Pavlov hen. The owner of the chicken is Yuri Dmitriev, Latvia.

The main attention was paid for this characteristic in the Standard and its quality contributed to the features of the chicken. The absence of 'Pavlov legs' was a fault and such

birds were rejected as non-standard. The chicken also has feathers on all toes. Pavlovs are distinguished by these short, tight feathers on the legs and toes, which are not sticking out like small wings.

Right: The flattened crest of a Pavlov hen.

In 1989 N. Fillipova, co-worker of the Russian Science Research Institute of Breeding and Genetics of Animals, joined the work on the Pavlov breed. Initially she tried to gather the Pavlov characteristics of the present breeds, but like the other hobby breeders she had problems with breeding the typical Pavlov feathered leg. She succeeded with this task due to one rooster of the Pavlov breed which



appeared in the farm. She used him a lot and got a lot of chicks. Then she started to select and consolidate the breed characteristics of the Pavlovs. N. Fillipova was the first to breed and consolidate the silver Pavlov variety and then it also appeared in the farms of other bird-fanciers.

Maybe every bird-fancier knows the feelings which he has before meeting with a new breed of chicken after many years of searching for it. This is particularly the case when it concerns rare breeds, because we do not often have that godsend. Such feeling the author had when he was waiting for chicks to hatch from 6 eggs which had been sent to him. The fancier had assured that the breed was brought from Russia long ago. So 3 superb chicks hatched. They were covered with yellow-brown down feathers. The future beard could be seen well in case of careful observance also the future feather crest could be seen. Different from the Paduan, the chicks had no bony protuberance in the skull.

The author has started Pavlov genealogy in his farm since 1988. The successful search of a new line only happened in 1991. And now he considers the Pavlovs the most interesting chickens in his hobby breeder practice. The easiest part was the restoration and consolidation of the characteristics of the Pavlov breed head, being: the the flattened 'helmet form' crest; the high cavernous nostrils, V-shaped double horned comb; beard and muffs and the dark eyes. The most difficult however was the restoration the typical feathered legs. It appears if one of the chicken parents does not have the Pavlov leg feathering, it must be clearly known how to use the young generation for getting the 'grouse legs' feature in the next generation and to consolidate the appearance of the grouse feathered metatarsus. It was a very hard job. The leg and the toes are feathered.

Little by little the chickens approximated to the exterior of the ancient Pavlovs. The chickens became middle-sized, solidly built with the head carried upright and the chest carried a little forward. As to their traits they are curious and trustful. The farming qualities are the same as the chickens of the other breeds that the author keeps. It is as a wonderful and colourful chicken in the poultry yard and you will certainly admire this creation of the old masters.



Above: A very typical silver Pavlov hen. Breeder: Yuri Dmitriev, Latvia.

In the end of November 2001, in Moscow, the 6th Russian Poultry exhibition was held. It was organized by the famous producer of premises for animals "Kapital PROF". At that exhibition for the first time the Russian Society of Poultry breeders from Saint Petersburg showed the cock of Pavlov breed in the golden colour variety. It was a result of hard work which had been done with the Pavlov breed. On 5-7 April 2002 the Russian Exhibition of Poultry Breeds was held. The golden Pavlov chickens from the farms of V. Komov and Y. Dmitriev were shown. Those two breeders were awarded special diplomas and prizes for their work on the restoration of the old Russian breed. The Russian exhibition which was held 29.11 to 01.12.2003 Pavlov chickens from the farms of V. Komov

and Y. Dmitriev were shown. They got the assessment 'good'. After those exhibitions, also poultry fanciers from abroad were interested in Pavlov chickens. The chickens of this breed have appeared on international exhibitions in different countries. However, the many differences in the birds enquired the elaboration of a Standard. Now in Russia a standard for the Pavlov breed was drawn up and according to it the judging is done. All the owners of the Pavlov chickens who want to participate in exhibitions of the society should breed their chickens according to this standard.



Above: Golden and silver Pavlovs. Owner: Yuri Dmitriev, Latvia.

EE STANDARD FOR THE PAVLOV/unofficial translation

The EE Standard for the Pavlov has been drawn up in November 2013 by the All Russian Central Board of Experts in Assessment of pure-bred Chicken breeds. In May 2014 this Standard was approved by the European Standard Committee - Poultry Section, in short ESC-P, as official EE-standard and adapted as Pavlov standard for Europe. All breeders in Europe who are attempting to breed the Pavlov chicken are required to follow this standard.

The 'Russian' standard is a bit more comprehensive; to be complete we added some extra lines from the Russian EE Standard *in italic*.

Russian EE Standard for the Pavlov:

ORIGIN. The Pavlov is an ancient native chicken breed which has been known in the Russian Empire since the end of the 18th century. The breed was named after the place where its chickens were widely spread, being the village of Pavlovo in Nizhny Novgorod region, now it is town Pavlovo.

General Impression: *A chicken of light breed type, the size is less than average, land-fowl type, but graceful and elegant with nearly horizontal body, with a crest that resembles a helmet, a large beard and muffs. The legs are short with breed-specific leg feathering all around the leg.*

The Purpose of Breeding: To create and maintain the Pavlov's main features, being: early reach sexual maturity, viability and well developed hatching instinct. They have a lot of ornamental traits: The crest of unusual form, full-feathered beard and muffs, typical feathering of the shanks and toes and they come in beautiful colourful feathering. The nowadays purpose is the restoration of this breed, and not to create a new, ornamental breed.



Left: A white Pavlov cock, that took the 1st place at the exhibition in Tula in January 2015. The owner is Anatoly Vakhrameev, Russia.

Below: The breed-specific leg feathering (according to standard) of this champion white Pavlov by Anatoly Vakhrameev.



EE-Standard:

Origin: Ancient Russian breed, already known in the 17th century. Named after the town of Pavlovo, close to Nizhny Novgorod.

Russian EE Standard: 18th century.

General impression: lively, rather small-sized breed with almost horizontal body, very high tail, full beard, breed-specific crest and feathered legs.

Breed characteristics of the male.

Body: broad, hardly of medium length; carriage almost horizontal.

Neck: short, slightly arched, with full hackle.

Back: short, broad, flat, narrowing towards the tail.

Shoulders: broad and well-rounded.

Wings: large, broad, carried only slightly downwards.

Saddle: with full hackle.

Tail: fully feathered, carried very high; main sickles long, broad and well-curved, side hangers abundant.

Breast: full, broad and well-rounded, carried a little forward.

Abdomen: little developed.

Head: medium sized, rather broad, rounded.

Face: red; almost completely covered by the muffs and beard.

Comb: small, horn type, crescent-shaped seen from the front, small.

Wattles: very small, covered by the beard.

Earlobes: red, small, covered by the beard.

Eyes: big, dark red till dark brown.

Beak: medium length, slightly curved; with cavernous nostrils; colour light horn to slate blue.

Beard: full muffs and beard.

Crest: medium sized, the individual feathers pointed upwards, a little firmer at the base.

Thighs: hardly of medium length, densely feathered and with slightly curved inwards vulture hocks.



Shanks: hardly of medium length, covered on the outside by short curved feathers. The shank colour is slate blue.

Russian EE Standard: Shanks are less than average length and feathered in such a way that the feathers completely and tightly cover the shanks; inside and outside of the leg. The shank colour is slate blue.

Toes: four, slightly covered with soft feathers.

Plumage: dense and closely to the body.

Left: The back size of the leg of a Pavlov hen. The owner of the chicken is Dmitriev Sergey, Russia.

Breed characteristics of the female : similar to those of the male, allowing for sexual differences. Body more horizontal. Muffs, beard and crest more developed. Comb poorly developed.

Serious faults: weak, thin or long body; flat breast; tail carried too flat; too high on legs; poorly developed muffs and beard; fully rounded crest (like in Polands); wry, hanging, split or too loose crest; too much or too sparsely leg feathering or clean legged.

Russian EE Standard: feathering not fully around the shanks; five toes.

Colour varieties:

Gold

The ground colour is a deep golden brown with at the end of the feathers a black tip with green luster. In the male these tips are V-shaped in the hackles. Muffs and beard black. Primaries with golden brown outer webs and black inner webs; secondaries golden brown with black tips. Tail with black tips but densely black stippled main tail feathers and sickles are accepted.

Serious faults: lack of green luster; depigmentation; completely black tail.

Silver

Like in gold but the ground colour is a silvery white.

Serious faults: yellowish hackles in the male; feathers of any other colour.

Weight: male 1,7- 1,8 kg, female 1,2- 1,4 kg.

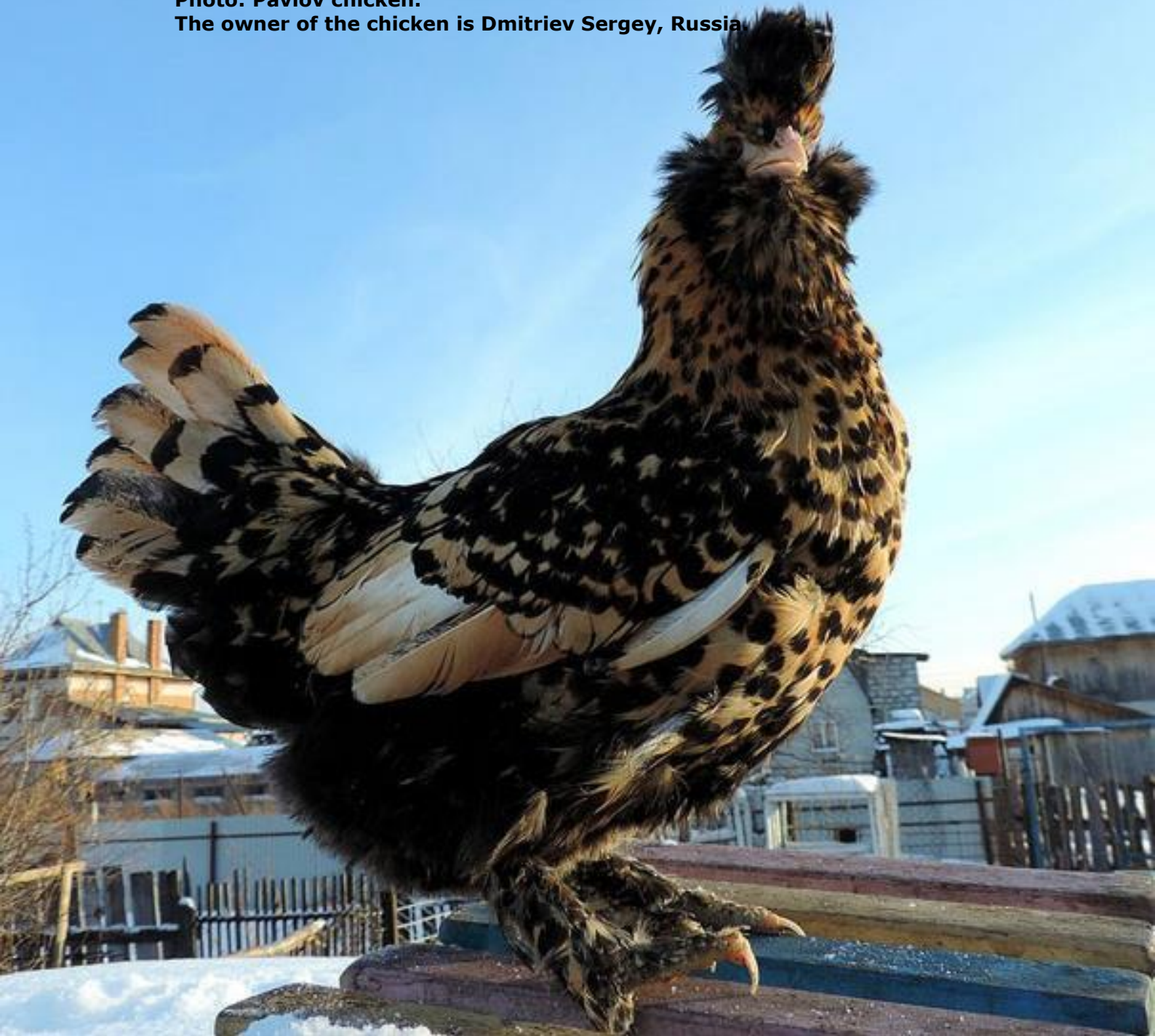
Egg production per year: 70 to 90 eggs of 50 grams.

Minimal weight of hatching eggs: 48 g. **Egg shell:** white.

Diameter of the rings: male 18 mm., female 16 mm.

Photo: Pavlov chicken.

The owner of the chicken is Dmitriev Sergey, Russia.



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