



COCHIN CHICKEN

Galliformes
Family: Phasianidae
Genus: *Gallus*
Species: *gallus domesticus*



Range: Originating from the Shanghai region of China

Habitat: *G. d.* is a breed of *Gallus gallus* that has been domesticated by humans.

Niche: Terrestrial, omnivore, diurnal

Wild diet: Seeds and fruits

Zoo diet:

Life Span: (Wild)
(Captivity)

Sexual dimorphism: Males larger and have comb and wattles

Location in SF Zoo: Children's Zoo Family Farm

APPEARANCE & PHYSICAL ADAPTATIONS:

This bird's modest size is largely due to its large mass of feathers and long under-down that covers the body and legs. Feather coloration varies for each breed but all breeds have yellow skin.

Weight: M 11 lbs
F 8.5 lbs

Length:

Wingspan:

STATUS & CONSERVATION

There is no wild stock of this breed.

COMMUNICATION AND OTHER BEHAVIOR

More than one male in a given flock will lead to fights for dominance. Cochins are quiet chickens. They scarcely crow or cluck, only when laying eggs.

COURTSHIP AND YOUNG

Only one male is needed for a given flock of hens though human intervention has caused problems with fertility, thus artificial insemination is often required.

Incubation:	Sexual Maturity:
# of eggs:	Fledging:

MISCELLANEOUS

- The familiar Bantam rooster is included with this breed
- Hens are used to brood a variety of eggs of endangered birds
- They first came to England and America in 1845. Modification of breed have continued since then

Standards of 1874 included: Buff, White and Black. In 1965, breeds added were Silver-lace, Gold-lace, Blue and Brown. In 1982 the Barred were included.

“Pullets” are females less than one year in age, while “hens” are greater than one year. “Cockerels are males less than one year, while “cocks” are more than one year in age. They are primarily ornamental birds as they are neither good layers nor meat birds.

Sources:

<http://www.ansi.okstate.edu>

<http://www.backyardchickens.com>

<http://www.centralpets.com>