



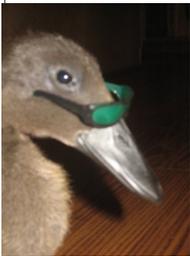
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Runner Duck Revolution—April 2010

By Myles Gallaher—age 17

The Indian Runner is a fascinating and unique breed of duck. The runner duck's stance, balance, length and body type are all unique to the breed. The runner originated in southeastern Asia where they were kept to clean the rice paddies of unwanted pests such as snails and worms that would harm the crops.

The runner duck owes its upright stance to the fact that it has very short thigh bones. These short thigh bones make the runner duck's legs and feet much lower on the body than other breeds of ducks. Because their feet and legs are lower on the body the runner duck stands upright to balance its center of gravity, similar to the stance of people and penguins.



The runner duck is sometimes referred to as the wine bottle duck and this is a great analogy. The neck and shoulders of a runner duck should emulate the neck of a wine bottle with smooth blending of the neck and shoulders. The body should also be very trim, round, and not heavy.

A good word to remember when breeding or judging runner ducks is "long". Almost everything about the runner duck is supposed to be long. The head should be long and very flat. Some judges use the method of placing a pencil on the head to see how flat it is. The eyes should be set very high on the head and appear alert. The neck should be long and thin but not bony. The body should also be long and round, not triangular shaped. Like the neck, the body should be thin in shape, not bony.

A suggestion made by a Mr. James Carson, an APA licensed judge, is to judge runner ducks in a ring. As many runner duck exhibitors know, the runner duck is a high strung duck and when in a show cage will not stand correctly. The stance of a runner duck is a very important attribute to the breed and unless judged in a more open environment won't behave naturally. I encourage all runner duck exhibitors to ask their judges about the possibility of judging the runner duck in this manner.

The runner duck is a fun and interesting breed and I hope you have enjoyed learning about them. The Mr. James Carson mentioned in an above paragraph wrote an interesting, educational, and entertaining article on the runner duck which can be found on the APA website. I encourage all who are interested in the runner duck to continue their reading with that article.

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