

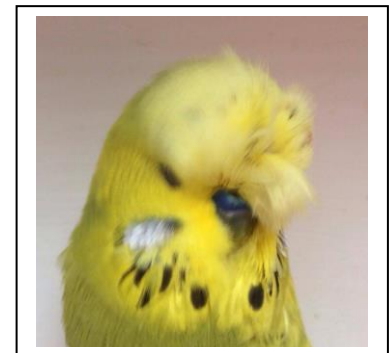
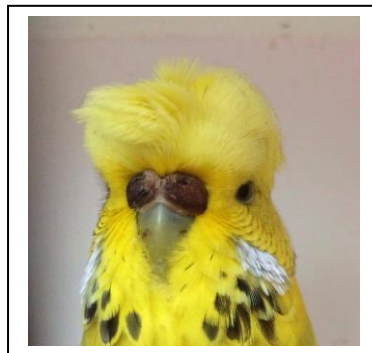
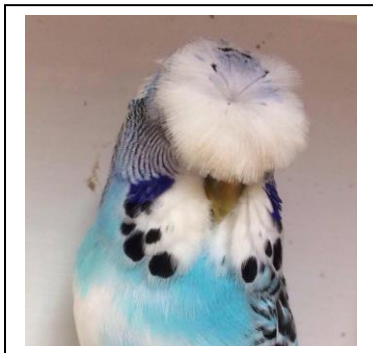


United Budgerigar Society Inc.

STARTING WITH CRESTS

Unlike other varieties, obtaining Crests is not that easy. Few fanciers specialise in this variety and accessing the limited available stock is a problem. The majority of Crested breeders, like those of other specialist varieties, are very dedicated fanciers and they always do their utmost to upgrade the variety.

Because there are three types of Crest, Tufted, Half Circular, and Full Circular and ***the Crest breeds (normal looking birds bred from Crested parentage)*** It does not matter what type of crest you have as any of the three types can breed all the three types when paired to a crest bred. When you have bred some visual Crests it will be time to upgrade the size by putting the crests into quality Normals.



If you are able to obtain two pairs then this is a good start. If luck is on your side then you will be able to breed a few visuals in the first year from the correct pairing. It does not matter what sex the crest is because they are not sex linked. The Crested genetics is a bit complex.

They are semi-dominant (Random) in so far as from the suggested pairing some visual Crests should appear in the nest but the percentage will vary from one pair to another.

A good strong Crest is essential whether it be a Tuft or a Circular. There are many variations from the Crested ideals, I have bred Tufts with a few feathers, tufts failing to one side, a few feathers sticking up, 1/4 of a crest and so on. I can use these birds perhaps as Crest breeds but as initial stock a new fancier will need birds with a strong crest of any of the three variants.

With this variety you need to combine a crested bird that have the perfect crest and a good size Budgerigar.

In this variety, my definition of pure is continuous pairing of Crest to Crest. This is fine as no doubt you will produce a strain of birds with strong crested genes. As from an exhibition budgerigar point of view that is another matter. Also, keep away from inbreeding, if possible. That is why I would prefer buying my initial two pairs from two different studs. This will enable pairing the two families the following year without any worry. Achieving the perfect crest (regardless of type) on a good Budgerigar will always be difficult and either one can be lost easily with incorrect pairing.

The Crest is a feather mutation and can be combined with virtually any colour or variety. They have their own classes at shows.

So they can be accepted on any other bird. Having said all that, I cannot see any merit in combining the Crest with recessive varieties. Although on occasions there have been some good specimens of Crested Dilutes around. I say keep the Crested variety with the Normals, Opalines, Cinnamons; and of course, Spangles and Dominant Pieds, i.e. all the dominant varieties.

JUDGING CRESTS

To put it simply, you have to judge the Crested variety as a Budgerigar first and foremost. There are two very important reasons for this, number one – the Crested variety can be combined visibly with all other varieties, and exhibition standard for the Crested should be exactly as written for each colour and variety plus either Full Circular, Half Circular or Tufted Crest.

Secondly, when we look at our Standard, 60% of points goes towards the Balance, Condition and Confirmation of the bird, the other 40% is allocated to Colour and Markings. The majority of points 60% should be determined before we even look at the actual Crest. This is not perfect and can, and has resulted in Budgerigars of nice shape but very small or incomplete Crests winning the Crested Class. But what would we prefer, Budgerigars that are very tiny, but have perfect shaped and formed crests winning the class. Sure, they represent their particular class better than the larger birds, but we should not forget what we are judging – which are Budgerigars.

WE JUDGE THE CREST EXACTLY THE SAME WAY WE JUDGE ANY BUDGERIGAR – DOES IT COMPLY WITH WHATEVER VARIETY OR COLOUR THE BIRD IS, OR IS IT A BADLY MARKED SPANGLE OR WASHED OUT LUTINO?

WHAT IS THE GENERAL CONFORMATION, INCLUDING SIZE, BALANCE, DEPARTMENT AND CONDITION OF EACH BUDGERIGAR?

Now we look at the actual crest: The ANBC Standard states: **IN EVERY CASE, CRESTS SHOULD BE LARGE IN SIZE AND COMPLETE IN FEATHERING SO THAT THEY ARE A PROMINENT FEATURE OF OUTLINE. EXCEPT FOR THIS ADDITIONAL FEATURE OF OUTLINE, THE STANDARD FOR CRESTED IS AS FOR THE VARIETY AND COLOUR INVOLVED.**

So, the Crest is judged the same as any other variety of budgerigar and so they should be.

To judge them differently would mean that we are not judging according to the ANBC Standard.

As mentioned before, it would be nice to award birds with very good crests with small bodies or badly marked and/or coloured, but we would be sending out the wrong message to breeders.

The breeders **MUST** continue to aim for a very good size and shape budgerigar that also has a large and complete crest.

As Judges, we all have a responsibility to help these breeders by judging to the ANBC Standard.

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