

Silkie Bantam Chicken

Scientific Name: *Gallus gallus*

Class: Aves

Order: Galliformes

Family: Phasianidae



Silkie chickens are a domestic breed named for their feathers, which are almost silk-like in appearance. The feathers come in a variety of colors, including black, white, blue, buff, brown and gray. They may be bearded or non-bearded, but all have a crest of feathers on top of their head, feathers on their legs and feathers continue along the middle toe on each foot. They have short, stout legs ending in 5 toes, with three out front straight and the hind toe is double. The Silkie Bantam is the only breed of bantam with black skin.

Range

Probably originated in eastern Asia (China). Now kept domestically worldwide.

Habitat

A warm, dry place with low perches and nesting boxes.

Gestation

22 days

Litter

8 - 12 eggs

Behavior

Silkie chickens are known for their gentle, docile nature and they are dependable egg layers. Some breeders keep silkies to help hatch extra eggs, since they will adopt almost any kind of poultry or game fowl.

Reproduction

Silkie chickens lay medium-sized eggs, ranging in color from white to light brown. Males help raise the chicks.

Wild Diet

Game bird chow, small amount of greens (produce), occasional mealworm