

BANTAM JERSEY GIANTS ?

I have received a couple of inquiries recently about bantam Jersey Giants. I have heard that there has been some discussion of bantam Giants on the internet, but I don't know this for a fact because I don't take the time to fiddle around there myself much. Anyway, what about bantam Giants and what is our Club position regarding them?

A little history. The members who were the driving force behind this Jersey Giant Club back in the 1960's and into the 1990's did not recognize bantam Giants and had no wish to. In particular, Golda Miller the premier Giant breeder of that time was not in favor of recognizing bantam Giants. In fact, those of us who knew her well knew that the mention of bantam Giants was a good way to get her riled up, and quick. I more than once heard her logic that by definition Giant means unusually large, big, huge. Bantam by definition means small, tiny, diminutive. How can a Giant be small? The fact that a bantam could have all the breed characteristics was unimportant. Bantams are small, Giants are big, they don't belong together in the same breath-period! Most of the dedicated Jersey Giant breeders over the years had more or less the same philosophy so our Club recognizing bantam Giants was not an issue. There were no serious breeders of bantam Jersey Giants, in fact there weren't any not so serious breeders either. The American Poultry Association (APA) convention in 1960 voted unanimously to recognize all bantams having a large counterpart in their Standard Of Perfection at that time. Black and White Jersey Giant bantams were included in this wholesale admission to the APA Standard along with many other bantam breeds and varieties. So, bantam Giants were not recognized by the APA because of any breeders lobbying for their inclusion, and in fact none probably even existed.

I personally have not seen a real Jersey Giant bantam, nor do I recall talking to anyone who has seen any. I have seen a very few birds exhibited at shows entered as Jersey Giant bantams, but they all lacked Jersey Giant breed characteristics, and clearly had breed characteristics of other bantam breeds. Some with incorrect leg or skin color etc. Obviously, they were spurious imitators.

So the upshot of all this is that I have been responding to the few bantam Giant inquiries received that I know of no established bantam Giant strains. I personally have no interest in bantam Giants and do not know of anyone breeding them. That as a Club I don't think we would categorically be against recognizing bantam Giants if they were to be bred and developed to a level that would consistently reflect Jersey Giant characteristics, and there were interested bantam Jersey Giant breeders. I just don't know of any serious breeders at this point, so it is not a Club issue at this time.

If you are breeding bantam Jersey Giants or know someone who is, I would appreciate knowing so I can refer any inquiries about bantam Giants.