



My Silkies

The **Silkie** (sometimes incorrectly spelled *Silky*) is a breed of chicken named for its atypically fluffy plumage, which is said to feel like silk. The breed has several other unusual qualities, such as dark blue flesh and bones, blue earlobes, and five toes on each foot (most chickens only have four). They are often exhibited in poultry shows, and come in several colors (red, buff, blue, black, white, and partridge).

In addition to their distinctive physical characteristics, Silkies are well known for their calm, friendly temperament. Among the most docile of poultry, Silkies are considered an ideal pet. Hens are also exceptionally broody, and make good mothers. Though they are fair layers themselves, laying about three eggs a week, they are commonly used to hatch eggs from other breeds and bird species.

Silkies most likely originated in China, but Southeast Asia is also sometimes proposed. The first western account of the breed comes from Marco Polo, who mentioned chickens with fur-like plumage in his Asian travelogues in the 13th century. Today, the breed is recognized for exhibition, and is fairly common in the poultry world.





Endangered farmyard animals

The "**Brakel Hen**" is the oldest Flemish, largest layer that still exists today

One hundred years ago you could find the *Brakel* on every smallholding. This is why the breed was also known as the "*Farm Yard Hen*". Other names for the breed were "*The Everyday Layer*", "*The Grey White Neck*" and "*The Nuns Hen*". They were admired by the people who kept them because they laid well and provided a good table bird, the meat having a slight game flavour. It is noted that in the past, the breed was only fed in the evening. The rest of the day the fowl scratched around the yard and fields, looking for worms, insects, seed and greens. In this way the breed became hardy and only the strongest, the quickest and the healthiest ones survived. A basic natural selection took place, creating a strong breed resistant to all climates.



IZEGEMSE KOEKOEK

Izegem cuckoo

Origin : Already in 1554 the Izegem was mentioned in the writings of Aldernardiana. How this breed exactly looked or where it came from, is not really clear but in 1900 people in the Izegem region in West-Flanders were clearly working on the improvement of an ancient breed. Pictures from those days shows birds that look exactly the same as the modern Izegem. The Izegem was thriving in those days but the First World War ended this for obvious reasons. After the Second World War the Izegem seemed to have disappeared until the early seventies when a few breeders started to reconstruct the breed with what was left of it.



Endangered farmyard animals



The yellow of Haspengouw