

PAVLOV chicken breed

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The Pavlov is the old Russian chicken breed which got its name after the place where it was originated, the large village Pavlovo in Nizhny Novgorod province, situated at the bank of the river Oka. It is known now as town Pavlovo in the same province.



Photo: Yuri Dmitriev.

The Pavlov was exhibited for the first time in Pavlovo. According to its classification, the Pavlov is a Central European chicken breed. It is considered as an ornamental breed.

Note by the editor: The names Pavlovskaya, Pavloff, Pavlov, Pawlow, Pavlovskie e.g. have been used at different times in different countries. In this article we will stick to the name Pavlov.

**Below: Panoramic view of Pavlovo, situated at the bank of the river Oka.
Photo: Wikipedia.**



Part 1 History of the breed

Let's have a look at the history of this breed. Its 'stud book' dated back to the 18th century. These chickens have been originated since the times of Catherine II (1729-1796), Empress of Russian Empire. There is a legend that the ancestors of this breed were chickens from Catherine II's poultry yard.

The first mention of the Pavlov breed was done by the scientist and traveller P. S. Pallas in his book: 'Pallas Petro. Zoographia Rosso-Asiatica, sistens omnium animalium in extenso Imperio Rossico et adjacentibus maribus observatorum recensionem, domicilia, mores et descriptions, anatomen atque icones plurimorum. 1811 V. II. P. 88-92.

He described crested chickens with feathered shanks, in both silver and golden spangled plumage pattern. According to Pallas' description of the breed the chickens were named later Pavlov because of its place of the origin.

The Pavlov is the first Russian breed that has its own standard. This breed varies from all other old Russian breeds because it was undergone by special selection and it was guarded from unsystematic crossing.

The Pavlov fanciers passed the secrets of their breeding method from generation to generation among Pavlovo inhabitants. They strictly followed the standard demands of the breed. Little by little it became the famous world-known Russian national breed. It is considered to be the masterpiece of chicken beauty of the 18th century, but there is not a lot of information about it.

By the end of the 18th century, the Pavlovs was raised in many provinces of Russia. The excellent chickens were the eye-catchers of many poultry shows and their owners obtained high rewards. At the Acclimatization Exhibition that was held in Moscow in 1878, Pavlovs were presented by three breeders; two of them displayed Golden Pavlov and last one - Black Pavlov. At the end of this show the chickens of Black Pavlov were presented to the Moscow Zoo. Pavlov chickens were mentioned at the 1st exhibition held by Moscow Society of Poultry Fanciers in 1881 where the silver and



golden varieties were shown. They were also displayed at the other exhibitions which were held by this society. At the 5th exhibition of the Moscow Society of Poultry Fanciers (held in 1884) breeder of Pavlov chickens won the silver cup.

There is information dated by 1889 of the pedigree stock of E. Skornyakov who bred the Pavlovs in the silver variety. The regular Poultry Exhibition was held in 1892, where two breeders won prizes for Pavlovs in the grey (blue) colour variety. At this exhibition the silver medal was awarded to I. Sokolova and the bronze medal to E. Romanova. In the same year at the Moscow Exhibition held by the Moscow Society of Poultry Fanciers, the Golden Pavlov breed was presented and its breeder won the bronze medal.

Left: Silver Pavlov hen (photo from 1906).

Let us have a look at a guide book of poultry yards, published in 1909. The following poultry breeders having Golden Pavlovs are mentioned in it: S. Nenukova (N. Novgorod); A. Rogovskiy (Kazan) and O. Fedotov (Pavlovo). Silver Pavlovs were raised in the poultry yards of: P. Klugina (Moscow); S. Nenukova (N. Novgorod); E. Fedorovskoy (Kovrov); A. Cherbakova (Pushkino) and O. Fedotova (Pavlovo).

At the first exhibition of The Russian Agricultural Poultry Society a trio of Golden Pavlovs was shown. Looking through the old catalogues of exhibitions it could be found that the Pavlov breed was presented every year: four trios in 1899, six trios in 1900, 10 trios in 1901 and three trios in 1902. At the Russian Agricultural and Trade poultry exhibition taken part in 1906 six trios of Pavlovs were displayed. Silver and Golden Pavlovs were shown at the International Poultry Exhibition in 1911 in Turin and their owners won the gold medals. The Organizing Committee of the International Exhibition held in Saint Petersburg in 1899 suggested a concise Pavlov standard and considered this breed as the national Russian breed. The draft "The Russian Standard of Perfection" was published in the same year. The following plumage colour varieties were described in the mentioned standard: Silver, Golden, White-crested Black, White-crested Grey (Blue) and White-crested White. The black birds with white crest and yellow shanks were the most rare of those varieties.

Below: The head of a cock and a hen of stuffed Silver Pavlov fowl (The State Darwin Museum, Moscow)



I. Abozin in his book (1895) also mentioned that Pavlov, widely spread along the Volga river, had many variations of plumage colour. The Pavlov breed was finally ratified by the standard as "the Russian poultry breed" in 1905.

The foreign poultry breeders also paid attention to this Russian breed. The chickens of this breed appeared abroad: in Germany (Leipzig) and Austria (Vienna) in 1894. Professor Curn from Germany notified in 1884: "One of my pupils brought me two breeding pens of Pavlovs from Moscow. He got them from one of the best poultry breeders. The pens consist of a cock and two hens and won a prize at the Moscow exhibition".

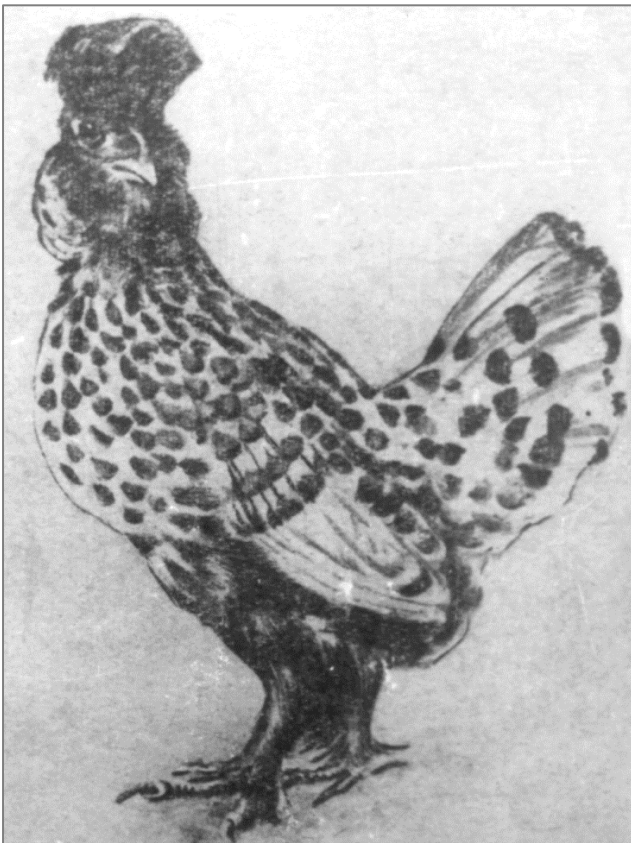
M. Mariuca-Grineva, the Russian specialist in poultry, came to Vienna in 1898. She wrote after her visit that she observed the poultry yard of the Austrian poultry society, where the chickens of Pavlov breed from Russia were notable. So, as we know, the Golden Pavlovs were possessed by breeders of Great Britain, Germany and Austria. The breed appeared only rarely at the exhibitions at the end of the 19th century and then seems completely disappeared. Many specialists considered that the fashion for new foreign breeds was the cause of the Pavlov breed disappearance.



Note by the editor: These 4 photos of stuffed Pavlovs from 1922, were provided to Aviculture Europe by the State Darwin Museum, curator Igor Fadeev. The birds came from the Moscow Zoo.

We were especially interested in the 'original' comb form, but it doesn't show as clear as we hoped for. According to Hein van Grouw, curator Tring Museum UK, the combs of old specimen like this are the true combs - so nothing artificial - although they are dried and shrunk. (Remark by the author: The Pavlov comb is double horned.)

I. Abozin and S. Hudepov in 1899 were authorized to select the birds of Russian breeds, including the Pavlovs, for the Russian department of the International Poultry exhibition. I. Abozin visited such places as Moscow, Tula and Rostov. The Pavlovs had been widely spread in those cities earlier, but had completely disappeared by 1899. He hoped to find this breed in Pavlovo, the home place of this breed. After his visit to Pavlovo he said "I have heard a lot about Pavlovo, as the place of origin of this Russian breed of chickens, namely the Pavlov breed. I have seen some unexpected situation. Everywhere in Pavlovo we could find many breeds of chickens, mostly Spanish, Langshan, Plymouth Rock, Cochin, and Game birds. I was disappointed and surprised because the Pavlov breed was very rarely found there. It took me a long time to find birds of the silver variety of Pavlovs. I have bought two hens and the cock in the neighboring village. I got a trio of the golden variety in Pavlovo and some Black Pavlovs with white crest in the village Gorbatovka. The Golden chickens were typical but not of high quality, while the latter variety is not well known to our fanciers. They looked like Holland chickens but have a beard and muffs with hardly visible earlobes and wattles. They also have yellow shanks. According to the meaning of poultry fanciers: Pavlovs were larger in previous times, especially the White-crested Blacks. They looked like medium sized chickens and their eggs were also heavier. At this time, Pavlovs have become shallow and smaller than small village hens".



Above: The Silver Pavlovskaya female and the Silver Pavlovskaya male. Drawing from the book "Genetics of domestic fowl" (1926).

I. Abozin reported after his visit to Pavlovo: "Ancient Russian breeds of chickens and geese have been forced out by modern fashionable foreign breeds". At the beginning of the 20th century Pavlovs could be found in the northern part of Russia.

The latest information about it was dated by the 20's of the previous century. One of the most interesting books on the Pavlov breed was written by A. Serebrovsky, "Genetic Essay of the Pavlov Chicken Breed," (1926). He performed in this article the characteristics of the breed. A. Serebrovsky mentioned that he purchased a cock and two hens of Silver Pavlovs in 1920. Only the cock took part in all his experiments with

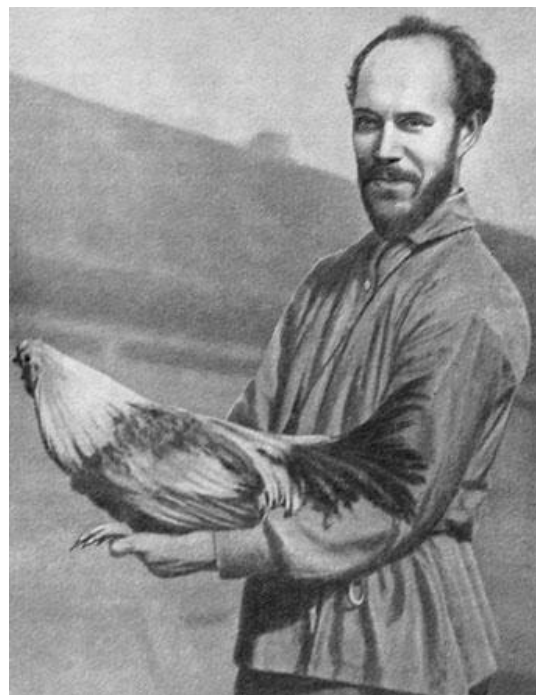
Pavlovs. He could not get new generations from those two hens. He visited Pavlovo again in 1923, but the breed had completely disappeared.

The geneticists were interested in this breed because the visual characteristics of this breed could be easily found in following generations.

Right: A.S. Serebrovsky at the experimental station in Anikovo, 1925.

A. Serebrovsky interbred the Pavlov cock with chickens of other breeds and he came to the conclusion that different kinds of genes took part in the formation of the same traits in different chicken breeds, for example, some genes of feather markings or shank feathering. The conclusion was that the breeds existing at that time did not participate in Pavlov breeding.

In the article, dedicated to the anniversary of A. S. Serebrovsky in 2012 (Studies in Chicken Genetics. Commemorating the 120th Anniversary of the Outstanding Soviet Geneticist A. S. Serebrovsky (1892–1948) Authors: I. G. Moiseyeva, M. N. Romanov, A. A. Nikiforov, and N. B. Avrutskaya) it was indicated, that the Soviet geneticists went on with their research work on chickens including the Pavlov breed and they went ahead of foreign researchers in discussion of genes interaction.



Modern breeders working with Pavlovs can be helped by the Pavlov images in old pictures, photos and postcards. The first colour drawings of Golden and Silver Pavlovs were published in the Album of Husbandry Poultry Breeds (1905). At one time the series of the postcards "The Russian breeds" were issued.

Above and right: Drawings of a pair of Silver Pavlovs and a pair of Golden Pavlovs, in "Album of the Husbandry Poultry Breeds", 1905.



You can see in these drawings not only this breed as a whole, but also some specific chicken parts. The black and white drawings and also colour drawings of the chickens, which were the results of the experiments at the Anikovo scientific station, under the guidance of A. Serebrovsky (1926), are also very interesting for fanciers and specialists.

Part 2. On the history of restoration of the Pavlov breed, and its Standard, will be provided in our next issue.

Below: The Pavlov cock dedicates his song to all the readers, wishing them a Happy New Year! Photo: Yuri Dmitriev.



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