

Penalty and Disqualification Clause for Head Marking

As of January 1st 2020 the Penalty and Disqualification clause for Head Marking in the ANBC standard will be introduced and applied at all future shows.

This article will try and explain how the judges apply this clause and how they interpret the varying degrees of head marking. It is important for Exhibitors to understand what birds will be penalised and what birds will be disqualified.

It is very important that we use the correct terminology in explaining Head Marking. Calling it Head Flecking only infers one type of Head Marking and will be very confusing going forward.

Firstly let's explain the different types of Head Markings.

1. Flecking. Flecking is the cap feather with a spot in the feather, can be round or elongated but distinctively spotting in the feather and probably the most common form of head marking.
2. Ticking. This is identified by a vertical strip down the centre of feather and is the second most common form of head marking.
3. Grizzling. This is the least common form of Head Marking as it usually occurs on certain varieties. The easiest way to explain is that it is a marked feather with no mixed pattern but is usually streaky following the direction of the feather barbs.

If you now have an understanding of the different types of head marking, it is important to understand that there can be different shades of marking; very deep in colour and very distinguishable and they can also be very light. Not to be confused with cinnamon marking which is diluted in colour.

The important factor here is that, it is the percentage of feathers that carry the marking as well as the intensity that help determine if it is light Head Marking or Heavy Head Marking. A light marking in a large percentage of feathers is also determined as being heavily marked. Birds with head ticking will be the ones most misinterpreted in this area.

As stated in the Standard birds that are considered as border line birds will be accepted and heavy penalty applied. Border line birds will I think be the most difficult area to get consistency on a regular basis. Once you determine that it is borderline between light and heavy head marking, this bird has to be accepted with penalty applied. If this bird is of high quality, it can still go on and win even though it has penalty applied.

HEAD MARKINGS –HEAVY



HEAD MARKINGS LIGHT



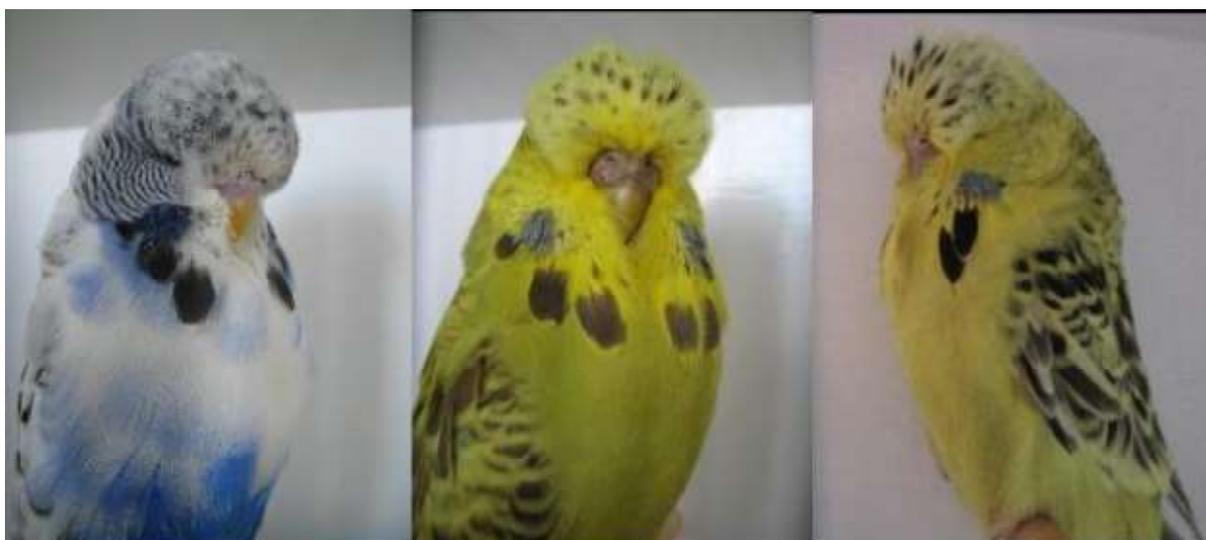
I hope the information above helps Exhibitors select their show team with confidence in knowing which birds will be acceptable and which won't. Please be accepting of judge's decision as there will always be varying decisions when it comes to interpretation of the standard and its application.

Below is the Penalty and Disqualification Clause in Standard at present

Extract from the current ANBC Standard

Heavy Head Markings:

- Intensity and distribution of melanin in the Frontal, Forehead or Crown equal to or greater than any of the examples shown below. Borderline cases difficult to classify as heavy or light are to be very Heavily penalised.



Heavy Head Markings:

Written by Gary Gazzard on behalf of the NSW Judges Committee