

by the breast-feathers, and the points well concealed by the fluff, and, in plumage, clear white.

FLUFF: Very abundant and soft, standing out about the thighs, giving the birds a very deep and broad appearance behind, and, in color, clear white.

LEGS: Thighs, large, abundantly covered with soft, fluffy feathers, curving inward around the hock, so as nearly to hide the joint:—Shanks, yellow, short, stout, wide apart, and well feathered on the outsides, with clear white feathers:—Toes, straight, strong, and well spread, the outer and middle toes being well feathered.

CARRIAGE: Low, with a contented and matronly appearance.

SCALE OF POINTS IN WHITE COCPINS.

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Neck	10
Back	10
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	100

Comparisons, in size and weight, 2 points to the pound.

Ferrets and Ferreting.

The ferret (*Mustela Furo*) has its place in natural history in the *Mustelidae*, which includes the otters, skunks, polecats, and the genus *mustela*, or weasels. The true ferret was originally a native of Africa, whence it was imported into Spain for the purpose of destroying rabbits with which that country was overrun, and from which place it has since spread over various other European states, it has not, however, become acclimatized in this country, nor even in France, and one getting loose except in the warmth of summer, will perish in the variable temperature of our climate. The use of ferrets in hunting and bolting rabbits is not of modern origin, being known to and practised by the ancients, the mode of working their burrows and expelling the tenants so that they could be taken in nets, or, as they have been called by our warreners, "flans," having been described by Pliny.

The appearance of the ferret is too familiar to need minute description; the color is a yellowish white, head small, rather oval in shape, nose sharper than that of the weasel, ears small and round

and the eyes of a fiery red; the average measurement has been given by various writers as, body about fourteen inches, tail about five inches, as against that of the polecat, body seventeen inches, tail five inches, but from crossing or development in its state of semi-domestication, it is now often larger. The color is a brownish black on the back and where the hair is long, and a pale yellow or fulvous white on the belly, etc., where the hair is short. Warreners early resorted to a cross with the polecat, doubtless to get hardness and endurance and greater resistance to cold and damp. This was the more easily done as the female ferret, or jill, is extremely ardent, and it was only necessary to tie one near the known haunts of the polecat.

This was the origin of the fitch ferret commonly kept, and as is the common custom I will refer to it as a distinct variety.

There are two varieties of ferrets, the white and the dark, or polecat. To the former is given the preference for general work, because they are usually easier to handle, and when lost for any time do not become as wild as the polecat breed. Ferrets, like all other animals, differ very much in temper and ability. There is the savage ferret, wild, and hard to pick up, doing his work slowly and badly, lying up whenever he kills, and sorely trying the master's temper. On the other hand, there is the ferret that dashes through the holes, killing the rabbits that won't bolt, but not delaying a moment with them when dead, thoroughly tame, and easy to catch. The polecat variety is, as a rule, fiercer than the white, but of course there are exceptions.

Ferrets are various sizes, there being the very large white ferret, growing as large as a small cat; and at the other end of the scale there is the small, dark ferret, not larger than a rat. The white are sometimes found small, but as a rule the smallest ferrets are of the polecat breed. There is also a cross-bred ferret, a combination of the white and the polecat, and a very good ferret it is, too, often possessing the good qualities of both breeds, without their faults.

Any ferret can be made tame by constant handling, and without tameness a ferret is only a nuisance. The course to pursue is to handle them well, and then, when tolerably tame, let children play with them. In this way they soon become accustomed to be taken up by their legs or tails, in fact so tame that you may, without fear of being bitten, put your hand into a hole and pull them out by whatever part of their bodies you first touch.

Ferrets do not do well in hutches, as they require a place to run about in. Nothing is better, if procurable, than the stall of a stable boarded off or a small out-house; the floor shou'd be covered