

Brown Feathers



Brown feathers are typically seen on wild turkeys. Domestic turkeys have white feathers.

The brown feathers of wild turkeys leave a mark on the birds' skin after they have been processed. Most farms that raise turkeys for meat have birds with white feathers for that reason.

White Feathers



White feathers are a common trait of domestic turkeys. The animals have been bred to have white feathers compared to wild turkeys which have brown feathers. The white feathers were more desirable because they do not leave marks on the birds' skin after processing.

Long Legs



This turkey has long legs. They can move around easily. This animal also has better joint health and is less prone to joint problems. This bird also has a hard time gaining weight and uses feed less efficiently due to its high levels of movement.

Short Legs



This turkey has short legs. They sometimes struggle with walking and are prone to joint issues. Due to the reduced movement this bird gains weight much faster. It also uses feed more efficiently.

Hatchability



This turkey's eggs have a high rate of hatchability. This means that many of the eggs they laid will successfully hatch. Although they have a high hatchability, they lay less eggs.

High Egg Production



This turkey lays many eggs.
Although they lay more
eggs and lay them more
frequently, not all of the
eggs are fertile.

Upright Stature



This turkey stands taller than other birds. The bird's stature allows it to stay healthy and active. The bird maintains an average growth rate but can be harder for people to work with due to their height. Due to the animal being taller they may also take up more space during transport.

Heavy Breasted



This animal has a very large breast. This large breast can be very profitable as the bird grows quickly and has a lot of meat after processing. The large breast on the bird can also cause health problems. The animal may be hunched forward from weight causing neck and joint problems.

Ideal Meat to Bone Ratio



This bird has an ideal meat to bone ratio. As the animal grows it will maintain an ideal weight. It will not be too heavy or too thin. Although the bird will gain weight it may do so much slower than others.

High Fat Content



This bird has a high fat content. This may be caused by overeating or a lack of activity. The animal may gain weight quickly but not all of the weight is quality meat.

Docile



This animal is docile and calm around humans. This makes it much easier to work with and transport. The docile nature increased both the animal's safety and the humans. This docile nature can also lead to the bird being outcompeted by more aggressive birds for food.

Aggressive



This turkey is very competitive within the flock. They often outcompete other birds for food and water. Although the bird is well fed its aggressive nature can make it hard to work with. The bird may be aggressive towards humans who work with it during daily care and transport.