

## Chapter 4F: Finnage Characteristics - Veiltail



Figure 4F.1 2D representation of the 3D model of the ideal veiltail (created by Stefan George Psarakos).

### 1. General appearance

#### 1.1 Condition & Deportment

As described for all other show Bettas (see **Chapter 3**).

#### 1.2 Body size

As described for all other show Bettas (see **Chapter 3**).

#### 1.3 Overall balance

The ideal veiltail has an asymmetrical appearance which is mostly caused by the length and shape of the anal and caudal fin and is contributed to by the breadth, length and shape of the ventral fins and dorsal fin also the breadth, length and shape of the ventral fins and dorsal fin play an important role (see **Figure 4F.2**).

The contour of the ideal symmetrical long-finned Betta can be captured by an oval of which the width is approximately 1.2-times the height (see **Chapter 4G** and **Chapter 4H**). In contrast to the symmetrical long-finned Betta, the asymmetrical contour of the ideal veiltail cannot be captured by an oval shape as the dorsal, caudal, anal and ventral fins clearly extend beyond this ideal oval shape.

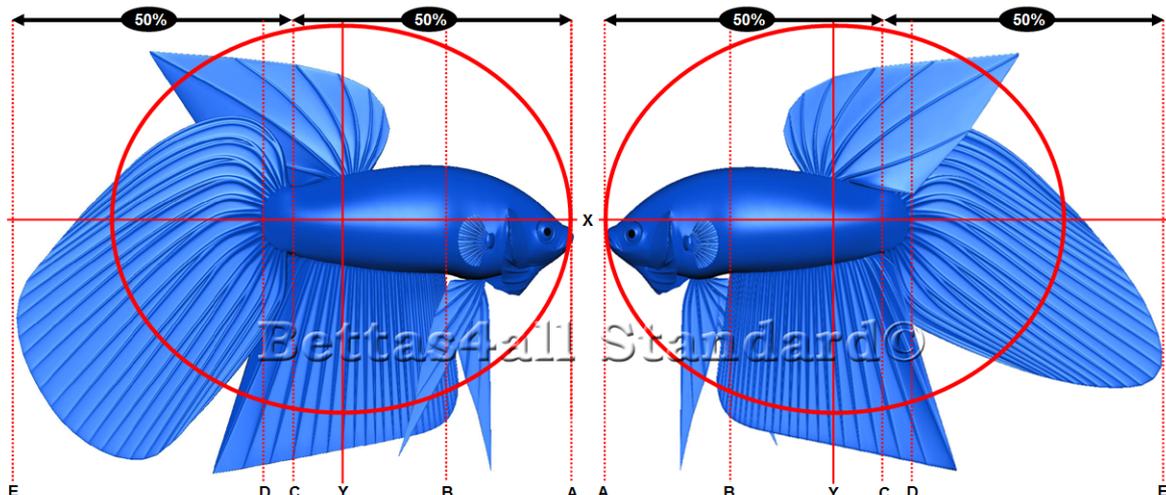


Figure 4F.2 Whereas the upper part of the ideal veiltail fits the ideal symmetrical oval, the lower part does not follow these contours. The horizontal (X) and vertical (Y) midlines as well as vertical lines A-E are used to describe the proportions of the ideal veiltail.

The vertical line which runs through the point on the body where the outer rays of the caudal fin are attached (C), divides the total length of the veiltail (A-E) into two parts, A-C and C-E, with a ~50/50 distribution respectively (see **Figure 4F.2**).

An important point with respect to overall balance is that the finnage must be in proportion with the body. The width of the anal fin (B-C) is used as a reference to define the desired proportions (see **Figure 4F.3**). In the ideal situation the length of the rays in the middle of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle (D) to the outer rim (E), are equal to ~2-times the width of the anal fin (B-C). The length longest ray in the middle of the dorsal fin should be equal to ~1.5-times the width of the anal fin (B-C). The length of the longest ray in the posterior part of the anal fin is equal to ~1.5-times the width of the anal fin. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to ~1.25-times the width of the anal fin (B-C).

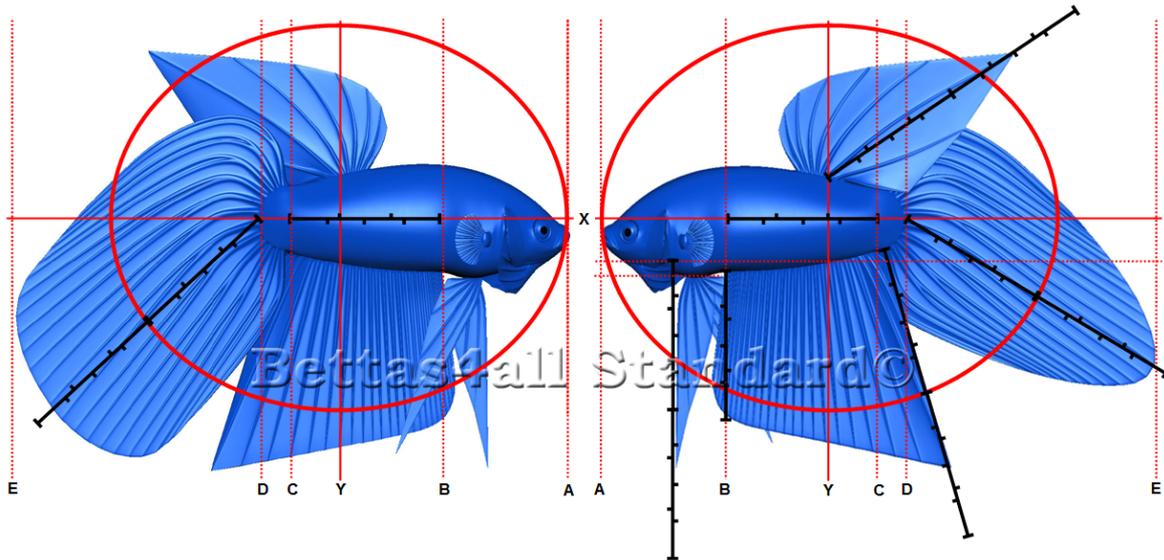


Figure 4F.3 The width of the anal fin (B-C) is an important marker to demonstrate proportion.

## 2. Body

### 2.1 Form & dimension

As in all other show Bettas (see **Chapter 3** and **Figure 4F.4**).

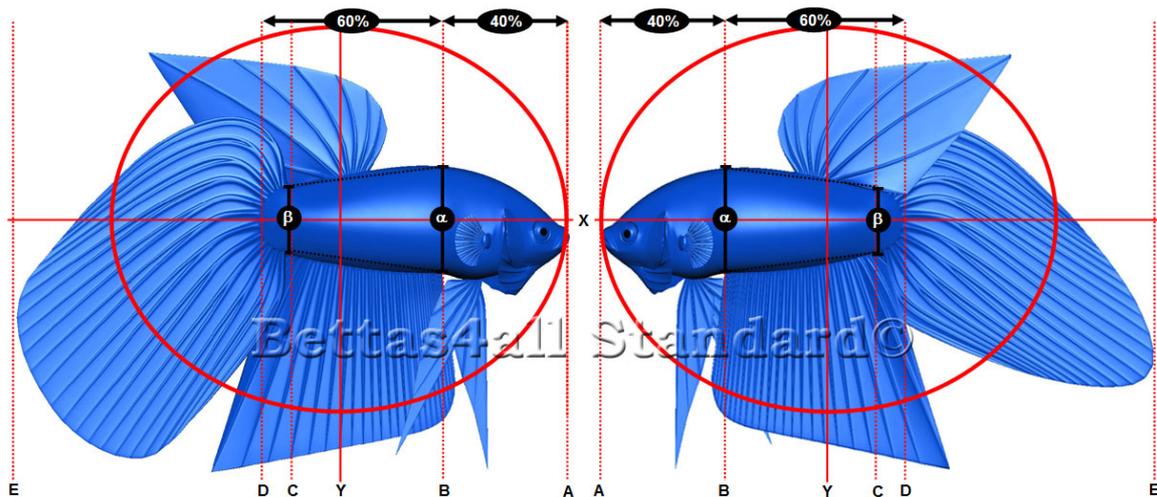


Figure 4F.4 Ideal body shape form & dimension of the veiltail.

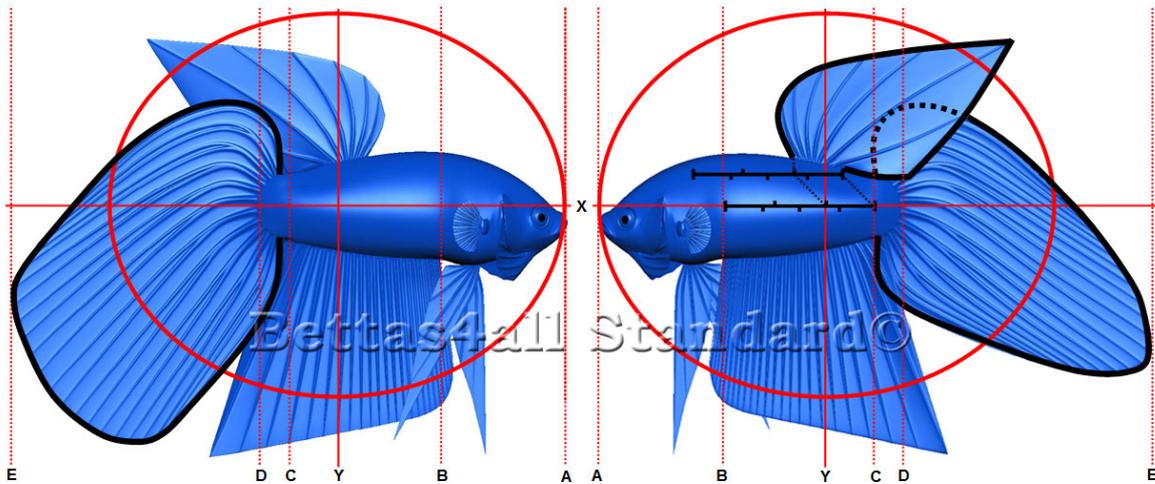
### 2.2. Scalation

As in all other show Bettas (see **Chapter 3**).

### 3. Finnage

#### 3.1 Caudal fin

The caudal starts with a broad base at the peduncle. The upper rays which leave the peduncle initially run up, and reach the highest point at 20% of the total caudal length, before they gradually drop down to below the horizontal midline (X). From here the rays either run parallel to each other resulting in a flag-shaped caudal (see **Figure 4F.5, left**) or gradually slope towards each other into a blunt point (see **Figure 4F.5, right**). The caudal fin has an asymmetrical appearance which means that if an imaginary horizontal midline (X) would be drawn it would be divided in two unequal parts. The base of the caudal ideally has a 180-degree spread. The caudal fin has 12-13 primary rays which extend from the peduncle with a primary (2-ray) branching. The branching of the rays should be evenly distributed throughout the caudal fin. The webbing of the caudal fin has a smooth overall appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.



**Figure 4F.5** Ideal form of the caudal fin (left) and dorsal fin (right) of the veiltail.

#### 3.2 Dorsal fin

The dorsal fin of veiltail has the appearance of a modified droplet (see **Figure 4F.5, right**). Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be equal to 1/3 of the width of the anal fin (B-C) with 8 to 10 rays which do not show any branching. The length of the rays in the back and front of the dorsal slightly declines. The lower part of the back of the dorsal fin overlaps the upper part of the caudal. Overlap of the back of the dorsal fin with the body is not desirable. The webbing of the dorsal fin has a smooth overall appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

#### 3.3 Anal fin

The anal fin of the veiltail is trapezoid shaped and starts at the thickest point of the body (B) (see **Figure 4F.6, right**). The longest ray of the anal fin is located in the posterior part of the fin, the length of the rays gradually declines towards the front. During flaring the front of the anal is slightly directed forward. Overlap of the upper part of the back of the anal with the upper part of the lower half of the caudal is allowed. The rays in the anal fin do not show any branching. The webbing of the anal fin has a smooth overall appearance without any overlapping/folding parts due to excessive branching and/or webbing.

#### 3.4 Ventral fins

The form of the ventrals fins of a veiltail is as in all other show Betta (see **Chapter 3**). Additionally, the ventrals of the veiltail should be long and slender and not be too voluminous (see **Figure 4F.6, left**).

#### 3.5 Pectoral fins

As in all other show Betta (see **Chapter 3 and Figure 4F.6, right**). The pectoral fins of the veiltail are delta-shaped with primary (2-ray) branching.

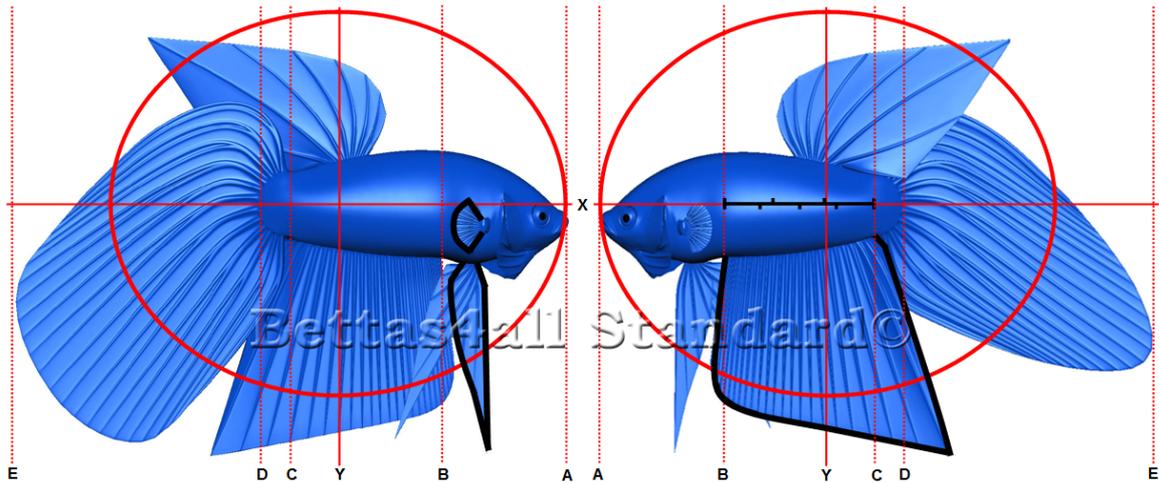


Figure 4F.6 Ideal form of the ventral & pectoral fins (left) and anal fin (right) of the veiltail.



Figure 4F.7 Example of veiltail males.

(A) Breeder unknown, (B) was bred by Tomas Chuda (Czech Republic) and (C) was bred by Joep van Esch (The Netherlands)

Please note that this fish is an example and still exhibits points requiring improvement.