

## Chapter 4L: Finnage Characteristics - Females

The Bettas4all Standard® recognizes ten different female show classes: traditional plakot, halfmoon plakot, doubletail plakot, crowntail plakot, veiltail, halfmoon, doubletail, crowntail, form & variation and large pectorals (see **Chapter 2**). The condition, deportment and body shape of female show Bettas are as described in the general standard (see **Chapter 3**).

### 1. Traditional plakot females

Although traditional plakot females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see **Chapter 4A**). The ideal traditional plakot female has an asymmetrical appearance which is caused by the length and shape of the anal fin and the breadth, length and shape of the ventral fins and dorsal fin which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline. In contrast to halfmoon plakot females, the upper part of the ideal traditional plakot approximately fits this oval but the asymmetrical lower part does not follow these contours and both the anal fin and the ventral fins clearly extend beyond the bottom edge of the caudal fin. A slight dip is allowed in the contour between dorsal and caudal as long as the dorsal is overlapping the upper part of the caudal in such a way that there is no gap between the body and finnage. The body/caudal distribution in traditional plakot females is ~80/20.



**Figure 4L.1** Example of a traditional plakot female.

(A) was bred by Daniella Vereeken (Belgium), (B) was bred by Sebastiaan van der Wijngaart (the Netherlands) and (C) was bred by Boris Weber-Schwartz (Germany).

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

Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see **Figure 4L.1**). The width of the anal fin is used as a reference to define the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays in the middle of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle to the outer rim, are equal to  $\frac{2}{5}$  of the width of the anal fin. Although the dorsal fin does not extend beyond the upper edge of the caudal fin, the anal fin extends below the bottom edge of the caudal fin with a clear pointed tip. The length of the rays gradually declines towards the front. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be  $\frac{1}{3}$  of 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  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the width of the anal fin.

### 2. Halfmoon plakot females

Both asymmetrical and symmetrical halfmoon plakot females are shown in this class. Although halfmoon plakot females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see **Chapter 4B** and **Chapter 4C**). The ideal halfmoon plakot female has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower parts of the fish nearly form a mirror-image. In contrast to their male counterparts the contour of the ideal halfmoon plakot female is that of a more rectangular-shaped oval. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of this oval in a smooth way although a small exception is made in singletail females for the contour between dorsal and caudal. Here a slight dip is allowed as long as the dorsal is overlapping the upper part of the caudal in such a way that there is no gap between the body and finnage. The body/caudal distribution in halfmoon plakot females is ~80/20.



**Figure 4L.2** *Examples of halfmoon plakat females.*  
 (A) was bred by Roberto Mancuso (Italy), (B) and (C) were bred by Joep van Esch (The Netherlands)  
 Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.

Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see **Figure 4L.2**). The width of the anal fin is used as a reference to define the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle to the outer rim, are equal to  $\frac{2}{5}$  of the width of the anal fin. Ideally the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be between  $\frac{1}{2}$  -  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the width of the anal fin. The anal fin of halfmoon plakat females, being either from asymmetrical or symmetrical lines, should not show a pointed tip but should run approximately parallel to the body. The length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the width of the anal fin.

### **3. Doubletail plakat females**

Although doubletail plakat females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see **Chapter 4D**). The ideal doubletail plakat female has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower parts of the fish nearly form a mirror-image. In contrast to their male counterparts the contour of the ideal doubletail plakat female is that of a more rectangular-shaped oval. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of this oval in a smooth way. The body/caudal distribution in doubletail plakat females is  $\sim 80/20$ .



**Figure 4L.3** *Example of a doubletail plakat female.*  
 (A) was bred by Joep van Esch (The Netherlands), (B) and (C) were bred by Andrej Tihomirović (Croatia).  
 Please note that this fish is an example and still exhibits points requiring improvement, such as a more pronounced splitting until the base of the peduncle.

Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see **Figure 4L.3**). The width of the anal fin is used as a reference to define the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle to the outer rim, are equal to  $\frac{2}{5}$  of the width of the anal fin. The two caudal lobes are allowed to overlap but should be separated by means of a split which runs up to the base of the peduncle. Ideally

the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be equal to the width of the anal fin. The anal fin of doubletail plakat females should not show a pointed tip but should run approximately parallel to the body. The length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin.

#### 4. Crowntail plakat females

Although crowntail plakat females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see **Chapter 4E**). A female Betta will be classified as crowntail if it shows at least a 20% reduction in webbing between the primary rays in all three unpaired fins. The ideal crowntail plakat female has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower parts of the fish nearly form a mirror-image. In contrast to their male counterparts the contour of the ideal crowntail plakat female is that of a more rectangular-shaped oval. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of this oval in a smooth way although a small exception is made in singletail females for the contour between dorsal and caudal. Here a slight dip is allowed as long as the dorsal is overlapping the upper part of the caudal in such a way that there is no gap between the body and finnage. The body/caudal distribution in crowntail plakat females is ~80/20.



**Figure 4L.4** Examples of crowntail plakat females. (A) was bred by Alex Grimm (Germany), (B) and (C) were bred by Sanya Ponpal (Thailand). Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.

Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see **Figure 4L.4**). The width of the anal fin is used as a reference to define the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle to the outer rim, are equal to 2/5 of the width of the anal fin. Ideally the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively. The caudal shows a primary branching (2-ray) with a 33% reduction in webbing between the primary rays and a 15% reduction between the secondary rays. The dorsal and anal both show a 33% reduction in webbing. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be between 1/2 - 2/3 of the width of the anal fin. The anal fin of crowntail plakat females should not show a pointed tip but should run approximately parallel to the body. The length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin.

#### 5. Veiltail females

Although veiltail females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see **Chapter 4F**). The ideal veiltail female has an asymmetrical appearance which is caused by the length and shape of the anal fin and the breadth, length and shape of the ventral fins and dorsal fin which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline. In contrast to halfmoon females, the upper and lower parts of the ideal veiltail female do not follow the contour of the symmetrical oval, but the dorsal fin, anal fin and the ventral fins clearly extend beyond the bottom edge of the caudal fin. A slight dip is allowed in the contour between dorsal and caudal as long as the dorsal is overlapping the upper part of the caudal in such a way that there is no gap between the body and finnage. The body/caudal distribution in veiltail females is ~70/30.



**Figure 4L.5** Examples of a Veiltail females.

(A) Bred by Daniel Dold (Germany), (B) breeder unknown (pictured by Jodi-Lea Matheson - Australia) and (C) bred by Josef Kanok (Czech Republic).

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

Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see **Figure 4L.5**). The width of the anal fin is used as a reference to define the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays in the middle of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle to the outer rim, are equal to  $3/4$  of the width of the anal fin. Both the dorsal fin and anal fin extend beyond the upper and lower edge of the caudal fin with the anal fin showing a clear pointed tip. The length of the rays gradually declines towards the front. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be  $1/3$  of 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  $1/2$ - $2/3$  of the width of the anal fin.

## 6. Halfmoon females

Although halfmoon females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see **Chapter 4G**). The ideal halfmoon female has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower part of the fish nearly form a mirror-image. In contrast to their male counterparts the contour of the ideal halfmoon female is that of a more rectangular-shaped oval. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of this oval in a smooth way although a small exception is made in singletail females for the contour between dorsal and caudal. Here a slight dip is allowed as long as the dorsal is overlapping the upper part of the caudal in such a way that there is no gap between the body and finnage. The body/caudal distribution in halfmoon females is  $\sim 75/25$ .



**Figure 4L.6** Examples of halfmoon females.

(A) was bred by Kirsti Sætran (Norway), (B) was bred by Jamie King (Australia/Czech Republic) and (C) was bred by Michel Stokkelaar (The Netherlands).

Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.

Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see **Figure 4L.6**). The width of the anal fin is used as a reference to define the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle to the outer rim, are equal to  $1/2$  of the width of the anal fin. Ideally the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively. The length

of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be between 1/2 - 2/3 of the width of the anal fin. The anal fin of halfmoon females should not show a pointed tip but should run approximately parallel to the body. The length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin.

### **7. Doubletail females**

Although doubletail females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see **Chapter 4H**). The ideal doubletail female has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower part of the fish nearly form a mirror-image. In contrast to their male counterparts the contour of the ideal doubletail female is that of a more rectangular-shaped oval. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of this oval in a smooth way. The body/caudal distribution in doubletail females is ~75/25.



**Figure 4L.7** Examples of a doubletail female.

(A) was bred by Chaba (Thailand), (B) was bred by Michel Stokkelaar (The Netherlands) and (C) was bred by Holger Rabe (Germany).

**Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.**

Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see **Figure 4L.5**). The width of the anal fin is used as a reference to define the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle to the outer rim, are equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin. The two caudal lobes are allowed to overlap but should be separated by means of a split which runs up to the base of the peduncle. Ideally the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be equal to the width of the anal fin. The anal fin of doubletail females should not show a pointed tip but should run approximately parallel to the body. The length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin.

### **8. Crowntail females**

Although crowntail females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see **Chapter 4I**). A female Betta will be classified as crowntail if it shows at least a 25% reduction in webbing between the primary rays in all three unpaired fins. The ideal crowntail female has a symmetrical appearance which can be demonstrated by a horizontal midline which shows that the upper and lower part of the fish nearly form a mirror-image. In contrast to their male counterparts the contour of the ideal crowntail female is that of a more rectangular-shaped oval. The outer rim of the unpaired fins follows the contours of this oval in a smooth way although a small exception is made in singletail females for the contour between dorsal and caudal. Here a slight dip is allowed as long as the dorsal is overlapping the upper part of the caudal in such a way that there is no gap between the body and finnage. The body/caudal distribution in crowntail females is ~75/25.

Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see **Figure 4K.8**). The width of the anal fin is used as a reference to define

the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the caudal fin, which extend from the peduncle to the outer rim, are equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin. Ideally the anal fin and dorsal fin should not extend beyond the bottom edge and upper edge of the caudal fin, respectively. The caudal shows a primary branching (2-ray) with a 33% reduction in webbing between the primary rays and a 15% reduction between the secondary rays. The dorsal and anal both show a 33% reduction in webbing. Ideally the base of the dorsal fin should be between 1/2 - 2/3 of the width of the anal fin. The anal fin of crowntail females should not show a pointed tip but should run approximately parallel to the body. The length of the rays in the back of the anal fin match those of the caudal fin but the length of the rays slightly declines towards the front. The length of the ventral fins from the point where they are attached to the body to the tip is equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin.



**Figure 4L.8** Examples of crowntail females.

(A) was bred by Boris Weber-Schwartz (Germany), (B) was bred by Roberto Mancuso (Italy) and (C) was bred by Michel Stokelaar (The Netherlands).

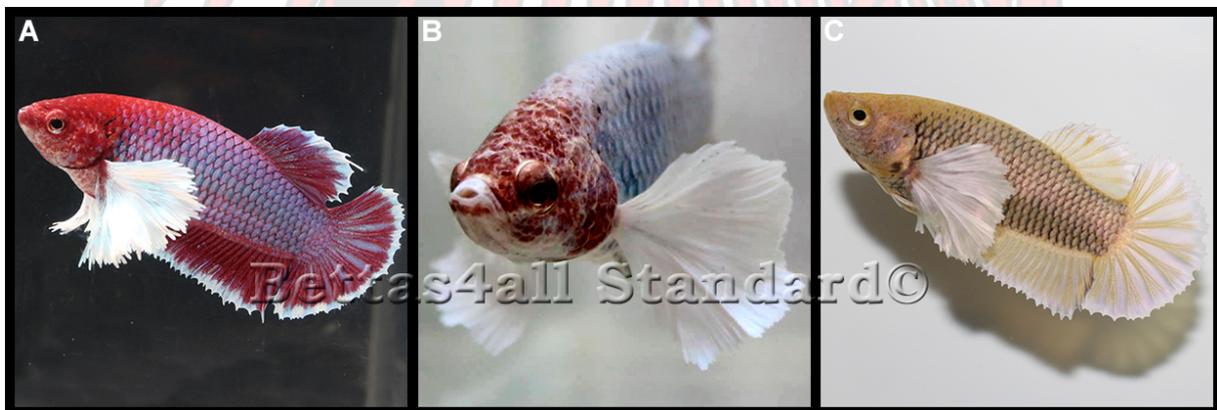
Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.

### 9. Form & Variations females

Although Form & Variation females have a shorter finnage, the overall form of the caudal, dorsal, anal, ventral and pectoral fins is similar to that of their male counterparts (see **Chapter 3K**). The body size for a giant Betta female ideally should be at least 5.50 cm (2.17 inch). The minimum body size for a show Betta to be classified as giant is 5.3 cm (2.09 inch). Here, larger fish are preferred above smaller fish if no other faults apply.

### 10. Large pectoral females

A female Betta will be classified with the large pectoral fins when the pectorals are at least 1/3 of the width of the anal fin (B-C). Large pectoral fins can be combined with all other finnage and size variations as described in this Chapter. Similar to the overall balance in their male counterparts, it is important that the finnage must be in proportion with the body (see **Figure 4L.9**). The width of the anal fin (B-C) is used as a reference to define the desired proportions. In the ideal situation the length of the rays of the pectoral fins, are equal to 1/2 of the width of the anal fin (B-C).



**Figure 4L.9** Examples of large pectoral females.

(A) was bred by Stefan Leopold (Germany), (B) was bred by Sabrina Molitor (Germany) and (C) was bred by Pagasit Duangprasert (Thailand).

Please note that these fish are examples and still exhibit points requiring improvement.