

TRADITIONAL PLAKAT STANDARDS

Plakats are the oldest of the domesticated *Betta* and are derived from animals bred for fighting. Show plakats bear certain distinctive features reflective of this ancestry. All plakats are short-tailed fish designed for rapid swimming. Specifically the dorsal and anal fins should not greatly exceed the body width and the caudal fin should not exceed 1/3 of the body length. Relative to other show *Betta*, the plakat body form is more stout and body mass greater. Plakats are expected to be notably more aggressive than other show *Betta*, to have the demeanor of a pit bulldog, and be constantly on the alert for intruders.

The plakat classes are defined on differences in body form and finnage as well as color, as detailed in the standards below. The two plakat forms are the traditional plakat and the show plakat. Either of two plakat forms may be entered in the regular and New Breeder classes. Here they are judged not only relative to one another, but by the degree to which they are faithful exemplars of their class.

The traditional plakat may be shown in any color. Show plakat classes are recognized in all color types.



photo by Sarawut Angkunanuwat

Judging on color criteria is performed in accord with the relevant typing system articulated in Chapter 6 and the corresponding special standards in Chapter 7. In addition to these colors an additional color - wild type - is available for plakats alone and fish of this color may be shown in either the traditional or appropriate show plakat class. The wild-type body is dark brown, with several rows of iridescent spots mostly on upper part of body. Scales edged in black. The head is dark above, lighter beneath, with little or no iridescence. Eyes are dark with iridescent flecks. The dorsal fin is iridescent green-gold, with black rays, and black irregular cross bands (flecks). The caudal displays a black trimmed edge and both red and green iridescent coloration in no distinct pattern. The anal fin is colored similarly, but the posterior fin tip is red. The pectoral fins are colorless or black-edged and the ventral fins red, black and/or iridescent with white tips.

The scope of these standards applies to male single tail plakats. Double-tail plakat males must go into form variations; female double-tail plakats should go into regular double tail color classes for females.

FORM CRITERIA

Traditional Plakats

The traditional plakat is a stout, heavy bodied aggressive fish with distinctive finnage.

Dorsal - The dorsal fin may be either uniformly rounded or come to point (see figure at left).

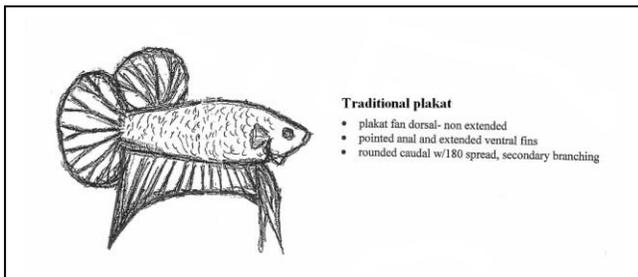


Photo by Chris Yew

Anal - The anal fin has a trapezoid shape with the forward (anterior) edge shorter than the rear (posterior) edge. The posterior tip should be pointed (see figure at left). When flaring the rear edge of the anal fin should overlap the lower portion of the caudal fin.

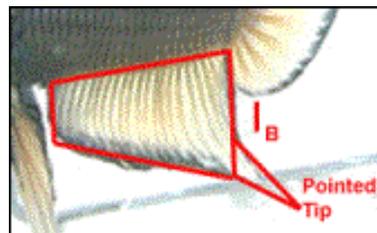


photo by Chris Yew

Caudal - The caudal fin may be either spade shaped (see figure) or rounded. If spade-shaped the point should be at the midpoint of the fin. A caudal spread of 180° is preferred, but differs from the requirements for other show Betta and for other plakat classes in two respects. First the edges of the caudal fin are expected to be rounded rather than shaped in the configuration of the letter D (see figures). Second, the 180° caudal should not be achieved by greater than primary or secondary branching of the caudal fin rays. Thus the caudal spread in a traditional plakat is achieved by an increase in the volume of tissue between rays rather than by an increase in fin ray branching.



photo by Chris Yew

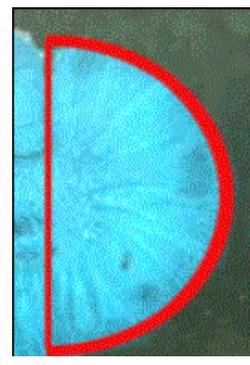


photo by Chris Yew

Ventral fins - Ventral fins can

be either full or thin, but are expected to be notably longer than in other show Betta, 2/3 the length of the length of the body (as measured from the base of the ventral fin to the caudal peduncle) or longer - see Figure.

Pectoral fins - As in other show Betta.

Traditional Plakat Form & Finnacle Faults

1. Body excessively stout and heavy (Slight Fault)
2. Dorsal fin narrow (Minor Fault)
3. Ventral fins less than 2/3 body length (Minor Fault)
4. Caudal fin spread > 165°, but < 180° (Minor Fault)
5. Caudal branching greater than 2° (Minor Fault)
6. Anal fin rounded – not pointed (Major Fault)
7. Caudal fin less than 165° (Major Fault)
8. Ventral fins 1/2 body length or less (Major Fault)
9. Body extremely slender like some other Betta species (Major Fault).

ALL OTHER APPROPRIATE GENERAL FAULTS APPLY.



photo by Chris Yew

Show Plakat Standard

This is the most common of the plakat forms bred today, combining traits of traditional plakats and show Betta. Like the traditional, the form is asymmetrical. The show plakat standard is the same in all respects to that of the traditional plakat with two essential exceptions:

Dorsal: The dorsal fin should be semi-circular and preferably snap open as a fan. In the most ideal situation the dorsal overlaps the upper part of the caudal. The upper front edge can be either sharp or slightly rounded. The capacity of the fin to open in this fashion is often achieved not by an increase in volume, but by an increase in fin ray branching and possibly a slight increase of rays. In the most ideal situation, the dorsal overlaps the upper part of the caudal. Overlap of the dorsal with the body is not desirable.

Caudal: Unlike the traditional plakat, the caudal fin is the same as the standard show Betta. - -. The caudal spread is 180 degrees, has straight rays, sharp edges and the shape of a semi-circle (capital "D"), no longer the 1/3rd the length of the body. The ray splitting should be evenly distributed with a secondary branching (4-ray) or more without becoming too excessive. A >180 degree spread (overhalfmoon, oHM) is not preferred above a 180 degree spread.

Anal: The anal fin has a trapezoid shape with the front rays (anterior) part shorter than the rear (posterior) part. From the front to the back the anal show as gradual slope coming to a pointed tip. The longest ray of the anal ideally should be at least twice as long or longer (preferred) as the length of the outer rays of the caudal. During flaring, the front should be directed forward and the back should overlap the lower part of the caudal.

Ventrals: The shaper of the ventrals mimic the blade of a knife with the cutting edge directed backwards. The ventrals have a full appearance, are equal in length and should not appear to be permanently crossed. The length of the ventrals should be at least equal to the longest ray of the anal.

Pectoral fins: As in other show betta.



photo by Charnwit Saelai

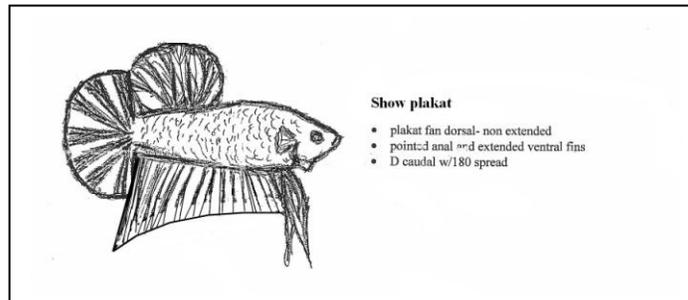


Photo By:

Lucie Tourneur





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Show Plakat Form & Finnacle Faults

1. Ventral fins *slightly* less than 2/3 body length (Slight Fault)
2. Ventral fins – single tip preferred, double tips (Slight Fault)
3. Dorsal and anal-most caudal fin rays (“edge” rays) shorter than other caudal fin rays (so-called ‘rounded edges’) (Minor Fault)
4. Dorsal fin without primary branching (Minor Fault)
5. Ventral fins 1/2 body length or slightly less (Minor Fault)
6. Branching in caudal fin <math><3^\circ</math> (Minor Fault)
7. Anal fin fails to slope strongly from anterior to posterior (Major Fault)
8. Tip of anal fin fails to display extended point (Major Fault)
9. Less than 180° Caudal spread (Major Fault)

ALL OTHER APPROPRIATE GENERAL FAULTS APPLY.

TRADITIONAL AND SHOW PLAKAT FEMALE BETTAS

Female Traditional and Show Plakat Bettas are of the same general form as their male counterparts, but with shorter fins and broader bodies.

The IBC encourages in this class the distinctive female Plakat form. Female Plakat Bettas vary considerably from males in several ways and should always appear "female."

Females are generally expected to be somewhat smaller overall. They are usually more rounded in the belly area than males. Female fins are not expected to reach the same size or proportion of the male finnage.

General Characteristics

1. The female Plakat is not expected to have the finnage of their long-fin female counterparts. The dorsal is expected to be smaller.
2. The dorsal of a female plakat may open like a fan as in the male form.
3. The anal fin will be shorter; with slight rounding at the front of the anal fin and will show an extended point at the tip of the fin.
4. Females are expected to show an egg spot.
5. Females should be more aggressive in their deportment than their long fin female counterparts.

TRADITIONAL FEMALE PLAKATS

The traditional female plakats will have the same caudal characteristics of their male counterparts. The caudal edges are expected to be rounded rather than in the shape of a semicircle (capital "D"). The dorsal fin will be smaller. The anal fin has a trapezoid shape with the forward (anterior) edge shorter than the rear (posterior) edge.

Traditional Form & Finnage Faults

1. **Body excessively stout and heavy (Slight Fault)**
2. **Dorsal fin narrow (Minor Fault)**
3. **Caudal fin spread > 165°, but < 180° (Minor Fault)**
5. **Caudal branching greater than 2° (Minor Fault)**
6. **Anal fin rounded – not pointed (Major Fault)**
7. **Caudal fin less than 165° (Major Fault)**

Show Female Plakats

The show female plakats will have the same characteristics of the traditional female except that the caudal spread is 180 degrees, has straight rays, sharp edges and the shape of a semi-circle (capital "D").

Show Plakat Form & Finnage Faults

1. **Body excessively stout and heavy (Slight Fault)**
2. **Dorsal fin narrow (Minor Fault)**
3. **Dorsal and anal-most caudal fin rays ("edge" rays) shorter than other caudal fin rays (so-called 'rounded edges') (Minor Fault)**
4. **Branching in caudal fin <3° (Minor Fault)**
5. **Anal fin fails to slope strongly from anterior to posterior (Major Fault)**
6. **Tip of anal fin fails to display extended point (Major Fault)**
7. **Less than 180° Caudal spread (Major Fault)**

ALL APPROPRIATE GENERAL AND SPECIAL FAULTS APPLY

Show Plakat Female



Traditional Plakat Female

