

What Size Should a Fife Be

by jimlad on 2010-01-10, 01:31:59 am (reprinted by **Australian Fife Canary**, Jan 2011)

Here's one to start the ball rolling

In recent times there has been lots of discussion and argument over the size of the Fife Canary, and it has cropped up again on this forum. So here are my views, there should be no argument, the rule states Not To Exceed 4¼ inches, so fanciers and Judges alike should be trying to get as close as possible to the official standard. The Fife canary carries 25 points for size, I assume this was done by the founders of the fancy to make sure that size would be of utmost importance. I say to those, that say you cannot have a small Fife with back and width, the bird should have the back and width in comparison to its length, if you want a bigger bird with more width and more size maybe you should keep Borders.

There will always be arguments over the size of a Fife canary as it is impossible to measure a bird in a show cage, and when the bigger bird wins the usual excuse given is, the bigger bird had better type. This is confusing to all, as the standard says Not to Exceed 4¼ inches and yet some birds that are obviously over size, end up taking the prizes.

When do we say a bird is too big to be a Fife canary? (when it is over 4¼ inches) you are always going to get birds just over the size winning, as it is difficult to judge size to within a ¼ of an inch or so, I would suggest that if a unflighted Fife is placed in a show cage, while standing on one perch if its tail is anywhere near the other perch then it is too big (or it is possibly standing at the wrong angle) either way the bird should not win. There are use's for the bigger birds in your breeding program, but they should be left at home and not shown.

We have some fanciers that say it is impossible to breed a buff cock with good type under 4¼ inches, to these people I say look at other showing circles and compare the Toy poodle to the Standard Poodle, the Standard Poodle was originally bred as a working gun dog, the french aristocracy wanted a smaller version to keep as a lap dog and over many years of selective breeding programs they produced a miniature and toy version, an exact replica's of the original dog.

Look at the diversity between the Shire horse and the Shetland pony, and in our own circles, between the Norwich canary and a Gloster with a corona, you will then understand that with a dedicated breeding program anything can be achieved, we should not follow other fancies that are altering their show standards to coincide with the birds they have at home. I urge Judges to stick to the show standard and not put up birds that are obviously to big, else we will all end up keeping Borders.

I am not looking for a fight, there have been suggestions of late in the press that the Fife should be called a miniature Border!, and an eminent champion suggesting we should alter the standard, and make the Fife bigger so they could carry more width! I am just worried that our Fancy will go the way of others and we will lose the Fife canary as it supposed to be.

Jim

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<http://fifecanary.phpbb3now.com/viewtopic.php?f=2&t=282&sid=806666fe7aa2c1e400616f299f7f8392>
