



## Rabbit Showmanship

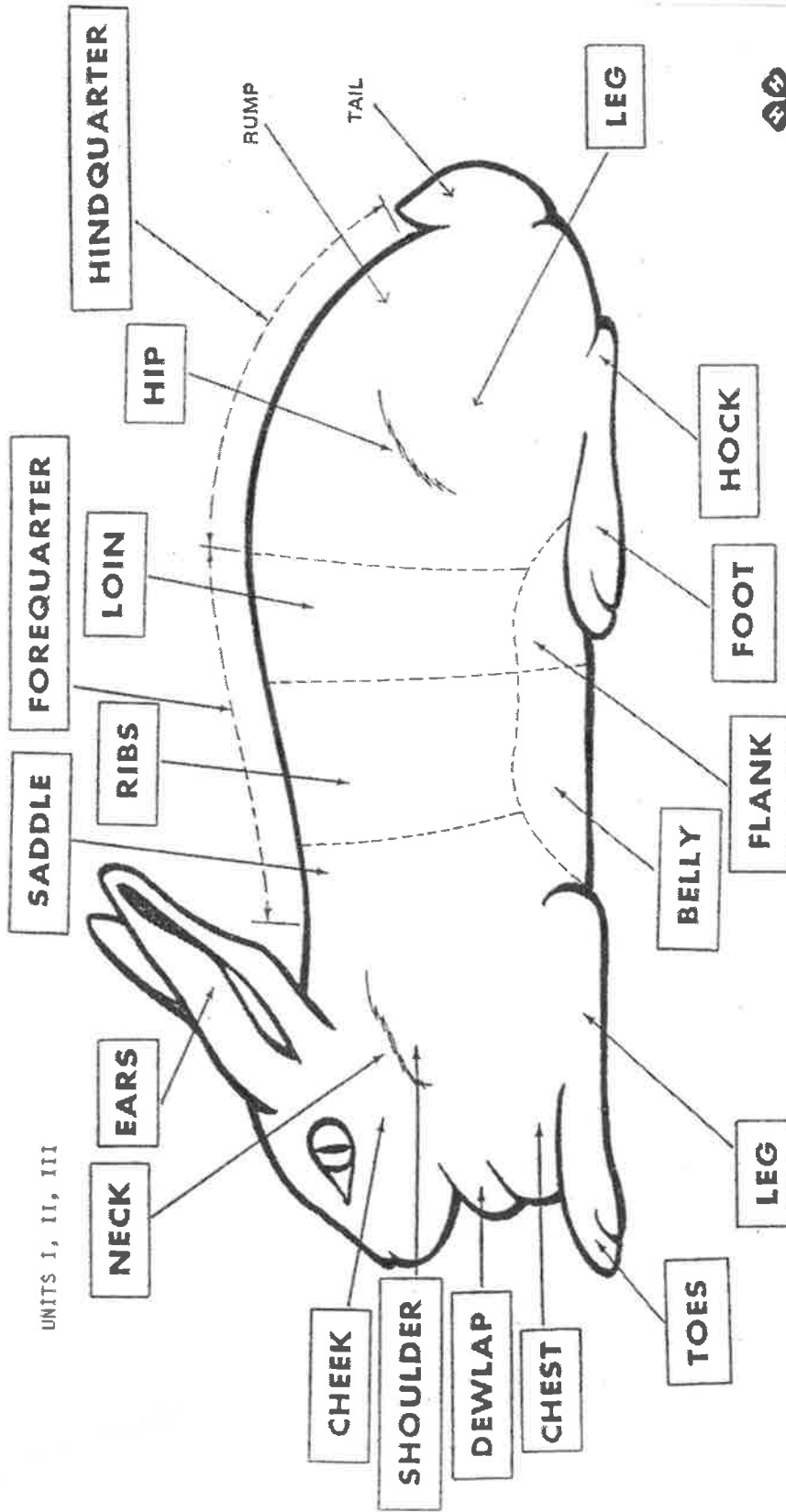
**General Note to judge:** Judge the contestants actions and knowledge- Do not judge the behavior or condition of the rabbit

Step	Actions	pts	Terms	pts	pts
Carry	Proper support Maintain control	5			5
Pose	Correct pose for breed Introduction- greeting/name, Step back	3	Breed, Compact, Cylindrical, Full Arch Mandolin, Semi-Arch, Commercial	2	5
Ears	Check both ears Read tattoo	3	Mites, Canker, Carriage, Thickness, Color Torn or Missing Portions, Fur Covering	2	5
Turn over	Smooth motion, Proper control Rest weight on table	5			5
Eyes	Properly open eyes Not forcing open	3	Proper Color, Blindness, Wall eye, Moon Eye Weepy Eye or Signs of Conjunctivitis	2	5
Nose	Proper hand position Show both nostrils Check inside legs for nasal discharge	3	Snuffles, Nasal Discharge Foreign Spots or Colors	2	5
Teeth	Proper hand position Show upper and lower incisors	3	Malocclusion, Buck teeth, Wolf Teeth Peg Teeth, Broken Teeth	2	5
Front Feet/ Legs	Check straightness of legs Check toenails, pad & dewclaw Proper thumb position	3	Broken, Extra & Missing Toes Mismatched, White, Missing Toenails Bone Density, Dewclaw, Pads	2	5
Belly	Check under jaw & chest Check abdomen & sides Smooth and complete coverage	3	Abscess, Tumor, Abnormalities Pigeon Breast, Blemishes, Mastitis	2	5
Rear Feet/ Legs	Check straightness of legs Check toenails and hocks Proper thumb position	3	Broken & Missing Toes Mismatched, White, Missing Toenails Bone Density, Straightness, Sore Hocks	2	5
Sex	Proper position of rabbit and hand Expose vent/ penis & testicles	3	Buck/Doe, Vent Disease, Hutch Burn Split Penis, Descended Testicles in Int/ Sr	2	5
Tail	Extend tail, Move side to side Examine underside	3	Wry, Dead, Bobbed, Broken Color, Straightness	2	5
Fur	Return to pose, Smooth motion Proper control, Stroke coat from tail to head to show fur type	3	Density, Texture, Sheen, Luster Rollback, Flyback, Rex, Standing, Wool Undercolor, Ring Color, Surface Color, Molt	2	5
Judging Comments	Final pose, Head, Ears, Shoulder Chest, Midsection, Loin, Hindquarters Rump, Breed specific (markings/color)	10	Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Balance Condition, Finish Did not use word "Nice"!	5	15
Overall Presentation	Show coat/ Apron/ Long sleeves Smile, Hair neat No rings, No dangling jewelry, No gum	5	Humane treatment/ controls animal at all times Good eye contact, Follows directions Thanks judge	5	10
Knowledge			Answers to questions	10	10
Judge			Total Score		100

Comments:

# RABBIT STUDY GUIDE


## Rabbit Parts



UNITS I, II, III

### RABBIT... PARTS IDENTIFICATION

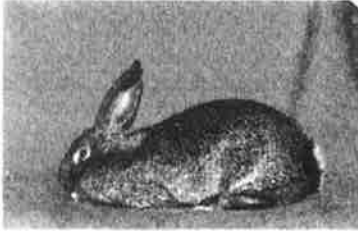
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### TYPE PROFILE OF RABBITS

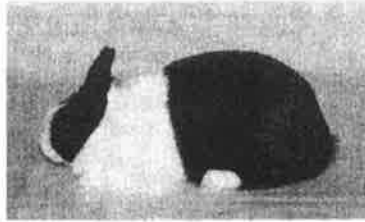
#### LEVEL III



**SEMI – ARCH TYPE:** This group all carry a very good arch starting back of the shoulders and carrying through to the base of the tail and is referred to as having mandolin type.

Included in this group are American, Beveren, English, Lop, Flemish Giant, and Giant Chinchilla.

This group should be posed with the forelegs and hocks flat on the table for the initial examination. A better evaluation of type may be obtained by allowing some of these animals to move naturally, on the table, after the initial examination.



**COMPACT TYPE:** Most all of these animals are lighter in weight and shorter in length than the commercial breeds.

Included in this group are: American Fuzzy Lop, English Angora, Standard Chinchilla, Dutch, Dwarf Hotot, Florida White, Havana, Holland Lop, Jersey Wooly, Lilac, Mini Lop, Mini Rex, Netherland Dwarf, Polish, and Silver.

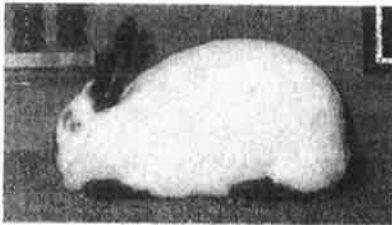
Most of this group are posed with the forelegs and hocks flat on the table, However, a few are posed in a semi “pushed-up” position resting lightly on the front feet.



**FULL ARCH TYPE:** Animals with this type show an arch starting at the nape of the neck, running over the shoulder, mid-section, loin, and hips, to the juncture of the tail. Most all animals will show more depth than width.

Included in this group are: Belgian Hare, Britannia Petite, Checkered Giant, English Spot, Rhinelander, and Tan.

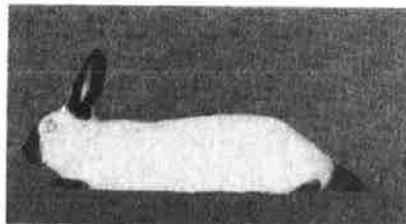
Most of this group should be allowed to move naturally after the original examination and all will pose up on the front feet and toes.



**COMMERCIAL TYPE:** This group is considered to be the ideal meat type. They are medium in length with depth equaling width, showing roundness of body and firmness of flesh with very little offal when dressed.

Included in this group are: French Angora, giant Angora, Satin Angora, Champagne d'Argent, Californian, Cinnamon, American Chinchilla, Crème d'Argent, French Lop, Harlequin, Hotot, New Zealand, Palomino, Rex, American Sable, Satin, Silver Fox, and Silver Marten.

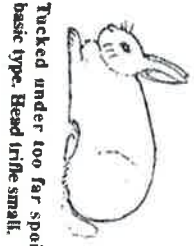
This group is posed with the forelegs and hocks flat on the table, not bunched up or stretched out but rather in a sort of natural pose.



**CYLINDRICAL TYPE:** This group has a type that is long, slim, and cylindrical with fine bone and a long slender head.

This group is comprised of the Himalayan. It is posed stretched out as far as possible but with the forelegs and hocks flat on the table. This allows for its length, type, and markings to be shown at their best advantage.

**BASIC HANDLING AND BREEDING FAULTS FOUND IN COMMERCIAL AND OTHER BREEDS**  
*(See specific breed standard for posing and handling suggestions)*



Tucked under too far spoiling basic type. Head trifle small.



Stretched out too far to rear, making rump slope off, spoiling depth and type.



Low over mid-section (swaying, but ruining balance).



Low in shoulder, good depth of hip, but ruining balance.



High point behind center of hip, causing hips to chop off. Rather flat top line.



High point forward of center of hip causing hip to slope off instead of rounding off.



Cow-Hocked Hind Feet



Good Parallel Hind Feet



Side Carried Tail



Screw Tail



Good Tail Carriage



Bowed Limbs, Outward



Bowed Limbs, Inward

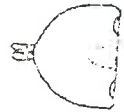


Good, Straight Limbs

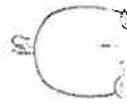
TOP & END VIEWS OF GOOD AND BAD TYPE FEATURES



Narrow in shoulders, hips lacking roundness, pinched and sloping off at top.



Shoulders too wide for pinched back end. Slightly undercut in hindquarters.



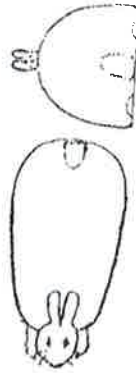
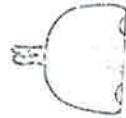
Narrow in shoulders and mid-section. Valley or low at center of hips.



Weak at mid-section and loin. Rough and protruding hip bones.



Trifle beefy in shoulders, nice, full width rump, but flat over top of hindquarters.



Very well balanced throughout, showing nice taper from front to back, full back end, with well rounded top.

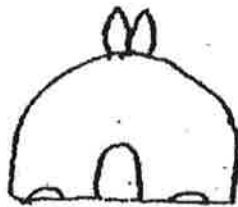
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JUDGING ILLUSTRATION

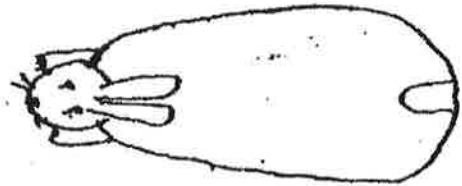
**Judging Rabbits – What to look for**



Moderate length  
Correct topline  
Good depth of body



Good body depth and  
width



Correct top



Incorrect topline  
Weak behind shoulders



Too narrow



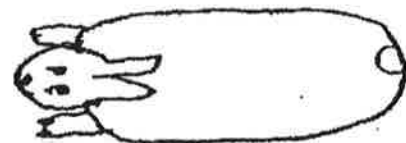
Too large in shoulders



Incorrect topline  
Too steep slope in rump



Too wide



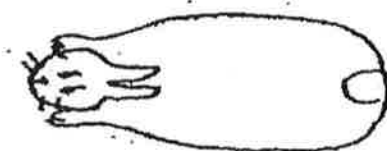
Too narrow especially in  
hind quarters



Incorrect topline



Too prominent in hips



Narrow in shoulder

# RABBIT STUDY GUIDE

## ALL LEVELS READ and HEED

Did you know that.....

Dogs are one of the greatest enemies of Domestic Rabbits? Be sure your animals are housed in a safe place!

Heat prostration kills many rabbits each summer. Here in Central California we must pay particular attention to keeping our bunnies out of the direct sun. (Keep them as cool as possible on hot days by checking their water source and giving them ice bottles.) Remember that a buck maintained for several days in temperatures over 85 degrees may become sterile.

Rabbits can produce **5 times as much meat** from a given amount of alfalfa as cattle or sheep.

Rabbit meat contains **less fat than either chicken or turkey** and there is also a far greater ratio of meat to waste.

The fur industry uses rabbit fur extensively, particularly that of the Rex rabbit.

The wool from angora rabbits is very desirable for use in the manufacture of luxury garments.

A rabbit does not need a pedigree in order to be **SHOWN**, but it does need a **3 generation pedigree** in order to be **REGISTERED**.

Pharmaceutical production utilizes portions of the “waste” from rabbit processing.

Rabbits are used in many laboratories, their cleanliness being highly desirable in that type setting.

Rabbits as pets are becoming more popular each year!!

Showing rabbits is an enjoyable pastime. It is a great 4-H project because rabbits tend to be quite easy to start into. There is usually at least one fair each year in your area, where the rabbits are shown. In a recent ARBA (American Rabbit Breeders Association) national convention there were over 20,000 rabbits exhibited. One of these conventions is held each fall in various parts of the country.

When you choose your first rabbit try to purchase the very best animal your budget will allow. It is much less expensive to feed a good quality rabbit for good results than it is to feed a poor quality animal a longer time in an effort to make it usable.

Keeping good records is very vital if you are going to be successful raising rabbits! You will want to learn how to breed your rabbits for improvement of your “herd”. **ALWAYS WRITE THE INFORMATION DOWN** – Never trust your memory!

If your rabbit project is to be done properly, **GENETICS** will play a major role.

One of the most interesting genetic studies is that of Coat Color. There are two (and only two) actual "colors" involved in animal coat colors: Black and Chocolate. (White is not a color, but the absence of color.) Any colors that appear not to be these colors have resulted from some genetic modification of these colors (e.g.: dilution, pattern, etc.). Many books are available for further study if you want to explore the subject more deeply.

In order to consistently improve your line of rabbits you will need to learn to "cull" carefully. Never use animals as "breeders" that do not conform to the particular breed standard. "Cute and Different" is great for a "pet" but don't consider using that as the only reason to choose a "papa" for your next generation of winners!

Enjoy your rabbits!

Treat them well!

They will give you a lot of enjoyment!

*The more you work with them, the more you will appreciate them!*



## RABBIT GLOSSARY

This is a glossary of words and terms specific to rabbits and rabbit showing. These are not necessarily the dictionary definitions.

**ABSCESS or BOIL**-A localized area of inflammation caused by an infection under the skin, in a gland, or in a hair follicle. It may produce localized swelling, heat, and redness. It is sometimes characterized by swollen, inflamed tissue, where pus gathers. A disqualification from competition.

**ADULT**-A mature rabbit of breeding age. For show classification, see senior.

**AGOUTI PATTERN**-A hair shaft that has three or more bands of color, with a definite break between each color. It usually has dark slate at the base, with two or more alternating light or dark bands of color, which is further interspersed with contrasting guard hairs. The head, feet, and ears usually have ticking. Eye circles, belly, under jaws, underside of tail, and triangle are much lighter (may be white in some cases) and do not carry ticking.

**ALBINO**-A white rabbit with pink eyes caused by a recessive gene.

**ARCH**-The gentle curvature of the spine, extending from the neck (or shoulders in some breeds) to the rear of the rabbit. This is best observed by viewing the animal in side profile.

**AWN FLUFF**-The soft, crimped, intermediate wool fibers ending with a straight tip. A type of wool fiber described in the Giant Angora standard.

**AWN HAIR**-The strong, straight, guard hair protruding above the undercoat in the Giant Angora.

**BACK**-The top portion of the shoulders, loin, and hindquarters.

**BALANCE**-(1) Type--Shape or conformation. An orderly and pleasing arrangement of physical characteristics, so as to present a harmonious appearance. (2) Markings--Equal distribution of corresponding markings, such as color divisions of the Harlequin, or equal amounts of color on the cheeks of the Dutch. Equal distribution of color in the pattern and side markings of the Checkered Giant, English Spot, and Rhineland.

**BAND**-An unbroken vertical circle of marking color around the body of the Harlequin.

**BANDING**-A hair shaft having

various colors. Normally associated with an agouti coat.

**BANGS**-The longer wool appearing at the front base of the ears and top of the head in some wool breeds.

**BAR**-A semicircle of marking color, running vertically on the sides or body of the Harlequin.

**BARRED**-(1) Elongated spots which should be round. (As found in the side markings of the Rhineland or English Spot, or the cheek spots of the Rhineland, English Spot, or Checkered Giant.) (2) Light colored streaks or bars on the front or rear feet.

**BASE COLOR or UNDERCOLOR**-The fur color at the base of the fur shaft next to the skin.

**BELL EARS**-Ears that have large, heavy tips with a distinctive fall or lop.

**BELLY**-The abdomen, from the last rib to the pelvis, containing primarily the organs of digestion.

**BELLY COLOR**-The color on the underside of the rabbit extending from the forelegs to the crotch area.

**BLAZE**-The white marking found on the face of a Dutch. It should be medium wide and wedge shaped, covering the nose, whisker bed, and tapering up to the ears, where it joins the hair line. The blaze is to continue to the cheeks and should be well rounded and follow the jaw line after passing the whisker bed.

**BLEMISH**-Any defect or fault which detracts from the appearance.  
**BLOOM**-The vitality and finish of a coat in good condition.  
**BOB TAIL**--A tail noticeably shorter than normal. A disqualification from competition.

**BOIL or ABSCESS**--A localized area of inflammation caused by an infection under the skin, in a gland, or in a hair follicle. It may produce localized swelling, heat, and redness. It is sometimes characterized by swollen, inflamed tissue, where pus gathers. A disqualification from competition.

**BONE**-The term used to describe the skeletal structure of a rabbit.  
**BOOTS**-The colored markings on the feet and legs of Pointed Pattern rabbits.

**BOWED LEGS**-May be applied to the fore or hind legs. Bent like a bow. Legs that are curved outwardly or inwardly from the middle. A disqualification from competition.

**BREED**-A class of domestic rabbits that reproduces itself with distinctive characteristics, such as fur, markings, shape, and size.  
**BREEDER**-(1) Anyone who raises a breed or variety of rabbits which complies with the Standard of Perfection. (2) A rabbit used primarily to produce offspring.

**BREEDING CERTIFICATE**-A written certificate, issued by the owner of a stud buck, showing its pedigree and the date of breeding to a particular doe. It is issued as proof of the ancestry of the anticipated litter.

**BRINDLE**-An intermixture of two colors without definite pattern.  
**BRINDLING**-The longer tan tipped guard hairs carried up the flanks and hindquarter of Tan Pattern rabbits.

**BROKEN COAT**-Fur with guard hairs missing or broken, exposing the undercoat. A coat that is affected by molt, exposing the undercoat.  
**BUCK**-An intact male rabbit.

**BUCK TEETH**-See wolf teeth. A disqualification from competition.  
**BULL DOG HEAD**-A short, broad, bold head, with a definite masculine appearance.

**BUTTERFLY**-A nose marking found on some marked breeds and Broken varieties. The wing portions cover the whisker bed and upper lip, with the body or nose fork extending up the center of the face.

**BUTTING TEETH**-A form of malocclusion, where the incisors meet evenly, without the upper incisors overlapping the lower incisors in proper structure. A disqualification from competition.

**CAKED TEAT OR BREAST**-The swollen, hard, milk-filled mammary gland caused by excess production of milk.

**CAP**-The marking line where lower ear color stops and joins head color. Specified in the Checkered Giant.

**CARRIAGE**-(1) The manner in which a rabbit carries itself. The style or characteristic pose of a rabbit. (2) The style in which a rabbit carries its ears.

**CATARACT**-An opaque or white lens in either or both eyes. A disqualification from competition.

**CHAIN**-The arrangement of the spots on an English Spot, running from the neck to the midsection.

**CHARLIE**-An extremely lightly marked animal in marked breeds or Broken Groups. A Charlie usually has colored ears, light eye circles, and a "Charlie Chaplin" mustache-like marking. It is usually devoid of back and side markings.

**CHEEK SPOT**-A single, round spot of color on the cheek of marked breeds. It should center where the whisker emerges, below the eye.

**CHEEKS**-(1) The sides of the face, below the eyes. (2) The rounded color head marking that forms the blaze and carries down along the jawline of a Dutch.

**CHEST**-The front portion of the body between the forelegs, belly, and the neck.

**CHOPPED**-A body type fault in which there is an abrupt and sharp vertical fall from the top of the hip to the tail. Not well filled out and rounded.

**CLASSIFICATION**-A system of arranging the judging within different breeds.

**CLEAN**-(1) A term used on French Angora, Satin Angora, Jersey Woolly, and Fuzzy Lop head, ears, feet, and legs, denoting the presence of normal fur (absence of wool). (2) Well-formed markings without congestion or drags.

**COAT**-The fur covering of a rabbit.

**COBBY**-A short and stocky body type which is close coupled and very compact.

**COLD**-An infection localized in the nose, usually characterized by repeated sneezing and the discharge of a white purulent fluid from the nose. It is sometimes accompanied by matted fur on the inside of the front feet. A disqualification from competition.

**COLLAR**-(1) The area surrounding the neck (2) The marking connecting the triangle and the chest on a Tan.

**COMPATIBLE**-Normal eye color that complements or matches the body color.

**CONDITION**-The overall physical state of a rabbit in relation to health, cleanliness, fur, and grooming.

**CONJUNCTIVITIS**-Inflammation of the inner membrane of the eyelid and sometimes the portion of the membrane that covers the white of the eye. A disqualification from competition.

**COTTONY**-A very fine, soft textured fur or wool that lacks guard hair.

**COW HOCKS**-Hind legs that turn inward at the hock, causing the toe portion to turn outward from the body. A disqualification from competition, if severe.

**CRIMP**-The natural waviness of the fiber in a wool undercoat.

**CROWN**-A strong basal ridge of cartilage at the top of the head, forming the ear base on some lop eared breeds.

**CROWN SPOTS or PEA SPOTS**-Two spots of marking color at the inside base of the ears in Tan Pattern breeds.

**DEAD HAIRS**-Fur that lacks life. Caused by molting or dead coat.

**DEAD TAIL**-A tail that is hard and brittle due to the loss of circulation. Not a disqualification unless broken and out of alignment.

that render a rabbit ineligible for competition or registration.

**DOE**-An intact female rabbit.  
**DRAG**-The intrusion of a color marking into a white marking area.

**EAR BASE**-The area where the ears attach to the skull or head.  
**EAR CANKER**-An inflamed, scabby condition, inside the ear. It is caused by an infection of the ear canal by an ear mite. A

disqualification from competition.

**EAR CARRIAGE**-The holding or carriage displayed by a rabbit's ears when it is in a relaxed, normal pose.

**EAR LACING**-A colored line of fur that outlines the sides and tips of the ears.

**EAR MARK**-A permanent ink tattoo in a rabbit's left ear for the purpose of identification.

**EXTENSION**-(1) The term describing the length of leg and limb.

(2) The term describing the depth of color carried down a hair shaft.

**EYE BAND**-A thin marking that forms a complete outline of the eye. It is found in the Blanc de Hotot and Dwarf Hotot.

**EYE CIRCLE**-A round marking surrounding the eye.

**EYE COLOR**-The circle of color that surrounds the pupil of the eye, also known as the iris.

**EYE STAIN**-Splotches or streaks of color around the eyes in Pointed Pattern rabbits.

**FAULT**-A deviation from perfection or a physical imperfection.

**FAKING**-Any dyeing, plucking, trimming, or clipping so as to alter appearance. For example, coloring toenails, or powdering and indiscriminate use of grooming preparations designed to alter the natural condition or appearance). A disqualification from competition.

**DEFINITION**-(1) The sharpness and clarity of a color break on a hair shaft, as in the ring color in Agouti fur. (2) The contrast between two or more colors.

**DENSITY**-The property or quality of a thick coat of fur. The number of fur fibers in a given area.

**DEPTH**-(1) The measurement downward from the top line of the body to the lowest portion of the body. (2) The term describing the extension of color down the hair shaft.

**DEVIATED SPINE**-A deviation in the spine (vertebrae of the neck and back) whereby the normal alignment of the bones is replaced by

deformed, misshapen, or misaligned vertebrae. The condition can often be detected by gentle palpation of the vertebrae along the top line of the rabbit (usually detected in the shoulder area).

A disqualification from competition.

**DEVIATED STERNUM**-A condition in which the connecting tissue of the ribs and/or breastbone fuse together forming an irregular sternum. Typically found at the lower end of the rib cage. Characterized

by a lump or cone shaped bony protrusion, which may also extend up into the internal cavity of the animal. A disqualification from

competition.

**DEWCLAW**-An extra toe or functionless digit on the inside of the front legs.

**DEWLAP**-A pendulous fold of loose skin that hangs from the throat. It is common in does. It should be in proportion to the total body size.

A disqualification from competition in some breeds.

**DISQUALIFICATION or DISQUALIFICATION FROM COMPETITION**-One or more defects, deformities, or blemishes



**FEATHER**-(1) Small colored drag off the top of the eye circle. Usually associated with the English Spot, Rhineland, or Checkered Giant.

**FEATHERING**-Any drag in the coloration of a Dwarf Hotot eye band.

**FELTING**-Wool fibers that have become interwoven during natural growth.

**FIBER**-The individual hair that combines with others to compose a coat of fur/wool.

**FINE COAT**-A coat of fur too fine in texture, lacking body. The guard hairs are weak and thin in structure. It is lacking the proper amount of guard hairs.

**FINISH**-The desired degree of perfection in condition. Fully prime in coat, color, and flesh.

**FLABBY**-The condition of a rabbit where the skin hangs loosely by its own weight. Not trim, shapely, or firm of flesh.

**FLANGE**-The thin outer portion of the backside of the ear.

**FLANK**-The side of the rabbit between the rib and the hip, above the belly.

**FLAT COAT**-A coat of fur lying too close to the body. Lacks spring or body as noted by touch. Usually a fine coat coupled with lack of density.

**FLAT SHOULDERS**-A trait that occurs when the top line over the shoulders is noticeably parallel to the surface of the judging table. A lack of continuous arch from the neck over the shoulders.

**FLEA**-A small wingless bloodsucking insect that may feed on rabbits. A disqualification from competition.

**FLEECE**-The wool covering the rabbit, including all growing fibers.

**FLYBACK**-A coat of fur that quickly returns to its smooth normal position when stroked from the hindquarters to the shoulders. See ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard.

**FOOT**-The portion of the skeleton on which the rabbit walks or stands. On the foreleg, that portion below the pastern or ankle. On the rear leg, that portion below the hock.

**FOREHEAD**-The front part of the head between the eyes and the base of the ears, also known as the brow.

**FOREIGN COLOR**-Any color of fur, nails, or eyes differing from that called for in the Standard of Perfection for the breed or variety. A disqualification from competition.

**FOREQUARTER**-The portion of the body, starting with the neck, back to, and including the last rib.

**FRECKLE**-A foreign colored pigment on the skin in the nose and mouth area. A disqualification in some breeds such as Dutch.

**FRINGES**-The wool on some breeds appearing on the ears and falling between the tassels and bangs.

**FRYER**-A young rabbit ready for market.

**FUR**-The hair or coat of a rabbit.

**FURNISHINGS**-The tassels, fringes on the ears, the bangs, and the head side trimmings on some wool breeds.

**GESTATION**-The length of time between conception and birth (usually 31 days). The carrying of young.

**GLOSSY**-The reflection, luster, or brightness from a naturally healthy fur. A natural property of fur, sometimes improved by grooming.

**GRADUATION**-The increase in the size of the spots in the side pattern/sweep of an English Spot.

**GROUP**-A broader classification than variety, usually applied to color pattern groupings.

**GUARD HAIR**-The longer, coarser protruding hair of the coat, which offers protection to the undercoat. It furnishes wearing quality and resiliency to the coat. Guard hairs in Rex fur should not protrude, ideally it would be the same length as the undercoat.

**HAIRLINE**-The narrow white line running between the ears of a Dutch, connecting the blaze to the neck marking.

**HARLEQUIN PATTERN**-Six markings and their alternation-ears, face, chest, forelegs, rear legs, and body.

**HEAD MARKINGS**-The Butterfly, Eye Circles, Cheek Spots, and Ear Markings of the Checkered Giant, English Spot, and Rhineland.

**HERNIA OR RUPTURE**-A protrusion of an organ or part (as the intestine) through connective tissue or through a wall of the cavity (as of the abdomen) in which it is normally enclosed. A disqualification from competition.

**HERRINGBONE**-The serrated edge to the spine marking in the English Spot.

**HIND LEG**-Consists of the foot, hock, stifle (knee), and hip joint.

**HINDQUARTERS**-The rear portion or section of the body from the last rib. Composed of the loin, hips, hind legs, and rump.

**HIP**-The joint that attaches the hind legs to the trunk of the body.

**HOCK**-The area of the foot that carries the weight of the rabbit.

**IMPORT**-A rabbit in the US or Canada that was born in a foreign country.

**INSIDE OF EAR**-The concave portion of the ear.

**INTERMEDIATE**-Terminology used in breeds having 6 showroom classes. A rabbit 6 months of age and under 8 months of age, or meeting weight requirements of the breed standard for that age group. Only breeds with a minimum ideal senior weight of 9 pounds and over will have an intermediate class.

**IRIS**-The colored portion of the eye surrounding the pupil.

**JUNIOR**-A rabbit less than 6 months of age.

**JOWL**-One of the lateral halves of the mandible.

**KINDLE**-The act of giving birth by rabbits.

**LACED**-Marked with streaks of color.

**LACTATE**-To produce milk.

**LAP SPOTS**-Intensification of belly color in the area of the groin (inside the hind legs, on the belly).

**LEG BAND**-A small metal ring on the hind leg of a rabbit used for identification in some foreign countries.

**LICE**-Plural of louse: A small, usually sluggish insect that sometimes lives on rabbits and sucks their blood. A disqualification from competition.

**LIGHT TOENAIL**-Toenail showing some pigmentation but not the full color.

**LOIN**-The portion of the back on each side of the vertebrae from the last rib to the hip joint.

**LOOSE COAT**-A coat with fur not set tightly in the skin, which is slipping and breaking out.

**LOPPED EARS**-Pendulous ears, carried below horizontal rather than upright.

**LUSTER**-The brightness and brilliance of fur.

**MALOCCLUSION**-Teeth having the lower incisors extending in

front of the upper incisors or meeting with no overlap. This condition may be hereditary and may also be known as buck or wolf teeth. A disqualification from competition.

**MANDOLIN**-Having the appearance of a mandolin. Body arch starting at the back of the shoulders, rather than the nape of the neck.

**MANGE**-A skin disease caused by parasitic mites. May be characterized by itching, lesions, scabs, and loss of hair. A disqualification from competition.

**MARBLING**-A mottling of the eye color.

**MARKED**-A rabbit which is broken up by an orderly placement of another color(s). Also includes rabbits that carry the Tan Pattern.

**MASK**-The nose and muzzle color extending further up the face than a butterfly marking.

**MASSIVE**-Giving the impression of being large, bulky, heavy, and ponderous.

**MASTITIS**-An inflammation of the mammary gland(s). A disqualification from competition.

**MATS**-Areas of entangled wool or fur.

**MATTED**-- Wool or fur entangled in a thick mass.

**MEALY**-Off colored stray hairs in a colored pattern giving the appearance of being powdered or sprinkled with meal.

**MEAT PEN**-A group of three rabbits under the age of 10 weeks, each weighting between 3 and 5 pounds.

**MEATY**-The quality of being able to carry a good portion of meat in proportion to the bone, size, and type of the rabbit. A noticeably well proportioned meatiness of the forequarters, back, loin, and hindquarters.

**MID SECTION**-The portion of the body from the 6th rib to the rear legs.

**MITE**-A small insect that often infests rabbits. A disqualification from competition.

**MOOLT**-The act of shedding or changing fur.

**MOON EYE**-(Wall Eye) An eye that is whitish on the surface (cornea). Having a milky film over the eye. A disqualification from competition.

**MOTTLED/MOTTLING**-(1) A pattern of eye color exhibiting streaks of differing color or shading (also called marbling). (2) A blotching or streaking of color on the fur of a rabbit.

**MUTATION**-The sudden change of a physical characteristic caused by an alteration of the organization of a gene. The best known mutations are the Rex and Satin fur structures.

**MUZZLE**-The lower part of the face and nose of the rabbit.

**NECK**-(1) That part of the rabbit connecting the head to the body. (2) A wedge shaped marking that is a portion of the collar, behind the ears, on a Dutch.

**NOSEFORK**-The body portion of the butterfly marking.

**NOSTRILS**-The two openings of the nose leading to the internal structures of the head.

**OFF COLORED**-A departure from the desired color of fur, toenails, or eyes (see Foreign Color).

**OPEN COAT**-Non-wool coat (excluding Silver Fox) lacking the ability to return to its natural position when stroked towards the head due to molt.

**PACKED**-Wool that is compacted or felted.

**PARASITE**-An organism that lives on, or within, the host animal. Examples are mites, lice, fleas, etc. A disqualification from competition.

**PATCH**-A small section of fur.

**PAUNCH**-The prominent portion of the abdomen.

**PEA SPOTS OR CROWN SPOTS**--Two spots of marking color at the inside base of the ears in Tan Patterned breeds.

**PEARL**-The surface or intermediate color band of some varieties of rabbits, which is off-white in color.

**PEDIGREE**-A genealogy of the male and female ancestors, showing the date of birth, the parents, grandparents, and great grandparents. It also contains other information such as color, weight, registration numbers, etc.

**PEG TEETH**-Two small residual incisors just behind the normal top incisors. May be incorrectly used to indicate butting teeth.

**PEGGED TEETH**-Teeth which only meet and do not achieve the required upper incisor overbite of the lower incisors. A disqualification from competition.

**PELT**-The hide of the animal after it is removed.

**PENCIL LINE**-A protrusion of fur, not including any skin, across the throat and under the chin. Not a dewlap.

**PIGEON BREASTED**-A narrow chest with a protruding "V" shaped breast bone. A disqualification from competition.

**PINCHED HINDQUARTERS**-Hindquarters tapering towards the tail, giving a pinched appearance.

**PLUSH**-Dense, fine hair with a very soft feel.

**POINTS**-A numerical scale, as listed in the Standard, showing the comparative value of each feature to the ideal.

**POINTED PATTERN**-The ears, tail, nose, front feet, rear feet, and leg markings in Californian, Himalayan, or Pointed Whites.

**POOR COAT**-Fur not in good condition due to molt, stain, ill health, or poor genetics.

**POT BELLY**-A distended condition of the abdominal cavity, usually found in young rabbits. A disqualification from competition.

**PRE-JUNIOR**-An animal under 3 months of age that is showable only when the breed's showroom classes specifically allows pre-juniors. They are to be shown separately by sex and variety. A pre-junior animal cannot compete in fur classes or be considered for BOV, BOSV, BOG, BOSG, BOB, or BOS.

**PRIME**-An animal that exhibits ideal condition of flesh and coat.

**PRIME LINE**-A line of fur that develops down the middle of the back and rump in a finished coat.

**PUREBRED**-A term used loosely to designate rabbits which closely approximate the requirements of the standards for their breed, and have done so for a number of generations.

**PURULENT DISCHARGE**-A discharge of white pus, emanating from the nose of a rabbit or from an abscess on the rabbit. A disqualification from competition.

**RACY**-Slim, trim, alert, and hare-like in appearance. Long and slender in body and limbs.

**REX**-A rabbit showing a genetic recessive variation in which the guard hairs are very short.

**RIBS**-The curved portions of the sides, immediately behind and under the shoulders.

**RING COLOR**-The color of the intermediate portion of a hair shaft



in Agouti Patterned animals.

**ROASTER**-A rabbit under 6 months of age and between 5 and 8 pounds.

**ROLLBACK**-A gradual return of the fur to its normal position when stroked from the hindquarters to the shoulders. Slightly slower return than a flyback coat.

**ROMAN NOSE**-A nose whose bridge is so comparatively high as to form a slightly convex line from the forehead to the tip of the nose.

**RUN**-An intrusion of white color into a colored marking area on a marked breed.

**RUMP**-The upper, rounded portion of the hindquarters.

**RUPTURE OR HERNIA**-A protrusion of an organ or part (as the intestine) through connective tissue or through a wall of the cavity (as of the abdomen) in which it is normally enclosed. A disqualification from competition.

**RUST**-The reddish-brown coloration of the fur usually found on the sides, flanks, or feet of rabbits. It may be caused by overexposure to sunlight or dirty hutches.

**SADDLE**-(1) The upper portion of the back. (2) A marking on Dutch where the white fur ceases and the colored fur begins on the upper part of the body.

**SALT AND PEPPER**-A flat appearance of black and white ticking, as found on Chinchilla, caused by the lack of contrast and desired waviness in the ticking. This is due to a weakness of color on the tips of the guard hairs.

**SATIN**-A mutation causing a greater translucency of the outer hair shell allowing the pigment granules to show through more clearly and reflect more light producing sheen.

**SCREW TAIL**-See Wry Tail. A disqualification from competition.  
**SELF PATTERN**-A rabbit with the same color over the body, head, ears, feet, legs, and tail.

**SENIOR**-A rabbit 6 months of age or over in those breeds having 4 showroom classes. A rabbit 8 months of age or over in breeds having 6 showroom classes. An animal having reached minimum senior breed weight, if allowed in the breed standard.

**SHADED PATTERN**-The shaded pattern is to show a gradual and discernible transition of a basic color, usually from dark to light. Darker color most often appears on the back, head, ears, tail, feet, and leg areas, then shades to a lighter color on the sides and belly.

**SHADOW BARS**-A weakness of color in the fur on either front or hind feet, appearing in the form of light colored bars or streaks running across the feet and legs.

**SHAPE**-The general conformation of the overall appearance of a rabbit, as shown by body structure. This is a synonym for type.

**SHEEN**-The principal feature of the Satin mutation. A bright, natural luster attributed to the unique structure of the guard hair shaft. Having a glass-like, translucent hair shell with the ability to reflect light. It is sometimes used in error to describe fur condition on an animal with normal fur.

**SHOULDER**-That portion of the body from the neck back through the 6th rib and the upper joint of the foreleg.

**SIDE DEMARCATION**-The distinct even line separating the body color from the tan color on a Tan.

**SIDE MARKING**-The spots or group of spots on the side of Checkered Giants, English Spots, and Rhinelanders.

**SIDE TRIMMINGS**-The wool appearing along the side of the head and face on some wool breeds.

**SILVERING**-Fur having the appearance of a silvery gloss or luster from the abundance of silver white or silver tipped guard hairs evenly distributed throughout the fur, presenting an overall shiny or silvery appearance.

**SIMPLE MALOCCCLUSION**-A condition where the top and bottom teeth butt together without establishing an overbite. A disqualification from competition.

**SINGLE FRYER**-Meat class for a rabbit under 10 weeks of age and weighing from 3 to 5 pounds.

**SLIPPED CROWN**-Placement of the crown too far forward, or too far back, on the head of some lop breeds, causing the ear carriage to be misplaced.

**SLIPPING COAT**-A coat of fur that is shedding or molting.

**SLOBBERS**-Excessive salivation creating wet or extremely moist and unsightly fur around the mouth, lower jaws, and forelegs. A disqualification from competition.

**SMUT**-(1) A dark, sooty appearing surface color, usually formed by a large number of dark guard hairs. Found in many rabbits that carry the genetic factor of red. (2) Pelt stain found in Pointed Pattern rabbits. (3) The nose marking found on Himalayans.

**SNIPEY**-An elongated, narrow head, usually terminating in a pinched muzzle.

**SOLID PATTERN**-A classification, for judging purposes, within a breed. Generally includes all non-Broken animals, as found in Lops.

**SORE HOCK**-An ulceration of the foot pad which can occur on

either the hind or front feet. A disqualification from competition if infected or bleeding.

**SPAYED (SPRADDLED LEGGED)**-A condition where the rabbit cannot hold the front or back legs under the body. The legs spread out from the body. A disqualification from competition.

**SPINE MARKING**-The strip of color beginning at the ear base and running in an unbroken line along the back to the tip of the tail found in Checkered Giants, English Spots, and Rhinelanders.

**SPLIT PENIS**-A disqualification from competition where the penis exhibits an opening that extends more than 1/2 of the way up or down the shaft, allowing the walls to fold open. Genitalia may resemble a doe.

**SPOT**-(1) A distinct and noticeable cluster of white or colored hairs forming a definite spot. (2) A foreign color in the iris or on the surface of the cornea of the eye.

**STANDING FUR**-The fur type unique to the Silver Fox. A long, dense fur that remains upright when stroked from the rump toward the head. It must be stroked from the head toward the rump to return to its normal position.

**STAPLE LENGTH**-The length of the Angora fiber or wool.

**STEWER**-A rabbit over 6 months of age and over 8 pounds.

**STOP**-The marking on each rear hook of a Dutch.

**STRAIN**-A genetically related bloodline possessing distinguishable characteristics such as type, color, or coat, and the ability to pass the characteristics to the offspring.

**STRAY SPOT**-Any marking spot occurring in an area that should be devoid of markings.

**SURFACE COLOR**-The top color of the fur, lying in its normal position.

**TAIL CARRIAGE**-The positioning of the tail, relative to the body, when a rabbit is allowed to move freely.

**TAN PATTERN**-A rabbit having the head, saddle, back, rump, sides, upper portion of the tail, outer portion of the ears, hind legs, and the front portion of the front legs of an accepted breed color. Eye circles, nostrils, jowls, chest, belly, flanks, triangle, under portion of the tail, pea or crown spots, inner edge of the ears, and inside of hind legs are to be of a contrasting color. A straight line of demarcation along the flanks should divide the belly color from the body color, and the body color from the contrasting leg color. Brindling or silvering is to be carried around the rump and well up the sides from the flanks.

**TASSELS**-The longer wool on top of the ears of some wool breeds.

**TATTOO**-A permanent identification mark in the left ear or both ears of a rabbit.

**TEXTURE**-The tactile surface characteristics, or feel, of fur.

**TICKED GROUP**-A rabbit having guard hairs throughout the coat, either solid or tipped, with a color distinct from the under color or surface color.

**TICKING**-Longer guard hairs, throughout the coat, of a color distinct from the underwool or body fur.

**TINT**-A slight coloring or dusting of one color on another color. A variation in the intensity of a color.

**TOPLINE**-The profile of the shoulders, back, and hindquarters, when viewed from the side.

**TRIANGLE**-The small area behind the ears, in the shape of a triangle, which is generally lighter in color than the rest of the coat.

A feature of Tan and Agouti Patterned animals.

**TRIMMINGS**-The wool growth on the ears and cheeks of wool breeds.

**TUCKED UP**-(1) A trim appearance, with the flank and belly gathered in closely to form an arch when the rabbit is in a sitting position. (2) A posing failure caused by pushing the hindquarters too far forward.

**TUFTS**-Wool and guard hair on the tips of the ears-not so long or heavy as to be considered furnishings.

**TUMOR**-An abnormal growth of tissue that possesses no physiological function. A disqualification from competition.

**TYPE**-The physical characteristics of conformation or structure unique to each recognized breed.

**UNDERCOAT OR UNDERFUR**-A growth of short fur partly concealed by longer and coarser guard hairs.

**UNDERCOLOR OR BASE COLOR**-The color at the base of the fur shaft or next to the skin.

**UNDERCUT**-(1) The belly marking on a Dutch rabbit. A continuation of the saddle marking to the underside of the rabbit. (2) Where the skeletal or muscular structure does not fill the lower hindquarter.

**UNDERWOOL**-The shortest wool fiber, lying at the base of the wool coat. The proportion of under wool to other fibers may be a distinguishing characteristic of some wool breeds.

**UNDERFUR OR UNDERCOAT**-A growth of short fur partly concealed by longer and coarser guard hairs.

**UNWORTHY OF AN AWARD**-A notation made by a judge on an animal that deviates from the standard to such a degree that it does not represent that breed's characteristics.

**USABLE PORTION OF PELT**-The portion of the pelt that remains after the removal of the dewlap, head, tail, feet, and legs.

**VARIETY**-A division within a breed or group determined by color.

**VENT DISEASE**-A venereal disease in rabbits that affects both sexes. This is indicated by a scabby, reddened sex organ, often exuding pus. A disqualification from competition.

**WALL EYE (MOON EYE)**-An eye that is whitish on the surface (cornea). Having a milky film over the eye. A disqualification from competition.

**WEEPING EYE**-An abnormal discharge from the eye, resulting in severe matting in the area below the eye.

**WEBBED**-Wool fibers that are beginning to felt or mat. A loose tangling of fibers that can usually be removed by grooming.

**WHITE TOENAIL**-A nail without pigmentation. Showing only the pink cast of the blood vessel.

**WIDE BAND GROUP**-Wide band animals show the same coloration over the body, head, ears, tail, and feet. They may show lighter coloration on the eye circles, inside of ears, underside of tail, jowls, and belly area.

**WOLF TEETH**-Protruding or elongated incisors in either the upper and/or lower jaw, caused by malocclusion. An improper alignment of the upper and lower teeth, which prevents normal wear. A disqualification from competition.

**WOOL**-The balanced combination of guard hairs to underwool as determined by density, texture, and length for each wooled breed.

**WOOL CAP**-The short, dense wool, protruding from the base of the ears forward.

**WRY NECK**-Carriage of the head to one side at an angular plane, instead of the normal carriage in a vertical plane. A disqualification from competition.

**WRY TAIL**-An abnormal tail, bent, carried, or twisted permanently to one side. A corkscrew tail with one or more turns. A disqualification from competition.

**YELLOW FAT**--Body fat that is yellow in color. The fat is not harmful, but undesirable from a sales standpoint.

### WORKING STANDARDS

The working standard of a proposed breed or variety is the property of the breeder/sponsor until such time as the new breed or variety is officially accepted by the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. into the Standard of Perfection. At that time, it becomes the property of the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc. It must be approved by the breeder/sponsor, the ARBA Standards Committee, and the ARBA Board of Directors before final acceptance is consummated. The working standard may be clarified, or changed, upon agreement between the breeder/sponsor and the ARBA Standards Committee. The changes in the working standard will become official upon publication in the DOMESTIC RABBITS magazine. Publication of the working standard allows the new breed or variety to be shown at ARBA shows, but they may only compete against themselves.

In the case of a new variety, they are to be judged at the conclusion of the breed and may not compete for any breed specials, such as Best of Breed or Best Opposite Sex of Breed. Working standards that have been published in the DOMESTIC RABBITS magazine do not need to be furnished by the exhibitor. Working standards for breeds or

## RABBIT STUDY GUIDE

### GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**NOTE:** This glossary is a definition. All words or terms are as applied to rabbits and are not necessarily the dictionary definition.

#### LEVEL I

<b>Agouti</b>	A hair shaft possessing three or more bands of color with a definite break in color bands. Buck: An unaltered male rabbit.
<b>Claws or Toenails</b>	A rabbit has four claws (toenails) and a dewclaw on the front paws and four claws (toenails) on the rear paws.
<b>Commercial Breed</b>	Larger breeds used for meat or fur as well as show.
<b>Condition</b>	The overall physical state of a rabbit in reference to health, cleanliness, fur and grooming. Crossbred: Rabbit resulting from mating two rabbits, each of a different breed.
<b>Crossbred</b>	Rabbit resulting from mating two rabbits, each of a different breed.
<b>Condition</b>	The overall physical state of a rabbit in reference to health, cleanliness, fur and grooming.
<b>Crossbred</b>	Rabbit resulting from mating two rabbits, each of a different breed.
<b>Dewlap</b>	A pendulous fold or folds of loose skin which hang from the throat. (Most common on does.)
<b>Diarrhea</b>	Loose, runny manure (Oat hay may help control in rabbits.)
<b>Disqualification</b>	One or more defects, deformities or blemishes which render an animal unfit to be placed in competition or from taking part in an exhibition.
<b>Doe</b>	An unaltered female rabbit
<b>Ear Number or Tattoo</b>	Up to five letters or numbers (or combination of both) which go in the left ear to identify the rabbit.
<b>Fancy Breed</b>	Breeds used basically for show.
<b>Finish</b>	The required degree of perfection in condition. Fully prime in coat, color and flesh.
<b>Fly Back</b>	(Applied to and describing coat texture.) A coat of fur which flies back to its smooth normal position when stroked from the hindquarters to the shoulders.
<b>Fur</b>	Rabbit's coat. There are four types: normal, rex, satin and angora.
<b>Gestation</b>	The carrying of young. The period between conception and birth-usually 31 days for rabbits.
<b>Intermediate</b>	A heavyweight rabbit at least six months of age and under 8 months of age or meeting the weight requirements of the breed.
<b>Junior</b>	A rabbit less than six months of age.
<b>Kindling</b>	The process of giving birth to young rabbits ("kits").

## RABBIT STUDY GUIDE

### GLOSSARY, cont.

#### LEVEL I (cont.)

<b>Molt</b>	The act or process of shedding or changing fur.
<b>Outcrossing</b>	Mating unrelated stock of the same breed.
<b>Pedigree</b>	A written chart of the male and female ancestors of a rabbit showing the date of birth and the parents, grandparents and great grandparents of the specimen in question.
<b>Purebred</b>	A very loose term used to designate rabbits which closely approximate the requirements of the Standard of Perfection of the breed.
<b>Random Breeding</b>	Mating of two rabbits without specific lineage or pedigree
<b>Rate of Gain</b>	Rabbits gain more per pound of feed than any other animal
<b>Registration</b>	The official recording of a rabbit (over 6 months of age) along with it's pedigree that has been approved by a licensed registrar.
<b>Senior</b>	A rabbit six months of age and over in those breeds having four showroom age classes, a rabbit eight months of age or over in breeds having six showroom age classes.
<b>Teeth</b>	A rabbit has a total of 28 teeth
<b>Variety</b>	A division within a breed. (Usually color.)
<b>Wolf or Buck Teeth</b>	(Malocclusion): Improper meeting of the teeth, protruding or elongated teeth in either upper or lower jaw which prevents normal wear.

## RABBIT STUDY GUIDE

### GLOSSARY (cont.)

#### LEVEL II

<b>Balance</b>	As applied to type, shape and conformation. Orderly arrangement of physical characteristics to present a pleasing appearance.
<b>Broken Coat</b>	A coat with guard hairs missing or broken in spots, which exposes the undercoat. Areas where the coat is affected by molt which exposes the undercoat
<b>Density</b>	The property or quality of a thick coat.
<b>Hares</b>	(Jackrabbit) Not a rabbit, young are born with eyes open
<b>Lactate</b>	To nurse – produce milk.
<b>Lagomorph</b>	Rabbit scientific classification (rabbits are born with their eyes closed).
<b>Mites</b>	Three different types affect rabbits; fur mites, mange mites and ear mites. All require different treatment.
<b>Rex Fur</b>	Has no protruding guard hairs.
<b>Shape</b>	General conformation, overall appearance as determined by body structure.
<b>Sheen</b>	Principle characteristic of the satin fur. A bright, natural luster attributed to the unique structure of the hair shaft. (translucent hairs)
<b>Solid Color</b>	Of the same color uniformly over the entire animal. Devoid of markings or shading.
<b>Texture</b>	Matte quality of fur pertaining to its action when stroked toward the head.
<b>Undercolor</b>	The base of the hair-shaft next to the skin
<b>Wool</b>	Descriptive of the fur of Angora rabbits. Angora wool is warmer than any other natural fiber.

Also study Level I Terms

## RABBIT STUDY GUIDE

### GLOSSARY (cont.)

#### LEVELS III and IV

<b>Arch</b>	A curve in the backline (spine) when viewed in profile. Blaze: Head marking on a Dutch.
<b>Boils or Abscess</b>	A hard swelling or isolated collection of pus occurring in the rabbit's skin, accompanied by localized fever and heat.
<b>Butterfly</b>	Nose marking, wing portion covering the whisker bed from lip to lip with the body (nose fork) extending up the center of the face.
<b>Cobby</b>	Stout and stocky body type which is very compact.
<b>Flabby</b>	The condition of a rabbit when the flesh or fur hangs loosely on the animal by it's own weight.
<b>Guard Hair</b>	The longer, coarser hair of the coat offering protection to the undercoat and furnishing wearing quality to the coat in addition to providing sheen.
<b>Massive</b>	Bulky, large, heavy and ponderous. (Usually refers to head shape.)
<b>Palpation</b>	The technique where you manually feel the enlargement of the uteri (embryos).
<b>Racey</b>	As applied to type; slim, trim, alert and active. Slender in body and legs – hare-like.
<b>Snakey</b>	Cylindrical in shape.
<b>Stocky</b>	Compact, stout and cobby.
<b>Tucked up</b>	As applied to type. The trim appearance of a rabbit with the flank and belly gathered in closely to form an arch when the rabbit is in a sitting position.
<b>Spot</b>	A distinct, noticeable cluster of foreign-colored hairs forming a definite spot.. .not just stray hairs close together.

Also study Levels I & II



## RABBIT STUDY GUIDE

### RABBIT DISEASES

By Dr. T.E. Reed

When diagnosing any type of disease in the rabbit colony, it is imperative that one inspect and review the management practices of the rabbitry. To adequately discuss some of the rabbit diseases, we must, in some cases, review some of the management practices in the rabbitry to have a clear understanding of those requirements of the rabbit in order to maintain excellent health status. We suggest you review the section on rabbit husbandry and the section on breeding techniques or the part that has a correlation to the disease being studied.

#### LEVEL I

DISEASE/ CONDITION	SIGNS	CAUSE	TREATMENT	PREVENTION
<b>CANNIBALISM</b> (During or after kindling)	Appendages may be missing or entire carcass consumed except the head. Most common in first litter of does.	Inherent nervousness. Mishap of consuming appendages while assisting with mouth during kindling process. Presence of predators or rodents in kindling area. Does deprived of sufficient water.	Provide ideal kindling conditions.	Select does with good mothering instincts. Restrict rodents and predators from kindling area.
<b>CANNABALISM</b> (During growing stages)	Chewing on each other while caged together. Sometimes to the extent to cause death.	Overcrowding sexually mature males in growing cages; lack of adequate drinking water.	Relieve overcrowding. Castration of male animals. Fresh water at all times.	Cage growing rabbits that mature early and gain at a slower rate individually. <b>Supply fresh water.</b>
<b>EAR MITES</b> (Ear Canker)	Shaking head, scratching of ears, "scabby" formation inside of ear due to accumulation of serum and blood, secondary bacterial infection.	Infestation of inside outer ear with mites. <i>Psoroptes cuniculi</i>	Daily placement of oil in ear for 3 days, repeating treatment at 10 day intervals will be effective in suffocation of mites. Addition of parasiticide, such as Malthine or rotenone will increase the effectiveness of the treatment.	Isolation of herd. Medication placed in ears of every rabbit in herd once a month will rid the rabbitry of the parasite.
<b>FOOT ABSCESSSES</b>	Small nodular abscesses on the feet, legs and toes of infected rabbits. Initially a small number of animals infected that increases in incidence with time.	Infection and irritation of bruised area with <i>Staphylococcus sp.</i>	Soak infected feet in an iodine solution every 3-4 days. Open abscesses, if necessary.	Strict sanitation.
<b>FUR MITE</b>	Loss of fur around face, neck and back.	Fur mites – <i>cheyletidia parasitovora</i> . <i>Listrophorcy gibus</i>	Application of cat flea powder. Repeat 10 days after initial treatment to insure total control of life cycle.	Herd isolation, good sanitation, selective bedding materials. Rodent control.
<b>HAIR BLOCKAGE:</b> "Fur Ball" or "Fur Blockage"	Intermittent diarrhea, poor appetite or periods of no appetite, loss of weight, moult, pulling fur, appearance of above sign in only one animal in herd.	Physical blockage of small intestines that will not allow ingested food to flow through the intestinal tract.	Daily dosing animal with ½ teaspoon of mineral oil for three (3) consecutive days. Repeat once a week.	Daily feeding roughage to animals prone to this condition (Angora, kindling does, etc.). Periodic (weekly) administration of small amount of Vaseline or mineral oil to animals susceptible to this condition.
<b>HEAT PROSTRATION</b>	Increased respiratory rate. Wet around the mouth that may be blood tinged. Holding head high and blue tinge to ears and mouth. Prostration and death.	High temperature. Usually accompanied by high humidity. Animals sitting directly in sunlight without air movement.	Remove animal to cool place. If completely prostrate, submerge in cool water.	Keep air moving around the animals. Use of plastic bottles filled with water that is frozen solid.
<b>HUTCH BURN</b> (Urine burn) (Often confused with Vent Disease)	"Chapped" or "galded" area around external genitals and the inside of hind legs. Secondary bacterial invasion common that causes the area to become infected.	Dirty, wet hutches or urine guard that splashes the urine back on the rabbit at times of urination.	Correct cause. Apply antibiotic cream to infected and "burned" areas.	Strict sanitation. Close attention to the angle of urine guards.

**RABBIT STUDY GUIDE**  
**DISEASES (cont.)**

**LEVEL I (cont.)**

DISEASE/ CONDITION	SIGNS	CAUSE	TREATMENT	PREVENTION
<b>MALOCCLUSION</b> "Buck teeth" "Wolf teeth"	Elongation of upper and/or lower teeth. Oftentimes to the extent that the animal will fail to eat.	Inherited condition in some animals, may be much more complex than originally thought. Breaking of one or more opposing teeth and tooth elongates without being worn off. Rabbits incisors grow ½ inch or more per month if not worn off.	Cull those animals from herd that have the inherited condition. Clipping teeth can be done; but not an ethical or intelligent practice with inherited malocclusion.	Selective culling to eliminate those defective genes from the herd.
<b>PASTEURELOSIS</b> (Expresses itself in severe forms) 1. "snuffles" (chronic)	Persistent "sneezing" with a productive nasal discharge that is thin or thick and white in nature. Precursor to many other conditions. Decrease growth rate and production. Primarily an upper respiratory infection where pneumonia is often a secondary complication. Death associated with secondary infection.	<i>Pasteurella sp.</i> organism infection associated with stress factors. <i>Pastuerelia sp.</i> and/or <i>Bordetella bronchisepticum</i>	No specific treatment with medication successful. Improve ventilation of rabbitry. Administration of antibiotic to prevent secondary infection. Reduce stress factors	Excellent ventilation, strict culling, development of resistant animal. Minimize stress factors. Isolate sick animals. Chlorinate drinking water.
<b>SORE HOCKS</b> (Ulcerated foot pads)	Ulcerated area on the bottom of the foot pads that has secondary bacterial infection. Sits on any crock or object that is in the cage. Sits cautiously. Loss of condition, fails to mate and be active.	Small foot pad area for size of body, thin fur covering for pad, nervous animal, long toe nails.	Difficult! Use dry solid surface for animals to rest. Treat ulceration with astringent material on a daily basis until healed.	Selective culling for large, well furred feet. Calm animals. Try not to depend on resting board.
<b>WRYECK TORTICOLLIS</b> (Otitis media)	Turning of the head to one side, lose of balance, continuous roll when excited. Usually does not interfere with the appetite of the animal until later stages of the disease.	Inflammation of the middle ear, the balance mechanism of the body. The bacteria usually isolated is a <i>Pasteurclia sp.</i> Often associated with the extension of upper respiratory infections.	Very difficult. Daily instillation of tetracycline ointment as otic drops, about 60% successful. Usually not associate with ear canker.	Proper ventilation. Keep incidence of respirators infections to a minimum.
<b>"SLOBBERS'</b>	Rabbit salivates profusely and face, chin and dewlap area become very moist or wet.	Abscessed tooth. Feeding of excessive amount of "greens" that have been sprayed with certain insecticides or pesticides.	Correct tooth condition. Remove green feed from the diet.	Feed dry ration. Avoid feed that has had chemical treatment.
<b>VENT DISEASE</b> (rabbit syphilis)	"Scabby" inflammation of genitals – both sexes – can have scabs on nose and mouth in later stages. "Scabby nose." Refuse to mate and /or conceive. Abortions.	Spirochete organism <i>Treponema cuniculi</i> . Usually spread through mating.	Daily application of penicillin ointment to the external genitals or daily administration of Penicillin G intramuscularly for three (3) days. 2000,000 IU/10 lbs. body weight	Always check breeding animals before mating for signs of this disease and do not use if infected.
<b>PNEUMONIA</b>	Difficulty in breathing. Bluish color to lips, tongue, and ears. Necropsy: inflamed lungs.	Any type of bacterial or virus invasion of respiratory system. Usually at times of stress and often the final stage of "Snuffles".	Broad spectrum antibiotic, isolation, eliminate stress.	Assure adequate ventilaton. Minimize stress.
<b>FUR CHEWING</b>	Chewing of fur on body or other body parts. Fur can be chewed by self or other animals in pen.	Low fiber diet; boredom; vice, developing enteritis.	Increase fiber in diet by feeding hay or straw; remove individual chewing fur from pen. Addition of 5 lbs. of Magnesium oxide per ton of feed "sometimes" will stop fur chewing.	High fiber ration. Addition of Magnesium oxide to regular ration.

## RABBIT STUDY GUIDE DISEASES (cont.)

### LEVELS II and III cont.

<b>COPOPHRAGY</b> (eating of night feces)	Usually seen at night or early morning where animals will consume the few material (soft) directly from the rectum.	Normal	Don't want to disrupt	None. The rabbit's way of increasing the absorption of some nutrients of the diet.
<b>ENTEROTOXEMIA</b> (described by Oregon State University in 1978)	Acute (24 hr.) fatal diarrhea dehydration – on necropsy an enlarged cecum that sometimes has red discoloration.	Specific bacterium uncertain, but associated closely with high energy feed with low fiber feed content.	Replace pelleted diet with rolled oats and gradually increase the portion of pellets on a daily basis. Treatment with Oxytetracycline in drinking water may temporarily correct condition.	Feed diets that are high in fiber (18%) and relatively low in total energy.
<b>HINDQUARTER PARALYSIS</b>	Rabbit drags rear legs and does not have any (motor control) movement in rear legs. Control of urinary bladder and bowel may be absent. A violent "scream" from rabbit usually is heard at the time of injury. Can happen during tattooing procedure or may just be present incage without apparent cause.	Discoloration or fracture of spinal vertebra. Often seen when rabbit struggles or becomes excited and "thrusters" hind legs backwards.	None – should be humanely euthanized.	Proper handling techniques.
<b>INFECTIOUS MYXOMATOSIS</b>	Primarily seen in coastal areas of California and Oregon during May to August. Severe conjunctivitis, fails to eat, high temperature; inflamed and edematosis genitals and ears, respiratory infection in later stages and death.	Virus - transmitted by mosquitoes.	Depopulate herd, burn and bury affected animals. Seek professional assistance.	Mosquito control, control the brush rabbit.
<b>MASTITIS (Blue breast)</b>	Inflamed, swollen, hot, discolored mammary system – all or individual sections. Abscessation of gland is common. Normally occurs just after kindling or after weaning.	Any bacteria within the mammary system. Usually a <i>Staphylococcus sp.</i> or <i>Streptococcus sp.</i>	Treat for three (3) days in succession with Penicillion G injections , intramuscularly at 200,000 IU/10 lbs. body weight. Strip glands free of milk. Hog-Pak application 3-4 times daily.	Prevention of caked breast and trauma to the breast (see caked breast).
<b>SCATTERING OF YOUNG AT KINDLING</b>	Poor mothering instinct due to hereditary causes. Rodents or predators in rabbitry. Vitamin A deficiency. Very young does. Incompatible nest.	Fostering the young or feeding the kits as orphans.	Select replacement animals with excellent mothering instinct. Use of subterranean nest boxes. Control predators and rodents in rabbitry. Routine use of water supplemented with vitamins.	

### LEVEL IV

Includes all terms: Level I, II, & III.

### Malocclusion

The incisors of the rabbit elongate continually throughout the entire life of the animal. The exact angle of the occlusive surface "bite" of the animal is very important to insure that the incisors wear evenly during the mastication process. The normal "bite", occlusive surface of the rabbit (Figure #1), is that the upper incisors slide over or in "front of" the lower incisors. Any position of the incisors other than described is malocclusion and a disqualification. Malocclusion, often called "Buck Teeth" or "Wolf Teeth" (Figure #2), is easily determined. However, a simpler form of malocclusion, often just as important to the breeder, is called "butting" (Figure #3). This is a condition where the upper incisors are directly over the lower incisors. This condition in many foreign countries is called "Trap Teeth." These conditions are found most commonly in the breeds with "extremely rounded" heads, such as the Lops (Holland, Mini, French), Dutch, and Netherland Dwarfs, however, these conditions may be found in any breed of rabbit.



#1



#2



#3



Excessive White Hairs in Broken Pattern



Wry (Screw) Tail



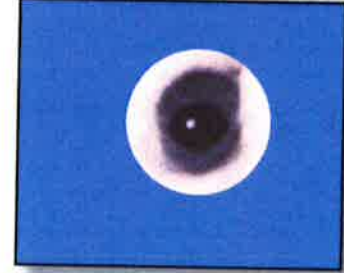
Split Penis



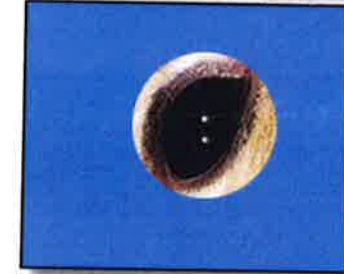
White Foot Pads



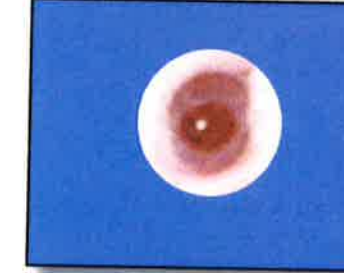
Blue Eye



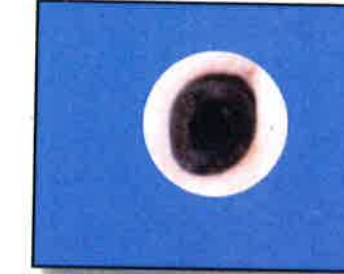
Blue Gray Eye



Brown Eye



Pink eye



Marbled Eye



### VICIOUS ANIMAL(\*)

Any animal exhibiting vicious or uncontrollable aggression, which endangers the safety of the judge, may be excused from the class. If at any time during judging, the animal becomes vicious or uncontrollable, it can be dismissed from the table and retain any placing previously awarded, but it will not be considered for further awards.

### STANDARD & GUIDE FOR JUDGING MEAT CLASSES MEAT PENS

The four factors, in the order of their importance, for judging meat pens, are as follows: (1) Meat type, (2) Condition, (3) Uniformity, and (4) Fur.

Meat pens shall consist of three rabbits, all of the same breed and variety. Pointed animals must all have the same point color. Broken meat pens must also be of the same variety. A meat pen does not necessarily have to come from the same litter. Age limit 10 weeks. Minimum weight 3 pounds each. Maximum weight 5 pounds each. All rabbits must be weighed in the presence of the judge.

### POINT SCHEDULE FOR JUDGING MEAT PENS

Meat Type.....	40 Points
Condition of Flesh.....	30 Points
Uniformity of body and weight.....	20 Points
Fur.....	10 Points
TOTAL.....	100 Points

**MEAT TYPE**-Points 40: Type is the most important factor in judging meat pens. The best meat type is found in those fryers that are compact and short, with the body well filled, rounded, and solidly fleshed. Smooth, well filled hips and good depth of body are especially important. Protruding hip bones or prominent "razor backs" are serious faults. The width and depth of loin, thickness of the hindquarters, and well developed shoulders are important to the meat carrying type of the fryer. The hindquarters are most important, loin second, and forequarters are third in importance.

**CONDITION**-Points 30: All fryers in a pen must be in prime condition. This reflects the care and management practices of the breeder. The fryers must be firm and solid. They must not show any signs of flabbiness, softness, looseness, or pottiness. The pelt must be tight over the body and the animals must be clean and show no signs of neglect or disease.

**UNIFORMITY**-Points 20: This is a combination of the other three requirements. It denotes the ability of the breeder to pick three fryers for each pen, which have the other three qualities in equal amounts, and will reflect the general quality of the herd from which they came. Uniformity must be present in weight, size, appearance, condition, meat type, and fur, and should be as similar in all respects as possible.

**FUR**-Points 10: Fur should conform to the breed description in the standard and be uniform on all three animals in the pen. **Disqualifications from Competition**-All ARBA Disqualifications from Competition and breed Disqualifications from Competition apply to each meat pen, with the following exceptions: Body smut on Californian or Himalayan marked animals. Non-descended testicles on bucks.

**NOTE:** On Californian meat pens and single fryers, the frosting due to genetic characteristics or nest box chilling shall not be a disqualification. Such animals are to compete as if their pelts were white, as called for in the standard. If any one rabbit in the pen is overweight or underweight, the entire pen is Disqualified from Competition. If any one rabbit in the pen is Disqualified from Competition, the entire pen becomes disqualified. All ARBA general faults apply to each meat pen.

**SINGLE FRYER**

**SINGLE FRYERS-**Not over 10 weeks of age. Minimum weight of 3 pounds. Maximum weight of 5 pounds.

**POINT SCHEDULE FOR JUDGING SINGLE FRYERS**

Meat Type.....	45 Points
Condition of Flesh.....	35 Points
Fur.....	20 Points
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>100 Points</b>

**Disqualifications from Competition-**All ARBA Disqualifications from Competition and breed Disqualifications from Competition apply to Single Fryers, with the following exceptions: Body smut on Californian or Himalayan animals; non-descended testicles on bucks.

**ROASTERS AND STEWERS**

**ROASTERS-**All rabbits entered in this class must be under 6 months of age. Minimum weight over 5 pounds. Maximum weight 8 pounds.

**STEWERS-**All rabbits entered in this class must be 6 months of age and over. Minimum weight over 8 pounds.

All ARBA General Disqualifications from Competition and breed Disqualifications from Competition will apply.

**POINT SCHEDULE FOR JUDGING ROASTERS & STEWERS**

Meat Type.....	35 Points
Condition of Flesh.....	35 Points
Fur.....	30 Points
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>100 Points</b>

**PREVIOUS INTERPRETATIONS AND POLICIES AFFECTING THE APPLICATION OF THE STANDARD OF PERFECTION**

**COLOR INTERPRETATIONS**

Gold tipped and Silver tipped Steel colors are to be considered as separate varieties for the purpose of presentation. Jan/Feb 1997 DR, page 64.

Tri Colored Mini Rex color description requires they be Black or Chocolate in combination with golden orange, or Blue or Lilac in combination with golden fawn. Since Tortoise is a recognized color, animals are starting to appear which are Black, Blue, Chocolate, or Lilac in combination with Tortoise color. This is a disqualification. The color must be either Orange or Fawn in conjunction with the basic color. Sept/Oct 1996 DR, page 11.

A Dutch with a full neck marking containing an isolated white spot within the colored portions would be disqualified under the provisions of a white spot in a colored section. This does not involve hair partial hairlines which appear between the ears of a Dutch. To constitute a disqualifying situation, the white must appear in the normal area of the neck marking, and be fully enclosed or encapsulated by color. If there is any connection from the white spot in the neck to the white of the saddle, there is only a fault, not a disqualification. Jan/Feb 1999 DR, page 11.

## CALIFORNIAN



### GENERAL TYPE SCHEDULE OF POINTS

Body.....	58
Hindquarters.....	22
Midsection.....	19
Shoulders.....	17
Head.....	3
Ears.....	2
Eyes.....	0
Feet & Legs.....	2
Tail.....	0
FUR.....	20
COLOR & MARKINGS.....	5
CONDITION.....	10
TOTAL POINTS.....	100

### SHOWROOM CLASSES & WEIGHTS

- Senior Bucks-8 months of age and over, weight 8 to 10 pounds. Ideal weight 9 pounds.
  - Senior Does-8 months of age and over, weight 8½ to 10½ pounds. Ideal weight 9½ pounds.
  - Intermediate Bucks-Under 8 months of age, not over 9 pounds.
  - Intermediate Does-Under 8 months of age, not over 9½ pounds.
  - Junior Bucks-Under 6 months of age, not over 8 pounds. Minimum weight 5½ pounds.
  - Junior Does-Under 6 months of age, not over 8½ pounds. Minimum weight 5½ pounds.
  - Pre-Junior Bucks & Does-Under 3 months of age. Not over 5½ pounds.
- NOTE: Pre-Juniors are not to count in show display.
- NOTE: Juniors and Intermediates which exceed maximum weight limits may be shown in higher age classifications. No animal may be shown in a lower age classification than its true age.

### GENERAL TYPE

**BODY**-Points 58: The body shall be of medium length, with depth of body to approximately equal width. It shall have good depth of hindquarters and well developed shoulders, with the shoulders being slightly lower and narrower than the hips, forming a slight taper. The back is to rise gradually from the nape of the neck to the high point over the hips. To be plump and firm of flesh.

**Faults**-Racy, mandolin, or any type away from a plump, firm, meaty body; Cut severely for shoulders wider than hips; long, narrow head; extra long neck; flatness over back, especially over hips; rough, bony, protruding hips.



**HINDQUARTERS-Points 22:** Hindquarters are to be broad, deep, smooth, and well rounded, with well filled, firm flesh. Lower and back sides are to be well filled. Hindquarters are to be slightly wider and deeper than shoulders, with enough depth and width to indicate roundness when viewed from any direction. The loin is to be broad and deep, with enough width to blend the hindquarters and midsection.

**Faults-Narrow:** flat; pinched; undercut; chopped, bony rump; weak loin; protruding hip bones; rough over spine.

**MIDSECTION-Points 19:** Rib section to gradually rise from front to hips. It is to be broad and deep enough to balance with shoulders and hips. Midsection is to be well rounded, with as much firm flesh as possible down the sides.

**Faults-Narrow:** flat; rough; not well filled.

**SHOULDERS-Points 17:** Shoulders are to be well developed, with firm flesh. They are to have good depth and width. Shoulders are to be slightly lower and narrower than the hips. They are to rise from the front of the neck with a smooth taper towards the high point.

**Faults-Too narrow or too wide to balance with hindquarters:** Excessive fat or loose, flabby flesh over shoulders.

**HEAD-Points 3:** The head is to be well shaped and medium full. It is to be carried erect on a short neck and set close to the body. Buck heads are to be a little fuller than does.

**Faults-Long, slim head, pinched nose.**

**EARS-Points 2:** Length is to be in proportion to size of the body. They are to be well set on the head, strong at base, and carried in a straight, upright position.

**Faults-Heavy:** open; spoon shaped; weak ear base.

**EYES-Points 0:** Eyes are to be bright and bold.

**FEET & LEGS-Points 2:** Bone is to be medium in size, with rather short legs preferred. Toenails should be as dark as possible. Light colored nails, showing pigmentation, must match on that foot and the corresponding foot.

**Faults-Long or heavy bone.**

**Disqualifications from Competition-**One or more white toenails, or those that carry no color other than the pink cast shed by the blood vessels.

**TAIL-Points 0:** The tail is to be straight and carried erect. Length and size is to be in proportion to the body.

**FUR-Points 20: (Flyback) Per ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard.**

**COLOR & MARKINGS-Points 5:** Californians are to have a colored nose, ears, feet, and tail. Color is to be as near black as possible. Eye stains or colored spots confined to the dewlap permissible. Body color is to be pure white. **Eyes-Pink.**

**Faults-Any other color.**

**Disqualifications from Competition-**Any color or smut on the visible portion of the pelt. Color above the elbow joint of the front leg. Color on the rear legs is not to extend more than 2 inches above the hock joint, with the fur in its normal position. Complete absence of color on the nose, ears, feet, or tail. Definite clean white spot(s) in colored markings. Any Tan Pattern marking appearing in a Californian marking.

**CONDITION-Points 10:** Per ARBA definition.