

Jersey Wooly Breed History

Bonnie Seely introduced the Jersey Wooly at the 1984 ARBA Convention in Orlando, FL. Bonnie had worked for several years to perfect a small pet rabbit with longer, relatively easy-care wool. The name of the new breed, Jersey Wooly, was a natural fit for this New Jersey native.

Bonnie initially felt the early Woolies were too large, so in 1981 she selected three to breed to Netherland Dwarfs in order to bring the size down. Unfortunately, these early crosses carried genes for mismatched and white nails. About 90% of them displayed this problem. After several years of additional breeding and serious culling, toenail problems are now minimal.

The ARBA Standard of Perfection Committee accepted the first showing of the Jersey Wooly, though several of the animals had white toenails

However, those nails were the basis of the presentation rejection in 1985. It took three more presentations until the Jersey Wooly was officially accepted by the American Rabbit Breeders Association and became a recognized breed at the Madison, Wisconsin Convention in 1988. In Bonnie's own words, "The ARBA says it's okay to 'Wuv A Wooly, the Fluff of the Fancy' ...I might have accepted rejection gracefully, but I'm afraid I (and the 20 or so Wooly breeders around the table) accepted success like a three-year-old. We jumped up and down, screamed, and hugged everyone in sight. It was quite a moment!"

It did not take long for the Jersey Wooly to become one of the more popular breeds of rabbits recognized by the ARBA. In a letter to Tex Thomas, Bonnie Seeley showed foresight by explaining why she wanted the Jersey Wooly to be judged by Groups, she wrote: "1) We didn't want to judge by variety where you have only 1 or 2 rabbits to a class. It is disappointing to compete that way; there are few legs for classes and it wastes everyone's time. 2) we didn't want to judge just white vs colored. We believe that soon the Wooly will become very popular and the huge classes that would result from having just 2 "varieties" (I know I have used the term incorrectly there) would be very discouraging, especially to beginners....So the Group division seemed like a logical solution, and it does have a sound base, as the ARBA itself divides all colors into these groups..."

This was a wise decision. At the 1999 ARBA Convention over 700 Jersey Woolies were shown between open and youth. This was also quite a year for the Jersey Wooly in another way: at the Best in Show judging, a sable senior buck, owned and bred by Cheryl Carey of PA took top group honors, placing the breed in an elite class of select winners. Now we strive and look onward to the coveted ARBA Best in Show!

As of 2022, there have been 4 breeders that have won Group at ARBA Convention. Cheryl Carey, Kelsey Deling, Amber Henderson and Cody Landis.

As of 2022, there has only been one ARBA Best in Show winning Jersey Wooly. In 2019, Cody Landis won BIS at the ARBA convention in Reno, NV in youth. AFB Xander, a self-senior buck took top honors for the very first time for a Wooly.



Kelsey Deling, Group Winner, 2009 ARBA Convention in Del Mar, California

In October 2009, the beginning of my senior year of high school, I got on a motorcoach in Iowa with my mom and friends. We rode with our Jersey Woolies for 30+ hours to Del Mar, California, where I was in for an exciting surprise. Of course, I was very humbled to win youth Best of Breed, but at the time was disappointed I could not go with our bus friends to Sea World, as Best In Show was scheduled at the same time. MLW Buzz, my homebred and raised Broken Siamese Sable buck was chosen as winner of his group by Cathy Szychulda. MLW Buzz was the first youth Jersey Wooly ever to win group in youth BIS judging. This definitely was the most memorable moment of my trip to Del Mar as well as my entire youth Jersey Wooly career.

Amber Henderson, Group Winner, 2013 ARBA Convention Harrisburg, PA

The ARBA 2013 convention was quite the fun adventure. I won Best of Breed out of 477 Open Jersey Woolies with Wonder's Take a Chance, my broken black Sr buck. He went on to represent our breed in Group judging, where he won Group 4. It earned him the honor of competing for the coveted Best in Show title. Chance did not go on to win Best in Show, but did get another look by judge Eric Stewart who posed him on the table one last time just before announcing the Best in Show rabbit. “

Membership Benefits

- Guidebook

This Guidebook, with information about the breed and the club, is intended to help with questions you may have.

- Newsletter

A quarterly newsletter keeps you abreast of the latest happenings of the NJWRC. It includes informative articles, photos, club activities, show listings and results, sweepstake standings.

- Assistance

Becoming a member of the NJWRC give you a place to turn to for assistance. The club is divided into nine regions, each represented by a district director. In addition to being your voice on the Board of Directors, each director can assist you in many areas of rabbit care.

- Sweepstakes Contest

The Sweepstakes Contests are a yearly event, running from July 1st--June 30th of each year. Each member accumulates points as they compete in local, regional, and nationally sanctioned* shows. Top placements (nationally and within each district) are awarded at the ARBA national Convention and posted in the newsletter. Competition includes Overall, Award of Excellence, Rabbit of the Year, Herdsman, White Wool, and Colored Wool. *Shows must be sanctioned by both the ARBA and NJWRC. The Sweeps chair, Nicole Schmitt, maintains a website with information and all sweeps data at njwrCsweeps.com

- National Shows

The NJWRC participates in the annual ARBA Show and Convention, held each fall, and its own National Specialty show, hosted by local all-breed or specialty clubs. These shows are held in different locations throughout the US every year.

- Social Media

The NJWRC has a presence on Facebook. We have a page, National Jersey Wooly Rabbit Club, that gives information on upcoming events, and a members-only group for discussion at NJWRC Members.

- Website

The NJWRC has a website with links to information on membership, educational articles, newsletters and much more. Visit our website at www.jerseywooly.org

Sweepstakes Rules and Guidelines

The NJWRC Board shall consider all suggestions and concerns expressed by its members and that they determine changes to the Sweepstakes rules and guidelines as needed.

1. All members holding current membership in the NJWRC or whose membership has expired for no more than 60 days shall be eligible to compete in the Sweepstakes Contest. Any person whose membership has been expired for more than 60 days shall forfeit all Sweepstakes points earned at that time. No points will be reinstated if a person rejoins after allowing their membership to expire past the 60-day period.
 - All points won during competition are to be recorded and count as the points for each category of the Sweepstakes Contest, for each exhibitor. (“Exhibitor” shall be determined by the name/names in which an entry is made. IE: The name/names appearing as the Exhibitor of the official entry form for a show is how the Sweepstakes points will be recorded for that show.) At no time will points for multiple exhibitors be combined.
 - Should multiple members combine together for the purpose of exhibiting, they shall be considered as one “Exhibitor”. If any one of those members allows their membership to expire for more than 60 days, all points for that “Exhibitor” shall be forfeited.
2. Separate contests shall be held for both Open and Youth exhibitors. Points earned in Open shall count towards the Open Sweepstakes and points earned in Youth shows shall count towards the Youth Sweepstakes. A youth exhibitor wanting their Open show points to count in the Open Sweepstakes must notify the Sweepstakes Chairperson by July 1st.
3. Points earned towards the Sweepstakes Contests shall be awarded based on class placements, as well as any additional “bonus” points determined by the NJWRC board.

Class Points to be awarded as follows:

- 1st place in class = 6 points times the number of animals in the class
- 2nd place in class = 4 points times the number of animals in the class
- 3rd place in class = 3 points times the number of animals in the class
- 4th place in class = 2 points times the number of animals in the class
- 5th place in class = 1-point times the number of animals in the class

ARBA National Convention and National Jersey Woolly Class Points to be awarded as follows:

- 1st place in class = 12 points times the number of animals in the class
- 2nd place in class = 9 points times the number of animals in the class
- 3rd place in class = 8 points times the number of animals in the class
- 4th place in class = 7 points times the number of animals in the class
- 5th place in class = 6 points times the number of animals in the class
- 6th place in class = 5 points times the number of animals in the class
- 7th place in class = 4 points times the number of animals in the class

8th place in class = 3 points times the number of animals in the class
9th place in class = 2 points times the number of animals in the class
10th place in class = 1-point times the number of animals in the class

Bonus Points:

Best of Breed = 1-point times the number of animals shown in the breed

Best Opposite Sex of Breed = 1-point times the number of animals of the same sex as the BOS winner

Best in Show = 1 bonus point times the number of total rabbits in the show.

Reserve In Show/Best 4 Class/BIS-Groups: RIS will be awarded ½ point for every rabbit shown for BIS rounded to the nearest full point. Best 4-Class will be awarded ½ point for animals in 4 class rounded to the nearest full point.

4. There shall be multiple categories of the NJWRC Sweepstakes Contest.

Categories shall include:

- **Overall Sweepstakes**-This shall be an accumulation of all class points and bonus points won for BOB, BOS, BIS and RIS.
- **District**-The top placing open and youth in each district according to Overall Sweepstakes.
- **Award of Excellence**-This shall be an accumulation of only those bonus points won for BOB or BOS for each exhibitor
- **Rabbit of the Year**-This shall be an accumulation of only those bonus points won for BOB or BOS for each individual animal for each exhibitor.

- **Herdsmen**- This shall be an accumulation of points won by individual animals for each exhibitor as follows:

2 points for each BOB win

1 point for each BOS win

Points awarded ONLY if the criteria for an ARBA Leg of Grand Champion are met.
A maximum of 5 points per animal may be obtained during the Sweepstakes year.

- **Wool**-This shall be an accumulation of points won in Colored or White Wool (listed separately) classes for each exhibitor.

5. The Sweepstakes year shall be from July 1st of one year through June 30th of the following year. Show reports, to count, must be received prior to September 1st of the year in which the Sweepstakes contest ends.

6. Fees for sweepstakes sanctions shall be \$10.00 for Open and \$10.00 for Youth. No points will be awarded for any sweepstakes sanction, for which fees are not received by the Sanction/Sweepstakes Chairperson, in an outer envelope postmarked prior to the show date.
7. The most current Sweepstakes standings possible shall be included in each issue of the club newsletter. The most current sweepstakes standings shall be sent to the NJWRC Webmaster for updating on or about March 1st, June 1st, September 1st, and December 1st of each year, however may be sent more often if feasible.
8. Sweepstakes sanctions for shows which are cancelled or have a date/location change, will be honored if held within the end of that same calendar year. Any change due to the above must be received prior to the original show date.
9. Sweepstakes Awards shall be awarded in each category as allowed in the awards committee budget with final approval by the NJWRC board.

How Do I Sanction Jersey Woolies For A Show?

So, you're going to a show, and it appears as though they aren't sanctioned (and you know this because you've checked my sanctioned shows listing on the website!). What to do?! Chances are your problem will be pretty easily resolved.

Step 1: Contact the show secretary & inquire about sanctioning JW's for their show/s. Some show secretaries will be fine with giving you the ARBA sanction numbers for you to submit directly to me. But other show secretaries will request that you send the payment to them, and they'll submit the request to me. And still some other secretaries will tell you that national clubs don't accept sanctions directly from club members. I can assure you that's not the case with the NJWRC.

Step 2: You either need to submit your payment directly to the show secretary as mentioned above, or you need to complete the NJWRC sanction request form & send it directly to me with payment. The request form is available on the NJWRC sweepstakes website and can found on the SANCTION REQUEST FORM! tab. The form must be completed in full. It's a very easy form (completed sample accompanies this article). The cost is \$10 per show. That doesn't mean if a club is hosting 3 shows in a day that it's \$10. That's \$30. Each ARBA sanction number is a show.

*Tip: ARBA sanction numbers are ALWAYS 7 characters (3 letters, 4 numbers). Ex: NOA1234. The 1st letter cycles through the alphabet (as I write this, they're nearing the end of the N numbers). The 2nd letter will ALWAYS be either O (open) or Y (youth). The 3rd letter will ALWAYS be an A (all-breed) or an S (specialty show). So, if you send me a sanction & have ARBA # NOO1538, your request will be rejected for correction.

Step 3: Request must be postmarked prior to the show date.

That's it – it's REALLY that easy!

Jersey Wooly – Sweeps for Dummies!

Each national breed club runs some sort of sweepstakes program. Each time you show Jersey Woolies at a NJWRC sanctioned show, you'll accumulate sweeps points. The NJWRC season runs from July 1st through June 30th of the following year. Below you'll find a summary of the points contests. As it turns out, I've found there are a lot of NJWRC long-time members that don't actually understand the whole program either, so you're certainly not alone if you're a bit confused!

The *Overall Sweeps* consists of:

Class Points: In each class (for instance, Self-Senior Bucks), points are awarded for the top 5 placements as follows: 1st place 6 points for each rabbit in the class, 2nd place 4 points for each rabbit in the class, 3rd place 3 points for each rabbit in the class, 4th place 2 points for each rabbit in the class & 5th place 1 point for each rabbit shown in the class. NOTE: NJWRC Spring Nationals & ARBA Convention use a different formula, through 10th place as follows: 1st -12, 2nd -9, 3rd -8, 4th -7, 5th -6, 6th -5, 7th -4, 8th -3, 9th -2 & 10th -1 point per number shown in the class.

Bonus Points: Best of Breed (BOB) & Best Opposite of Breed (BOS) bonus points. These points are awarded as: BOB 1 point for each Jersey Wooly shown. BOS: 1 point for each "opposite" Jersey Wooly shown – meaning if BOB is a buck, and you win BOS with a doe, you'd get 1 point for each doe shown.

Best In Show Points: Should you win a Best in Show (all breed shows only - specialty shows don't count for this section), you will receive 1 extra point for every rabbit shown in the entire show.

The *Award of Excellence* consists of: Best of Breed (BOB) & Best Opposite of Breed (BOS) bonus points. These points are awarded as: BOB: 1 point for each Jersey Wooly shown. BOS: 1 point for each "opposite" Jersey Wooly shown - meaning if BOB is a buck, and you win BOS with a doe, you'd get 1 point for each doe shown. (See Bonus Points as noted above – same thing here)

The *Rabbit of the Year* consists of: The individual rabbit also receives points, and they are awarded the same way the exhibitor is awarded the Award of Excellence points. The BOB rabbit receives 1 point for each Jersey Wooly shown, and the BOS rabbit gets 1 point for each "opposite" Jersey Wooly shown. (These are the same as the Bonus Points and Award of Excellence points outlined above.)

The *Herdsmen of the Year* consists of: Truth be told, this one is a bit more complicated! For each BOB an exhibitor wins, they receive 2 Herdsman Points, and for each BOS an exhibitor wins, they receive 1 Herdsman Point. But the exhibitor can only accumulate a maximum of 5 points with a specific animal. So, if you have a "hot" rabbit that's winning & winning & winning, the HM points stop at 5. Also, there are no HM points awarded unless the requirements of a Grand Champion Leg are met within the breed.

The *Wool Contests* consist of: The NJWRC has both a White Wool & Colored Wool contest. The points are awarded the exact same way as the Overall Sweeps Points / Class Points outlined above, including the Spring Nationals & ARBA Convention expanded points formula.

What the above contests measure is:

Overall Sweeps = all points earned for every entry by exhibitor.

Award of Excellence = excellence as measured by an exhibitor's BOB/BOS wins.

Rabbit of the Year = Excellence as measured by each animal's wins.

Herdsmen = Excellence as measured across a herd.

Youth Showing in Open: As per the rules, all NJWRC Youth members' points are to be counted in the youth contests, even when showing in open. If you are a youth that shows in Open that wants your points left in open, kindly notify me in writing at your earliest possible convenience! The rules state this notification must be made by July 1st.

History of NJWRC Board Officers

Year	President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
1989	Bonnie Seeley	Lureen Nelson	Doug Seeley	Joy Smith
1990	Bonnie Seeley	Lynette Smith	Doug Seeley	Joy Smith
1991	Bonnie Seeley	Lynette Smith	Doug Seeley	Joy Smith
1992	Kitty Lynch	Helen McKie	Nancy Hinkston	Joy Smith
1993	Kitty Lynch	Helen McKie	Nancy Hinkston	Joy Smith
1994	Bonnie Kelley	Sally Fairbanks	Nancy Hinkston	Joy Smith
1995	RoseMarie Turley	Helen McKie	Nancy Hinkston	Joy Smith
1996	RoseMarie Turley	Lisa Smith	Nancy Hinkston	Joy Smith
1997	Brian Caudill	Lisa Smith	Nancy Hinkston	Joy Smith
1998	Brian Caudill/ Lisa Smith	Lisa Smith/ Rose Marie Turley	Nancy Hinkston	Joy Smith
1999	Lisa Smith	Rose Marie Turley	Nancy Hinkston	Joy Smith
2000	Lisa Smith	Rose Marie Turley	Nancy Hinkston	Tracey Klein
2001	Lisa Smith	Rose Marie Turley	Nancy Hinkston	Tracey Klein
2002	Dana Turk	Rose Marie Turley	Nancy Hinkston	Tracey Klein
2003	Cindy Coy	Marcia Hinkelmann	Nancy Hinkston	Tracey Klein
2004	Marcia Hinkelmann	Cindy Coy	Nancy Hinkston	Debbie Russell
2005	Lisa Smith	Denise Geick	Nancy Hinkston	Linda Baker
2006	Lisa Smith	Denise Geick	Nancy Hinkston	Linda Baker
2007	Lisa Smith	Denise Geick	Amanda Pitsch	Linda Baker
2008	Lisa Smith/ Denise Geick	Denise Geick/ Laura Sturdevant	Amanda Pitsch	Linda Baker
2009	Denise Geick	Laura Sturdevant	Amanda Pitsch	Linda Baker
2010	Denise Geick	Laura Sturdevant	Amanda Pitsch	Linda Baker
2011	Denise Geick	Rob Usakowski	Laurie Owen	Linda Baker
2012	Rob Usakowski	Marcia Hinkelmann	Laurie Owen	Ashley Felton
2013	Rob Usakowski	Marcia Hinkelmann	Shonna Ausbourne	Ashley Felton
2014	Angel LeSage	Deidre Edder	Shonna Ausbourne/ Kristen Drum	Ashley Felton/ Ramie Grissom
2015	Angel LeSage	Sandra Wight	Kristen Drum	Ramie Grissom
2016	Angel LeSage	Sandra Wight	Kristen Drum/ Robin Olsen	Ramie Grissom
2017	Angel LeSage	Cheryl Loesch	Robin Olsen/ Doug Brown	Brenda Reilly
2018	Angel LeSage	Cheryl Loesch	Doug Brown	Brenda Reilly
2019	Angel LeSage	Cheryl Loesch	Doug Brown	Brenda Reilly
2020-	Cheryl Loesch	Angel LeSage	Doug Brown	Brenda Reilly
2021	Cheryl Loesch	Angel LeSage	Doug Brown	Brenda Reilly
2022	Cheryl Loesch	Angel LeSage	Doug Brown	Brenda Reilly
2023	Cheryl Loesch	Doug Brown	Alex Williams	Brenda Reilly

ARBA Convention Winners - Open

Year	Best of Breed	Best of Opposite	Number shown	Location
1989	Bonnie Seeley	Pay Lloyd	97	OK
1990	Nancy Hinkston	Helen McKie	116	FL
1991	Dean/Loreen Nelson	Bonnie Seeley	95	CA
1992	Helen McKee	Marian Eley	300	OH
1993	Cathy Bohn	Helen McKee	214	WA
1994	Emily Meagher	Sally Fairbanks	356	OK
1995	Donna Lauricella	Hinkston/Epps	447	KY
1996	Brian Hartzell	B&N Garner	449	IL
1997	Lisa Smith	Jenn Poprawski	503	WI
1998	Lisa Smith	Brian Hartzell	250	OR
1999	Cheryl Carey	Cheryl Carey	549	KY
2000	Becky Corey	Marcia Hinkelmann	503	OH
2001	Cheryl Carey	Debbie Russell		CA
2002	Deidre Edder	Roberta Holcomb		IL
2003	Debbie Russell	Marcia Hinkelmann	353	KS
2004	Brian Hartzell	Marcia Hinkelmann	362	RI
2005	Brian Hartzell	Tammy Cook		IN
2006	Angel LeSage	Brian Hartzell	317	TX
2007	Jessica Bielejewski	Charlotte Schweikart		MI
2008	Brian Hartzell	Brian Caudill	497	KY
2009	Laurie Owen	Michelle Uptagrafft/ Valerie Uptagrafft-Smith	276	CA
2010	Steven Buell/Connie Forward	Brenda Reilly		MN
2011	Brian Caudill	Brian Caudill	414	IN
2012	Jessica & Taylor Usakowski	Kelsey Schultz	348	KS
2013	Amber Henderson	Danielle & Timmy Bauer		PA
2014	Brenda Reilly & Christi Ringelstetter	Sharon Moore	378	TX
2015	Amber Henderson	Deann, Niles, Nicole & Logan Boulier		OR
2016	Lori Robasciotti	Brian Caudill	171	CA
2017	Brian Caudill	Emily Vara	342	IN
2018	Bill Miller	Amber Henderson	336	MA
2019	Amber Henderson	Angel LeSage	294	NV
2020	Cancelled due to COVID19			
2021	Grace Anderson	Steven Buell/Connie Forward	230	KY
2022	Cheryl Loesch	Amber Henderson	283	NV

ARBA Convention Winners - Youth

Year	Best of Breed	Best of Opposite	Number shown	Location
1989	Terry Thomas	Liam O'Neil	24	OK
1990	Rachel Wieczorek	Kym Hienkle	48	FL
1991	Robert Keen	Robert Keen	100	CA
1992	Nathan Ball	Emily Meagher		OH
1993	Meghan Doherty	Patrick Kelley	70	WA
1994	Rhiannon Wickizer	Megan Bybee	92	OK
1995	Melissa Defrain	Jamie Reilly	150	KY
1996	Jamie Reilly	Jamie Reilly	113	IL
1997	E&J Prezzato	Sara Hale	168	WI
1998	Lacey Todd	Lacey Todd	77	OR
1999	Danetta Turk	Sara Carey	271	KY
2000	Sara Carey	Sarah Carey	208	OH
2001	Jamie Reilly	Kaitlyn Beilke		CA
2002	Danielle Steere	Melissa Archer		IL
2003	Tessa Erb	Anna Wooden		KS
2004	Kristina Randall	Keeley Phillips	175	RI
2005	Kristi Sugar	Heather Kaminsky		IN
2006	Emily Waldmer	Kelsey Deling		TX
2007	Tessa Erb	Kelsey Deling		MI
2008	Katie McNab	Dakato Moat	297	KY
2009	Kelsey Deling	Amy McBirney		CA
2010	Hannah, Madeline, and Ian Mills.	Cassandra Gonzalez-Loesch		MN
2011	Nicole & Logan Boulier	Nicole & Logan Boulier	241	IN
2012	Ashley Landis	Ashley Landis	162	KS
2013	Melanie Lyons	Lindsay Aversa		PA
2014	Ashley Landis	Madaleine Mills	187	TX
2015	Melanie Lyons	Melanie Lyons		OR
2016	Mallory Pienta	Luke Humecky	65	CA
2017	Melanie Lyons	Gracie Guthrie	100	IN
2018	Morgan Walker	Cody Landis	90	MA
2019	Cody Landis BOB/BIS	Cody Landis	65	NV
2020	Cancelled due to COVID 19			
2021	Makayla Wallock	Cody Landis	102	KY
2022	Cody Landis	Makayla Wallock	88	NV

NJWRC Nationals Winners -Open

Year	Best of Breed	Best of Opposite	# shown	Location
1988	Linda Keller	Bob /Linda Engel	89	WI
1989	Dean/Lureen Nelson	Candy Haenszel	100	OH
1990	Kitty Lynch	Janet Cunningham	125	OH
1991	Dean/Lureen Nelson		176	OH
1992	Helen McKie	Bonnie Seeley	121	NY
1993	Nancy List	Kyle/Janet Cunningham	180+	OH**
1994	P&S Radcliffe	Bonnie Reindahl	335	KY
1995	Bonnie Kelley	Nancy Hinkston		CA
1996	Barbara Goe	Gary/Phyllis Glissan	159	CO
1997	Helen McKie	Brian Caudill	280	NY
1998	Debbie Russell	Brian Hartzel	389	OH
1999	Brian Caudill	Brian Caudill	131	NM
2000	Lisa Smith	Brian Caudill	233	PA
2001				
2002				
2003	Brian Hartzell	Betsy Atkinson	297	KS
2004				
2005				CA
2006	Brian Hartzell			WI
2007	Stephanie/Nancy Hanchar		232	NY
2008	Brian Hartzell	Brian Hartzell		GA
2009	Brenda Reilly	Laurie Owen/Bill Patrick	334	OH
2010	Brian Caudill	Helen McKie	299	KY
2011	Brian Caudill	D&S Ausbourne	189	NV
2012	Deidre Edder	Angel LeSage	69	NC
2013	Angel LeSage	Helen McKie		MN
2014	Ramie Grissom/Sandra Wight	Gail More	337	OH
2015	Brian Caudill	Brian Caudill	399	OH
2016	Brian Caudill	Gayle Beirau	355	PA
2017	Kendra Williams/Chase & Patrick Austin	Julie & Lindsay Aversa	269	WI
2018	Cheryl Loesch	Haley Birkholz	151	NV
2019	Heike Cooley	Jessica & Cathy Usakowski	74	LA
2020	Postponed to 2021 due to COVID 19 (NY)			
2021	Gail More	Bill Miller		NY
2021	Amber Henderson	Angel LeSage	60	CA
2022	Helene Achgill	Kathy Moerbe	242	MN

NJWRC Nationals Winners - Youth

Year	Best of Breed	Best of Opposite	# shown	Location
1990	Kym Hienkle	Rachel Wieceoreck	36	OH
1991	Kym Heinkle	Mary White	67	OH
1992	Nathan Ball	Linnea Grover	55	NY
1993	Melissa Defrain	Jenn Wilson	150	OH**
1994	Melissa Defrain	Melissa Detrain	174	KY
1995	Rebecca Hunzie	Erin Throop		CA
1996	Keila Johnson	Austin Sewell	54	CO
1997	Alyssa Bowlby	Jeremy Kramer	56	NY
1998	B&J Cornibe	Emily Prezzato	162	OH
1999	Chris Grissum	Trevor Jamarillo	62	NM
2000	Katelyn Bielke	Sarah Carey	91	PA
2001	Anna Wooden	Ryan Raab		
2002				
2003	Anna Wooden			KS
2004	Anna Wooden		168	CA
2005	Ryan Raab			
2006	Jessica Hoopfer	Kelsey Schultz		
2007				
2008	Tessa Erb	Melanie Marshall		GA
2009	Abigal Esrael	Heather Kaminski	166	OH
2010	Kelsey Deling	Nicole Boulrier	106	KY
2011	Melanie Fletcher	Melanie Fletcher	117	NV
2012	Nicole/Logan Boulrier	Haley Birkholz	117	NC
2013	Jacob Fitzsimmons	Nicole Wilson		MN
2014	Nicole/Logan Boulrier	Arielle Spotswood	166	OH
2015	Elise Silipini	Katrina Przybylowski	174	OH
2016	Lindsay Aversa	Cody Landis	124	PA
2017	Melanie Lyons	Jazlyn Meyer	81	WI
2018	Betina Curletto	Luke Humecky	38	NV
2019	Ashley Landis	Kira Martin	39	LA
2020	Postponed to 2021 due to COVID 19 (NY)			
2021	Rachael Walkup	Cody Landis		NY
2021	Bettina Curletto	Bettina Curletto	29	CA
2022	Makayla Wallock	Cody Landis	64	MN

NJWRC WOOL - SWEEPS

Open	White Wool	Points	Colored Wool	Points
2014-15	Angi Sheets	584	Brian Caudill	703
2015-16	Lori Robasciotti	332	Amber Henderson	1201
2016-17	Lindsay/Julie Aversa	458	Carmen/Kelsey Deling	847
2017-18	Lindsay/Julie Aversa	257	Carmen/Kelsey Deling	407
2018-19	Brenda Kneir	507	Amber Henderson	2419
2019-20	Brenda Kneir	526	Brenda Kneir	1333
2020-21	Steven Buell/ Connie Forward	837	Steven Buell/ Connie Forward	3902
2021-22	Lori Robasciotti	519	Steven Buell/ Connie Forward	2419

Youth	White Wool	Points	Colored Wool	Points
2014-15	Lindsay Aversa	779	Lindsay Aversa	786
2015-16	Lindsay Aversa	425	Lindsay Aversa	536
2016-17	Cheyenne Galovits	271	Ariel Spotswood	904
2017-18	Jamie Lawrence	106	Carlie Wood	624
2018-19	Santana Longo	112	Bettina Curletto	300
2019-20	Layla Giorgianni	389	Paige Dinsmore	482
2020-21	Paige Dinsmore	122	Lily Avery	425
2021-22	Makayla Wallock	84	Addison Withrich	557

National Jersey Wooly Overall Sweepstakes

	OPEN	Points	YOUTH	Points
1989-90	Bonnie Seeley	1739.5	Jenn Hebble	66
1990-91	Bonnie Seeley	3436	Kym Hienkle	795
1991-92	Nancy List	3359	Jamie Burk	2106
1992-93	Karen Fischer	459	Heather Blough	3006.5
1993-94	Nancy List		Nathan Ball	6335
1994-95	Hinkston/Epps	8503	Rebecca Hunzie	7249
1995-96	Hinkston/Epps	7658.5	Rebecca Hunzie	6185
1996-97	Hinkston/Epps		Rebecca Hunzie	
1997-98	Brian Caudill	10612	Stacey Foulks	4655
1998-99	Cheryl Carey	9239	Kourtlyn Young	2626
1999-00	Cheryl Carey	16918.5	Sarah Carey	7753
2000-01	Cheryl Carey	13633	Sarah Carey	11574
2001-02	Cheryl Carey	14020	Sara Lung	16079
2002-03	Denise Geick		Sara Lung	
2003-04	Denise Geick			
2004-05	Brian Hartzell	14997	Tessa Erb	9853
2005-06				
2006-07				
2007-08				
2008-09	Deidre Edder	20745	Kelsey Deling	10740
2009-10	Jeff/Denise Geick	11253	Katelyn Luck	7806
2010-11	Brian Caudill	9773	Jessica/Taylor Usakowski	6164
2011-12	Brian Caudill	11157	Jessica/Taylor Usakowski	8787
2012-13	Haley Birkholz	7244	Arielle Spotswood	5981
2013-14	Steven Buell Connie Forward	8291	Arielle Spotswood	6819
2014-15	Brian Caudill	11742	Lindsay Aversa	15023
2015-16	Haley Birkholz	10882	Lindsay Aversa	17826
2016-17	Lindsay/Julie Aversa	24230	Arielle Spotswood	4436
2017-18	Lindsay/Julie Aversa	20066	Cody Landis	5558
2018-19	Bill Miller	19091	Layla Giorgianni	9557
2019-20	Bill Miller	9321	Cody Landis	6203
2020-21	Lindsay/Julie Aversa	13884	Madelyn Deselm	9692
2021-22	Lindsay/Julie Aversa	17617	Carlie Boling	12422

National Jersey Woolly Award Of Excellence

Year	Open	Points	Youth	Points
2010-11	Brian Caudill	1198	Jessica/Taylor Usakowski	1347
2011-12	Tessa Erb	2763	Lindsay Aversa	1451
2012-13	Brenda Reilly	1303	Nicole/Logan Boulier	1174
2013-14	Brenda Reilly	1118	Melanie Lyons	1240
2014-15	Cheryl Loesch	1397	Lindsay Aversa	1857
2015-16	Cheryl Loesch	1263	Lindsay Aversa	2698
2016-17	Lindsay/Julie Aversa	3631	Mallory Pienta	774
2017-18	Lindsay/Julie Aversa	2672	Cody Landis	719
2018-19	Bill Miller	2582	Layla Giorgiani	762
2019-20	Bill Miller	1346	Madelyn DeSelm	977
2020-21	Lindsay/Julie Aversa	2302	Madelyn DeSelm	2698
2021-22	Lindsay/Julie Aversa	2496	Carlie Boling	1631

National Jersey Wooly Rabbit of The Year

Open

Year	Ear Tag	Class	Exhibitor	Points
2010-11	D		Steven Buell/Connie Forward	409
2011-12	LB4		Angel Lesage	524
2012-13	EM	Broken Buck	Brenda Reilly	653
2013-14	S1	Self D	Sandra Wight/Ramie Grissom	1444
2014-15	34C	Broken Buck	Brian Caudill	651
2015-16	ICE	Broken Doe	Cheryl Loesch	592
2016-17	BP2	Broken Buck	Lindsay/Julie Aversa	1451
2017-18	IGN	Tan Buck	Cheryl Loesch	718
2018-19	KJ	Self-Buck	Bill Miller	1297
2019-20	DO	Broken Buck	Brenda Kneir	585
2020-21	MISS	Broken Doe	Lindsay/Julie Aversa	806
2021-22	SOS	Broken Buck	Lindsay/Julie Aversa	627

Youth

Year	Ear Tag	Class	Exhibitor	Points
2010-11	TD35		Hannah/Madeleine/Ian Mills	404
2011-12	FT67		Nicole/Logan Boulier	474
2012-13	BAR	Shaded Buck	Lindsay Aversa	643
2013-14	CB2	Tan Buck	Melanie Lyons	725
2014-15	03	Self-Buck	Elise Silipini	353
2015-16	BT	Agouti Doe	Lindsay Aversa	626
2016-17	PJ	Self-Buck	Mallory Pienta	386
2017-18	FLY	Shaded Doe	Greta Laurel	292
2018-19	SP	Self-Doe	Layla Giorgianni	762
2019-20	SWISS	Shaded Doe	Addison Withrich	318
2020-21	C	Self Doe	Madelyn DeSelm	370
2021-22	NAL	AOV Doe	Makayla Wallock	542

National Jersey Wooly Herdsman

Year	Open	Points	Youth	Points
2010-11	Angel LeSage	39	Jessica/Taylor Usakowski	48
2011-12	Brian Caudill	48	Nicole/Logan Boulier	46
2012-13	Timmy/Danielle Bauer	60	Arielle Spotswood	58
2013-14	Brenda Reilly	54	Melanie Lyons	68
2014-15	Brenda Reilly/Christi Ringlestetter	40	Lindsay Aversa	77
2015-16	Angi Sheets	38	Lindsay Aversa	66
2016-17	Lindsay/Julie Aversa	69	Mallory Pienta	25
2017-18	Meadow Gustafson/Bethany Robertson	71	Cody Landis	33
2018-19	Meadow Gustafson/Bethany Robertson	45	Layla Giorgianni	39
2019-20	Bill Miller	40	Madelyn DeSelm	37
2020-21	Lindsay/Julie Aversa	39	Madelyn DeSelm	42
2021-22	Lindsay/Julie Aversa	52	Carlie Boling	71

The National Jersey Wooly Rabbit Clubs

Hall of Fame

The NJWRC board inducts members into the Hall of Fame who have distinguished themselves as stewards of the breed and the club.

Larry and Laura Yothers 1999

Bonnie Seeley 2000

Joy Smith 2001

Helen McKie 2006

Nancy Hinkston

Marcia Hinkelman 2011

Debbie Russell 2015

Brian Caudill 2016

Terri and Tessa Erb 2019

Brenda Reilly 2020

Angel LeSage 2022

OWNING AND CARING FOR YOUR JERSEY WOOLY

General Tips

1. Join the American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA)
2. Join your local specialty club.
3. Join your local All-Breed Club
4. Purchase an ARBA Standard of Perfection, familiarize yourself with the Jersey Wooly standard.
5. Attend an All-Breed show, and find breeders in your area. Ask questions about husbandry, availability of stock etc. Feel as many rabbits as possible. Get a feel for what you like in a Jersey Wooly.
6. Assuming you already own a Jersey Wooly, as you have joined the NJWRC, and you still wish to enter the world of breeding and showing, now you'll want to set up your rabbitry. Breeding is not for everyone, and too many people jump in too quickly without spending a few months learning about rabbits. Find a breeder you like, and whose rabbits you like. Ask them about mentoring you and helping you to get started. Those that take the time to have a plan experience success sooner, avoid added stress and problems, and tend to stay in the hobby longer. Plan out your rabbitry: plan for the number of holes (cages) do you want to have, or can you fit comfortably in your rabbitry. Plan for ventilation, how you will cool and heat, if you will use water bottles or crocks, cage size, the list is endless. Planning ahead will help you to make better decisions and spend less money.
7. Stick with one breed, and one color group or compatible groups (agouti or shaded based) until you have learned to cull properly (culling-is simply removing animals from your herd by selling undesirable breed/show animals as pets, or terminal culling). Know the standard of perfection and can apply it. The biggest mistake is trying to do too many colors at once. *Do not fall into the cute color trap*, find the best typed rabbit that you can. Only after you are comfortable and have completed the goals you have set for yourself should you add new colors.
8. Know the basis of husbandry. Make sure to have a list of first aid, and medicine dosages.
9. Wait for good stock. Buy the best buck you can afford and two complimentary does, preferably from the same lines. Be patient; a good foundation is crucial and will save you heartache and time. This is not as easy as it sounds. You may have to wait for what you want.
10. Do not overbuy. You want to to breed your own winners. Fill your cages with homebred Jersey Woolies. As your breeding program grows you will be better able to see the weaknesses you need to improve and buy stock that will help with those traits.
11. Set realistic goals. Set goals every year--something to work on improving in your rabbitry. Set both short-term and long-term goals and evaluate your performance at the end of each year, then set new goals. Don't expect to win Best of Breed your first time out. Start out with maybe not being the first off the table, then placing in top 10 or top 5, then BOG or BOSG, then BOB or BOS, then ultimately BIS or RIS. Also set goals regarding which part of your herd needs improvement. For example: better hindquarters, wool, or head.
12. Don't just look for the instant gratification. Look for what you can improve in the next generation, or further out.
13. Volunteer to help out at a show. They are always looking for help to set up, tear down, and write for a judge at a show. You will learn quite a bit by watching a judge and hearing their comments about a rabbit.

- 14.** Becoming a good breeder is a long process. There is always something new to learn. Ask questions, and share information, especially help beginners. Once you are comfortable with your rabbitry, set a goal to help others start as new breeders of Jersey Woolies.
- 15.** Good habits make great rabbits. Keep in mind that as you increase numbers of rabbits the workload greatly increases. Start out slow so that you do not become overwhelmed. Be sure to keep complete and accurate records. There are many computer programs that can help you with this task. Find one that works for you.
- 16.** Always make the daily care of your rabbits a priority.
- 17.** Strive to be a reputable and responsible breeder. Make sure you represent rabbits accurately, have accurate pedigrees, sell healthy rabbits--don't show or sell sick rabbits, have a return policy for pets.
- 18.** Be a good sportsman. Find enjoyment in breeding and showing even if you do not win all the time. Congratulate winners. Do not identify your rabbits on the judging table.
- 19.** Try to make a positive contribution to the rabbit hobby. Breeders are the caretakers of this hobby; if we fail to improve it we will lose it. You can contribute in many ways: serve ARBA, or an affiliated all breed club. Help at a show, research and write articles for the NJWRC, mentor 4-hers and new breeders, etc.

Based on an article written by Corrine Fayo from Bucky's Bunny Barn.

Your Jersey Woolly's Diet

The three important elements of a Jersey Woolly's diet are water, pellets, and hay. Rabbits should always have access to fresh clean water.. *If a rabbit does not drink, it will not eat.* Water can be provided in a crock or bottle. Be sure to clean the crock or bottle frequently and disinfect often. If a rabbit stops eating, the first thing to check is their water. When traveling to shows an electrolyte can be added to the rabbit's water to entice them to drink more. Examples of electrolytes are Bounce Back, and Acid Pack.

A fresh, commercially produced quality feed pellet should be fed. The best way to feed pellets is in a measured amount. Free feeding pellets can lead to excess feed getting stale or moldy, which your rabbit will refuse to eat, or worse, will eat and get sick. The only exception to free feeding is in kits. Kits should be allowed to free feed. Change the feed dish at least twice per day to keep it fresh. Feeding a pelleted diet makes it easier to assure your rabbit is receiving the proper nutrients. A rabbit will get all the minerals and vitamins it needs from the pelleted feed. The recommended protein level of the pelleted feed should be from 15 to 17 percent for Jersey Woollies. Other breeds may have different requirements than those listed here for the Jersey Woolly. The fat content should be a minimum of 3 percent or below. A fiber level of 15-17 percent is adequate. A level higher than this amount can retard weight gain or cause a rabbit to lose condition. Higher fiber levels can cause your rabbit to not be able to process protein correctly. Too high levels of protein will create a higher level of ammonia in the urine and you may see a red tinge to the urine. With too much protein you will also notice that your rabbits tend to be in a molt constantly.

If you are going to make a pellet change, it is good to do so gradually. Rabbits have sensitive digestive systems. It is best to gradually add the new feed to the old feed for a period of about a week until you are feeding the new pellet 100%.

Hay-- you want to feed grass hay, as alfalfa hay can be too high in protein. Your pelleted feed provides 100% of your rabbits nutrients. As hay varies in quality, you want to feed hay on occasion. It is not necessary to feed daily although you can do so in small amounts. Store your hay in a cool dry place, and when you feed be sure to check it for mold.

Treats-- Many of breeders will top-dress their feed with a mixture of grains. There are commercially available conditioners (Doc's Rabbit Enhancer, Oxy-gen, etc) that are available. Most breeders will add oats (whole, no quick oats), or barley to the rabbits daily ration. Black oiled sunflower seeds can also be used, but should be used in limited quantity. Too many can cause a molt. Calf manna can also be fed in limited quantities as it can be hard on a rabbit's kidneys. Cheerios, shredded wheat, and dry grain bread can also be given to rabbits as treats. Often when traveling it is all your rabbit may eat. Papaya tablets or dried papaya is often offered as it can help with preventing wool block.

Tips and Tools for Grooming your Wooly

Proper nutrition, cleanliness of cages, and the proper grooming tools will make grooming your rabbits easier.

The timing of grooming varies from rabbit to rabbit. If they have the proper coat, which we like to call “shake and go,” your grooming time will be little. You will find that there are different coats on a Jersey Wooly. The time it takes to groom also depends on whether they are in full coat, or are molting.

A chair may be needed in case you need to sit and groom undersides, feet, or trim nails. A table with a carpet remnant is very helpful as you groom. It helps the rabbit to feel secure in its footing as you groom.

Good tools to have are:

- Slicker Brush
- Poodle Comb, or other wide tooth comb
- High powered blower
- Nail clippers

I like to begin by clipping the rabbits nails to try and limit the amount of scratches I get. The ideal way to groom would be to start with the blower, as this will open the coat, and blows out all the dust and dander. It will also show you where you need to do further grooming with either the comb or brush. If you do not have a blower it is not necessary but makes things easier. Have another experienced breeder show you how to use a blower to best effect.

The back area above the tail and the skirting around the bottom of the legs are usually the worst area. If the rabbit is dirty on their feet or genitals, I will give a squirt of Old Man’s Spray (2 tbs original Listerine to a cup of white vinegar), then saturate with cornstarch. You allow this to dry completely then comb out. To use the slicker brush, lift the coat starting at the skirt with your left hand and gently brush the coat towards the table. You want to stay away from the rabbits topline as this is the place the coat is the most fragile and does not usually need groomed. You do not want to overgroom your rabbits as it will take out the coats density and could break off leaving the coat uneven. Use the comb in between the ears and down above the tail to remove any webbing or matting that has occurred. If there is a matt, I use my fingers and try to pull it apart before using the comb. Remember, the comb will pull out everything.

If you groom your rabbits prior to putting them in your carriers to go to the show, when you get to the show, you should only have minor grooming to do.

FIRST AID KIT

Injuries and other problems with your rabbits will respond with great success if the care is immediate rather than delayed for hours or even days. If medications are handy, you are much more likely to treat the rabbit, rather than if you must go out and buy it and bring back to the rabbitry. Following are some of the items I think all rabbitries should have on hand. Keep in a box or duffel bag ready for use. A rabbit can undergo a variety of injuries caused from a simple scratch to the more severe issues like becoming overheated. Think ahead to the potential hazards and prepare your kit accordingly.

Antibiotic Cream or Ointment- This can be obtained at most farm stores and can be used to treat most injuries initially. Clean area with peroxide first.

Antiseptic -- Peroxide or equivalent to cleanse infected areas prior to the application of healing medications.

Antiseptic Soap -- This should be available to thoroughly cleanse the hands prior to working with sick and infected animals and right after.

Baby Food – Use when your rabbit refuses to eat; it's easy to get baby food or canned pumpkin into a feeding syringe.

Chlorhexidine Solution– Use to flush wounds.

Disposable Scalpel -- These are very convenient and can be used to open abscesses that develop. Dispose of them after use.

Electrolyte powder -- Can be mixed with water and added to drinking water for stress (really good in hot weather).

Eyedropper – To administer saline apply certain antiseptics. Also can be used to feed orphaned kits.

Styptic Powder (or cornstarch) – If you trim your rabbit's nails a little too short and they begin to bleed, take a pinch of the powder and press it to the bleeding area.

Gas Medication (Simethicone) – Use in case of a gas emergency. Various brands for babies are acceptable, including Gerber's Gas Relief Drops.

Gauze and Cotton Balls and Q-tips – Use to clean and care for wounds. Also for the application of medicine.

Hot water bottle -- A hot water bottle can be used to help warm up a rabbit when it becomes too cold. A rabbit that has become too cold should be brought indoors and warmed with blankets. Place the hot water bottles on the outside of the blankets and not directly against the rabbit's body. Good for warming up chilled kits, wrap in the towel and put kits next to warm gently.

Hydrogen Peroxide— Use initially on wounds. Thereafter use the chlorhexidine solution as hydrogen peroxide inhibits the tissue's healing.

Kaopectate- This anti-diarrheal agent can be given two to three times a day (1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon) for sudden acute diarrhea.

Mineral Oil – For the treatment of ear mites and skin irritations.

Nail Clippers -- These should be available to trim toenails periodically so that animals will not injure or tear long toenails.

Neomycin Ophthalmic -- This is a very good stuff and should be kept in all rabbitries. This works great for nest box eye (matted closed). Apply two to three times a day.

Neosporin (non-pain relief) – You can use this if your bunny has a minor cut or wound.

Preparation H – This is used to treat the occasional sore hocks. This should be applied daily for five to seven days.

Probios – Administer to rabbits who are not eating. Helps to restore balance in an upset stomach. **BeneBac** is another widely available brand.

Rubbing Alcohol – For sterilizing scissors, tweezers and other tools.

Saline – For gently washing around the eye area in case of irritation.

Scissors and Forceps – Use to trim the fur surrounding a bunny wound. Be careful! Rabbit skin is extremely elastic and is difficult to see through the fur. Be certain that the skin remains clear of the scissors. Also for removing foreign material from the wound area.

Stethoscope- To listen to your rabbit's digestive system and monitor them for GI Stasis.

Syringes -- Of various sizes for administering food and liquids. For force feeding food, water and giving oral medication. Also good for flushing wounds and abscesses.

Super Glue – To put a tear or cut back together, since stitches are not really an option in most cases. Apply a dab of super glue to edges of cut and hold together.

Thermometer (digital, do not use glass) – A digital thermometer can be used on a rabbit rectally. The temperature of a rabbit should range from 101 to 104 degrees Fahrenheit (38-40 degrees Celsius). A temperature over 104 degrees Fahrenheit could be a sign of heat stress which is extremely dangerous for a rabbit.

Tincture of iodine solution -- This should be wiped over the entire abscessed area before any are lanced.

Towel -- Large enough to wrap a rabbit in to restrain him. This will stop the rabbit from scratching you and struggling while you force feed, giving a needle, clip nails, check teeth etc.

Tweezers

Udder balm (bag balm) -- this is a healing ointment that can be applied following the antibiotic ointment to keep the wounds soft. Also for chapped or irritated skin. Good for nursing Does to prevent chapped and cracked teats.

Normal Body Temperature: 101.5-103 F

Rectal Temperature: 103.3-104F; 38-40C

Heart Rate (pulse): 130-325 beats per minute

Respiratory Rate: 32-60 breaths per minute

Life Span: 5-12 years

Breeding Age: Males, 6-7 months;

Females, 5-6 months

Pregnancy: 29-31 days

Emergencies can happen at any time and you want to make sure that you are prepared to avoid problems. Many of the items that you should include in your Rabbit First Aid Kit can be found around the house. Learn to recognize rabbit issues and illnesses and treat at the first sign.

Isolate ALL new arrivals for two to four weeks. Water and feed them after the rest of the herd has been cared for. Beware of lending or borrowing rabbits for breeding. This is a good way to bring disease to your herd.

Basic Color Genetics

In basic color genetics, there are five alleles, A, B, C, D, E, that contain most genetic color information. Each of the alleles governs a specific area of color. Every rabbit inherits two genes on each allele, one from each parent. Each allele also has an order of dominance, or the order in which colors will display on rabbits. Colors are shown under each allele from most dominant to least dominant.

A Allele

A Allele-order of dominance A (agouti), at (tan), a (self)

A-agouti is dominant and cannot hide. If a rabbit has the A (agouti) gene, it will be agouti in color. The other colors (at, a) can hide behind A. So, an agouti can carry tan or self.

Chestnut, Opal, Chinchilla, Squirrel.

at-tan is similar to agouti in markings, but without the rings throughout the coat. Meaning: they have ear lacing, eye circles, triangle behind ear. Tan (at) is dominant to self (a), but recessive to A. So only one gene is need for at to express in coat. So, a Tan rabbit can only carry self.

Black otter, Blue Otter, Sable Martin, Smoke Pearl Martin, Black Silver Martin, Blue Silver Martin.

a (self)- self is simple: a solid colored rabbit from head to tail. Self is the most recessive gene on this Allele. It can be carried by A (agouti), or at(tan), but is a true recessive one gene is required from each parent to make a self: aa.

AA=agouti, Aat=agouti carrying tan, Aa=agouti carrying self, atat=tan, ata=tan carrying self, aa=self

B Allele

B Allele- order of dominance B (black), b (chocolate)

B (black) is dominant and cannot be carried. The rabbit is either black, or black based, or it is not.

Black, Black Tort, Blue Tort, Blue, Chestnut, Opal, Seal, Siamese Sable, Smoke Pearl, or Sable Point.

b (chocolate)- reduces the black pigment in the coat making it look brown. b (chocolate) is recessive, so each parent would have to contribute a b gene to get a chocolate.

Chocolate, Lilac, Chocolate Martin, Lilac Martin

C Allele

C Allele-in order of dominance; C (full color), cchd (chinchilla), cchl (shaded), ch (Pointed White), c (rew).

C (full color)- is very simple. The C gene allows a rabbit to have even distribution of color over the entire rabbit. C is dominant and cannot be carried.

Black, Blue, Black Tort, Blue Tort, Chestnut, Opal, Orange, Black Otter, Blue Otter, or Chocolate.

cchd (chinchilla)- takes most of the yellow pigment away from the coat. Therefore, it results in a white color where the yellow would have been. cchd is recessive to C but dominant over cchl, ch or c. So, it can be carried by C but not any other of the genes.

Chinchilla, Squirrel, Black Silver Martin, Blue Silver Martin, Chocolate Silver Martin, and Lilac Silver Martin.

cchl (shaded)-this gene erases all yellow pigment from the fur. This gene is affected by the hidden genes after it. So, if the rabbit is homozygous (carrying 2 of the same gene cchlcchl) it will be darker in appearance (seal or blue seal) Rabbits that only have one cchl and a different gene being carried (ch, c) will tend to be lighter. So cchl is recessive to C and cchd, but dominant over ch and c.

Seal, Blue Seal, Siamese Sable, Smoke Pearl, Sable Point, Sable Martin, Smoke Pearl Martin, Seal Martin.

ch (Pointed White, aka AOV) The ch gene reduces all the pigment on the rabbit except the points. This leaves a totally white rabbit with pink eyes, except for color on the tail, legs, ears and nose. It is temperature sensitive; in the heat, the point color fades. ch is only dominant over c (rew). So Pointed White will only be expressed if it is chch or chc.

Black Pointed White, Blue Pointed White

c (rew)-eliminates all pigment, which expresses as a white rabbit with pink eyes. It is recessive so must be cc. But keep in mind it still has a full genotype hidden. Someone once told me that it is like a white blanket thrown over the rabbit. It can still carry color on the other genes: Agouti, tan, or self. It can also carry or be non-extension (tort), or broken pattern of any of the accepted colors.

CC=full color, Ccchd=full color carrying chin, Ccchl=full color carrying shaded, Cch=full color carrying pointed white, Cc=full color carrying rew, cchdcchd=chinchilla, cchdc=chin carrying rew, cchlccchl=seal, cchlch =shaded carrying pointed white, cchlc=shaded carrying rew, chch=Pointed White, chc=Pointed White carrying rew (not desired as it affects point color and size of nose marking).

D ALLELE

D Allele-in order of dominance D (dense), d(dilute)

D (dense), full or dense expression of color. D is dominant and cannot be carried.

Black, Chocolate, Chestnut, orange Chinchilla

d (dilute)-dilutes the coat color to a more washed out appearance. d is recessive, you must have two copies of d to express in the coat.

Blue, Lilac, Opal, Squirrel, Blue otter, Smoke Pearl, Smoke Pearl Martin

DD =dense, Dd =Dense carrying dilute, dd =dilute

E ALLELE

E Allele order of dominance E (extension), e (non-extension)

E-extension leaves the hair normal in terms of color extension down the hair shaft. Dominant over e (non-extension). So, all rabbits other than tort, Sable Point or Orange are E.

e-non-extension restricts the extension of the black pigment down the hair shaft. Because of the modifiers and smut at work, ee rabbits come in a wide range of hues within the same color. ee rabbits resemble a shaded rabbit, and as we show by phenotype (how they look), they are shown in the shaded group, although technically not a shaded. e is recessive, so will not be expressed unless there are 2 copies ie., ee.

Black Tort, Blue Tort, Orange, Sable Point.

Note: you want to keep this gene away from ch (pointed whites), and A (agouti). It will mess the color up on both and wash out rings on agouti.

EE=full extension, Ee=Full extension carrying non-extension, ee=non-extension

I want to take a brief moment to mention the broken pattern.

En=broken pattern; en=solid

enen=solid

Enen=broken

EnEn=Charlie

This gene can be influenced by various modifiers. All accepted colors except pointed white can be broken.

C – Full Color	C _{chd} – Chinchilla	C _{chl} C _{chl} Seal	C _{chl} – Sable	C _h – Himalayan	c c REW
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Black [Self]</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa B- C- D- E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">[Black] Self Chinchilla</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa B- c_{chd} – D- E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">[Black] Seal</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa B- c_{chl}c_{chl} D- E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">[Black] Sable (Siamese Sable)</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa B- c_{chl} – D- E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">[Black] Himalayan</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa B- c_h – D- E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Ruby - Eyed White</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa B- cc D- E-</div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Chocolate [Self]</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa bb C- D- E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Chocolate Self Chinchilla</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa bb c_{chd} – D- E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Chocolat e Seal</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa bb c_{chl}c_{chl} D - E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Chocolat e Sable</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa bb c_{chl} – D- E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Chocolate Himalayan</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa bb c_h – D- E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Ruby - Eyed White</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa bb cc D- E-</div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Blue [Self]</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa B- C- dd E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Blue Self Chinchilla</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa B- c_{chd} – dd E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Blue Seal</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa B- c_{chl}c_{chl} d d E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Blue Sable (Smoke Pearl)</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa B- c_{chl} – dd E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Blue Himalayan</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa B- c_h – dd E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Ruby - Eyed White</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa B- cc dd E-</div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Lilac [Self]</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa bb C- dd E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Lilac Self Chinchilla</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa bb c_{chd} – dd E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Lilac Seal</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa bb c_{chl}c_{chl} d d E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Lilac Sable</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa bb c_{chl} – dd E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Lilac Himalayan</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa bb c_h – dd E-</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">Ruby - Eyed White</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">aa bb cc dd E-</div>

<p><i>Black Tortoiseshell</i></p> <p><i>aa B- C- D- ee</i></p>	<p><i>Sallander (Iron Grey)</i></p> <p><i>aa B- c_{chd}- D- ee</i></p>	<p><i>Seal Point</i></p> <p><i>aa B- c_{chl}cchl D - ee</i></p>	<p><i>Sable Point</i></p> <p><i>aa B- c_{chl}- D- ee</i></p>	<p><i>[Black] Himalayan, Extended</i></p> <p><i>aa B- c_h- D- ee</i></p>	<p><i>Ruby-Eyed White</i></p> <p><i>aa B- cc D- ee</i></p>
<p><i>Chocolate Tortoiseshell</i></p> <p><i>aa bb C- D- ee</i></p>	<p><i>Chocolate Sallander</i></p> <p><i>aa bb c_{chd}- D- ee</i></p>	<p><i>Chocolate Point</i></p> <p><i>aa bb c_{chl}cchl D - ee</i></p>	<p><i>Chocolate Point</i></p> <p><i>aa bb c_{chl}- D- ee</i></p>	<p><i>Chocolate Himalayan, Extended</i></p> <p><i>aa bb c_h- D- ee</i></p>	<p><i>Ruby-Eyed White</i></p> <p><i>aa bb cc D- ee</i></p>
<p><i>Blue Tortoiseshell (Isabel)</i></p> <p><i>aa B- C- dd ee</i></p>	<p><i>Blue Sallander</i></p> <p><i>aa B- c_{chd}- dd ee</i></p>	<p><i>Blue Point [Siamese]</i></p> <p><i>aa B- c_{chl}cchl d d ee</i></p>	<p><i>Blue Point [Siamese]</i></p> <p><i>aa B- c_{chl}- dd ee</i></p>	<p><i>Blue Himalayan, Extended</i></p> <p><i>aa B- c_h- dd ee</i></p>	<p><i>Ruby-Eyed White</i></p> <p><i>aa B- cc dd ee</i></p>
<p><i>Lilac Tortoiseshell</i></p> <p><i>aa bb C- dd ee</i></p>	<p><i>Lilac Sallander</i></p> <p><i>aa bb c_{chd}-dd ee</i></p>	<p><i>Lilac Point</i></p> <p><i>aa bb c_{chl}cchl d d ee</i></p>	<p><i>Lilac Point (Cream*)</i></p> <p><i>aa bb c_{chl}- dd ee</i></p>	<p><i>Lilac Himalayan, Extended</i></p> <p><i>aa bb c_h- dd ee</i></p>	<p><i>Ruby-Eyed White</i></p> <p><i>aa bb cc dd ee</i></p>
<p><i>Black Otter</i></p> <p><i>at- B- C- D- E-</i></p>	<p><i>Black Silver Marten</i></p> <p><i>at- B- c_{chd}- D- E-</i></p>	<p><i>[Black] Seal Marten</i></p> <p><i>at- B- c_{chl}cchl D - E-</i></p>	<p><i>[Black] Sable Marten</i></p> <p><i>at- B- c_{chl}- D- E-</i></p>	<p><i>Black Otter Himalayan</i></p> <p><i>at- B- c_h- D- E-</i></p>	<p><i>Ruby-Eyed White</i></p> <p><i>at- B- cc D- E-</i></p>

<p>Chocolate Otter</p> <p>at- bb C- D- E-</p>	<p>Chocolate Silver Marten</p> <p>at- bb c_{chd}- D- E-</p>	<p>Chocolate Seal Marten</p> <p>at- bb $c_{chl}cchl$ D - E-</p>	<p>Chocolate Sable Marten</p> <p>at- bb c_{chl}- D- E-</p>	<p>Chocolate Otter Himalayan</p> <p>at- bb c_h- D- E-</p>	<p>Ruby - Eyed White</p> <p>at- bb cc D- E-</p>
<p>Blue Otter</p> <p>at- B- C- dd E-</p>	<p>Blue Silver Marten</p> <p>at- B- c_{chd}- dd E-</p>	<p>Blue Seal Marten</p> <p>at- B- $c_{chl}cchl$ d d E-</p>	<p>Blue Sable Marten (Smoke Pearl Marten)</p> <p>at- B- c_{chl}- dd E-</p>	<p>Blue Otter Himalayan</p> <p>at- B- c_h- dd E-</p>	<p>Ruby - Eyed White</p> <p>at- B- cc dd E-</p>
<p>Lilac Otter</p> <p>at- bb C- dd E-</p>	<p>Lilac Silver Marten</p> <p>at- bb c_{chd}- dd E-</p>	<p>Lilac Seal Marten</p> <p>at- bb $c_{chl}cchl$ d d E-</p>	<p>Lilac Sable Marten</p> <p>at- bb c_{chl}- dd E-</p>	<p>Lilac Otter Himalayan</p> <p>at- bb c_h- dd E-</p>	<p>Ruby - Eyed White</p> <p>at- bb cc dd E-</p>
<p>Orange or Tort Otter</p> <p>at- B- C- D- ee</p>	<p>Otter Ermine (Otter Frost Point)</p> <p>at- B- c_{chd}- D- ee</p>	<p>Otter Seal Point</p> <p>at- B- $c_{chl}cchl$ D - ee</p>	<p>Otter Sable Point (sable point marten)</p> <p>at- B- c_{chl}- D- ee</p>	<p>Black Otter Himalayan</p> <p>at- B- c_h- D- ee</p>	<p>Ruby -Eyed White</p> <p>at- B- cc D- ee</p>
<p>Chocolate Orange Otter</p>	<p>Chocolate Otter Ermine</p>	<p>Chocolate Otter Seal Point</p>	<p>Chocolate Otter Sable Point</p>	<p>Chocolate Otter Himalayan</p>	<p>Ruby -Eyed White</p>

<i>at- bb C- D- ee</i>	<i>at- bb c_{chd}- D- ee</i>	<i>at- bb c_{chl}cchl D - ee</i>	<i>at- bb c_{chl}- D- ee</i>	<i>at- bb c_h- D- ee</i>	<i>at- bb cc D- ee</i>
<i>Fawn Otter</i>	<i>Blue Otter Ermine</i>	<i>Blue Otter Seal Point</i>	<i>Blue Otter Sable Point</i>	<i>Blue Otter Himalaya n</i>	<i>Ruby -Eyed White</i>
<i>at- B- C- dd ee</i>	<i>at- B- c_{chd}-dd ee</i>	<i>at- B- c_{chl}cchl d d ee</i>	<i>at- B- c_{chl}- dd ee</i>	<i>at- B- c_h- dd ee</i>	<i>at- B- cc dd ee</i>
<i>Lilac Fawn Otter</i>	<i>Lilac Otter Ermine</i>	<i>Lilac Otter Seal Point</i>	<i>Lilac Otter Sable Point</i>	<i>Lilac Otter Himalaya n</i>	<i>Ruby -Eyed White</i>
<i>at- bb C- dd ee</i>	<i>at- bb c_{chd}- dd ee</i>	<i>at- bb c_{chl}cchl d d ee</i>	<i>at- bb c_{chl}- dd ee</i>	<i>at- bb c_h- dd ee</i>	<i>at- bb cc dd ee</i>
<i>Chestnut [Agouti]</i>	<i>[Agouti] Chinchilla</i>	<i>Seal Agouti Siamese</i>	<i>Sable Agouti Siamese</i>	<i>Agouti Himalayan</i>	<i>Ruby - Eyed Whit e</i>
<i>A- B- C- D- E-</i>	<i>A- B- c_{chd}- D- E-</i>	<i>A- B- c_{chl}cchl D - E-</i>	<i>A- B- c_{chl}- D- E-</i>	<i>A- B- c_h- D- E-</i>	<i>A- B- cc D- E-</i>
<i>Cinnamon (Chocolate Agouti)</i>	<i>Chocolate Agouti Chinchilla</i>	<i>Chocolat e Seal Agouti Siamese</i>	<i>Chocolat e Sable Agouti Siamese</i>	<i>Chocolate Agouti Himalayan</i>	<i>Ruby - Eyed Whit e</i>
<i>A- bb C- D- E-</i>	<i>A- bb c_{chd}- D- E-</i>	<i>A- bb c_{chl}cchl D - E-</i>	<i>A- bb c_{chl}- D- E-</i>	<i>A- bb c_h- D- E-</i>	<i>A- bb cc D- E-</i>

<p>Opal (Blue Agouti)</p> <p>A- B- C- dd E-</p>	<p>Squirrel (Blue Chinchilla)</p> <p>A- B- c_{chd}- dd E-</p>	<p>Blue Seal Agouti Siamese</p> <p>A- B- c_{chl}cchl d d E-</p>	<p>Blue Sable Agouti Siamese</p> <p>A- B- c_{chl}- dd E-</p>	<p>Blue Agouti Himalayan</p> <p>A- B- c_h- dd E-</p>	<p>Ruby - Eyed White</p> <p>A- B- cc dd E-</p>
<p>Lynx (Lilac Agouti)</p> <p>A- bb C- dd E-</p>	<p>Lilac Agouti Chinchilla</p> <p>A- bb c_{chd}- dd E-</p>	<p>Lilac Seal Agouti Siamese</p> <p>A- bb c_{chl}cchl d d E-</p>	<p>Lilac Sable Agouti Siamese</p> <p>A- bb c_{chl}- dd E-</p>	<p>Lilac Agouti Himalayan</p> <p>A- bb c_h- dd E-</p>	<p>Ruby - Eyed White</p> <p>A- bb cc dd E-</p>
<p>Orange [Agouti]</p> <p>A- B- C- D- ee</p>	<p><i>Ermine (Frost Point, Frosted Pearl or Frosty)</i></p> <p>A- B- c_{chd}- D- ee</p>	<p><i>Seal Agouti Point</i></p> <p>A- B- c_{chl}cchl D - ee</p>	<p><i>Sable Agouti Point</i></p> <p>A- B- c_{chl}- D- ee</p>	<p><i>Agouti Himalayan, Extended</i></p> <p>A- B- c_h- D- ee</p>	<p><i>Ruby -Eyed White</i></p> <p>A- B- cc D- ee</p>
<p>Chocolate Orange</p> <p>A- bb C- D- ee</p>	<p><i>Chocolate Ermine (Choc. Frost Point)</i></p> <p>A- bb c_{chd}- D- ee</p>	<p><i>Chocolate Seal Agouti Point</i></p> <p>A- bb c_{chl}cchl D - ee</p>	<p><i>Chocolate Sable Agouti Point</i></p> <p>A- bb c_{chl}- D- ee</p>	<p><i>Choc. Agouti Himalayan, Extended</i></p> <p>A- bb c_h- D- ee</p>	<p><i>Ruby -Eyed White</i></p> <p>A- bb cc D- ee</p>
<p>Fawn (Cream)</p> <p>A- B- C- dd ee</p>	<p>Blue Ermine</p> <p>A- B- c_{chd}- dd ee</p>	<p>Blue Seal Agouti Point</p> <p>A- B- c_{chl}cchl d d ee</p>	<p>Blue Sable Agouti Point</p> <p>A- B- c_{chl}- dd ee</p>	<p>Blue Agouti Himalayan, Extended</p> <p>A- B- c_h- dd ee</p>	<p><i>Ruby -Eyed White</i></p> <p>A- B- cc dd ee</p>

<p data-bbox="269 247 347 317"><i>Lilac Fawn</i></p> <p data-bbox="228 352 388 422"><i>A- bb C- dd ee</i></p>	<p data-bbox="496 247 591 317"><i>Lilac Ermine</i></p> <p data-bbox="469 352 618 422"><i>A- bb c_{chd}- dd ee</i></p>	<p data-bbox="719 138 813 279"><i>Lilac Seal Agouti Point</i></p> <p data-bbox="704 317 828 422"><i>A- bb c_{chl}cchl d d ee</i></p>	<p data-bbox="922 138 1016 279"><i>Lilac Sable Agouti Point</i></p> <p data-bbox="911 317 1018 422"><i>A- bb c_{chl}- dd ee</i></p>	<p data-bbox="1109 138 1235 317"><i>Lilac Agouti Himalaya n, Extended</i></p> <p data-bbox="1109 352 1235 422"><i>A- bb c_h- dd ee</i></p>	<p data-bbox="1317 174 1396 279"><i>Ruby -Eyed White</i></p> <p data-bbox="1317 317 1396 422"><i>A- bb cc dd ee</i></p>
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Rabbit Behavior

Some common rabbit “language” includes:

Submission: Bunny crouches down very low to the ground to appear small and non-threatening

Fear: Bunny again is in a low crouched position but will have taut facial muscles so his eyes look like they will pop out. Ears are flattened against the head.

Thumping: May indicate fear, bunny uses back feet to bang the ground, may mean anger or fear to warn others of danger.

Squeaking: Usually heard in baby bunnies if you disturbed the nest, or when bunny is eating cecal pellets.

Nasal Noises: In some rabbits if they get a little nervous or scared they make a nasal sound that almost is like they have something in their nose.

Scream: This ear piercing shriek indicates bunny is terrified, you do not want to continue whatever you did to make the rabbit scream as the stress and fear could kill him.

Loud Teeth Grinding: This indicates the rabbit is in great pain.

Aggression: This can manifest itself in a variety of ways. Bunny may growl or make a sort of clucking noise to warn you away, may lunge towards you or box you with the front paws, or bite. If you do not pay attention to the warning, the bites will become harder and deeper. Bunny may withdraw away from you or crouch in the back corner of the cage and ears are usually flattened.

Growling: bunny “anger,” usually means he wants you to “back-off” or leave him alone.

Muttering: Another name to describe clicking/clucking noise

Hissing: Communicates anger

Biting: A nip may mean put me down, you don’t listen so he bites harder “Hey I said put me down,” and if you still don’t listen you might get a very painful bite “PUT ME DOWN!!”.

Head Shaking: If a bunny is doing a lot of head shaking it could indicate ear mites. If something irritate a rabbit, like a strong smell, he may shake his head as if in disgust.

Contentment and Relaxation: These are happy behaviors where bunny may have eyes half closed, nose may twitch or quiver, ears are relaxed or sometimes up listening for sounds, bunny may lay stretched out on belly or side with legs outstretched as well. If bunny is content and feels safe he will approach you for pets or follow you around.

Binky: a binky is when a bunny jumps with all four feet off of the ground and twists while in midair. Some rabbit’s binky might even include twists from side to side while in midair. This is a behavior that rabbits display when they are super happy and in a safe space where they have no fear of predators.

Chinning: Bunny has scent glands under his chin and will rub items and people to make them as theirs.

Periscoping: Bunny sits up on his back legs to get a better look at something.

Licking: Not all bunnies are “lickers” but if yours’s is you are very lucky, he will do this to show he loves you!

Nosing: Bunny pushes you or an object away with his nose. If forceful may indicate a bit of anger. If nosing is light may mean please pet me.

Curiosity & Caution: Body is tense, tail straight, head stretched forward with ears straight up . Bunny is curious about something he saw or heard and is concentrating on it, at the same time, he is being a little cautious in case he is in danger.

Digging/Scratching: Sometimes bunny will dig at your clothes, this may mean he wants affection. If digging carpeting or furniture it could also signal a false pregnancy in does, or for either sex, an attention-getter.

Soft Teeth Grinding: This indicates contentment and you can tell because rabbit looks relaxed not hunched in pain. Often it is referred to as purring because the teeth make a purring sound. Often, when you are petting your rabbit, he will make this noise.

Grooming: Rabbits enjoy grooming themselves and each other so this activity shows affection. Rabbits have some favorite spots to be petted, the forehead, behind the ears, cheeks. Probably because these are spots another rabbit would groom. Even a rabbit expressing some aggression and does not like to be held enjoys having their head petted.

Presenting: This means bunny wants pets and will lower and stretch their head out. Rabbits will also place their head under another rabbit's chin in order to request grooming.

Honking/Cooing: This is a very quiet, low-pitched sound. I often refer to it as a humming sound. A rabbit may do this when they are excited and happy, especially bucks if they catch the scent of a doe.

Urinating: Often when a rabbit is about to urinate, he will stick out his bottom and lift his tail.

Carrying hay/straw: A female about ready to deliver or going through a false pregnancy will collect hay, straw, and fur to build a nest.

Chasing: Rabbit chases you, another rabbit, or animal. This can be a courtship ritual, settling a territory dispute, or for enjoyment.

****from an article written by Carrine Fayo

The Ideal Jersey Wooly Head

By Bonnie Seeley (the founder of the breed)

The Jersey Wooly Head is very important part of the rabbit. Head, eye, and ears together are worth a total of 28 points for the animal.

The head should be large, round, and bold. It should carry a "wool cap" from the base of the ears to the line between the eyes, where the fur is longer than on the rest of the face and usually stands up to give the head its proper profile. The profile should be a right angle at the line between the eyes, with the two sides of this angle (i.e. from the base of the ears to the break and from the break to the nose) being equal. On the ideal Jersey Wooly head, these two lines would form 2 sides of a perfect square. The head should not resemble a French angora, where the break is not 90 degrees, and the line from the break to nose is longer than the one from break to the base of the ears. Nor should it be finely drawn or delicate as found in the Netherland Dwarf. Should not be round in appearance.

Juniors will often have narrow heads, which broaden out at six to eight months of age. They will also not usually have a good wool cap and this will cause the profile break not to have the right angle required on a good senior head.

The eyes are to be bold and bright. Ears should be 2 ½ - 3 inches long. Ears off by more than ¼ inch may ruin the balance of the head. Ears should be measured, and any animal with ears over 3 inches should be disqualified. Ideal length is 2 ½ and most good Woolies do fall right on 2 ½. Ears should be sturdy and substantial, much more substantial than usually found in the Netherland Dwarf. Ears should be carried erect and together.

Convention Tips

by Michaeline McConnell

Convention is almost here! Every rabbit enthusiast should go to an ARBA convention at least once in their life. It is an experience that transcends regular shows. Here, you will be immersed in rabbit show culture for 4-5 glorious days. You will get to meet the big names and see their stock. You can shop till you drop at the many vendors. There you can spy the newest breeds and varieties vying to be accepted into the ARBA standard of perfection. You can participate at various breed club raffle tables. There will be thousands of rabbit breeders ready and willing to talk “rabbits”. And you will be amazed at the thousands of show coops filled with rabbits and cavies from all over. Most come from North America, but there are some exhibits and exhibitors that come from around the globe. It truly is amazing! Yet, it can seem overwhelming. I will try to give you some tips and lists to help you get organized for your 1st convention.

First, purchase a show catalog. It is available through the host club. www.ARBA.net will have a link to the host convention website. The show catalog will have all your important information, including: all schedules, show rules, important dates, entry information, check-in/check-out info, etc. Once you have your show catalog, put down those important dates and times into a planner/calendar of some sort right away. I suggest noting entry deadline of postmarked mailed entries and online entries, ear change entry deadline, cooping date and time deadline, check in deadline, showroom opening and closing times after cooping, judging times and check out times.

Once you have your basic dates and times, you can then start planning and counting down the days. Many experienced breeders plan for convention at least a year or two in advance, but I have made last minute decisions to attend and found a way to attend despite great distance and a limited budget. Where there is a will, there truly is a way.

Next, you must be an ARBA member to enter. Make sure you are paid up and have your ARBA card. If you do not have your card with you at convention, you will have to pay for your membership again at the show, in order to complete your check in process.

Realize that convention is just one show. One open rabbit, one youth rabbit, one open cavy, and one youth cavy show is held. Enter something, even if you don't think you have national quality stock. Participate and see how your animal(s) stack up in the judge's opinion. You will end up learning a lot.

I like to make mini lists of what I need and what I can obtain at convention to prepare for packing.

Rabbit List:

* Carriers, *Cups/Water Bottles, *Regular Feed, *Hay (you can bring if driving), *Supplements (if you use), *Grooming Tools, *Dolly (something to wheel carriers into showroom), *Pee Pads for carriers and for under coops (if show committee allows), *Risers/False Bottoms (rabbits are cooped on solid floors, so risers create a wire bottom), *Cardboard/ Heavy Paper (to line 3 sides of the coops from potentially harmful rabbit neighbors-i.e.: spraying bucks/aggressive neighbors), *Zip Ties/Locks (to secure coop doors and keep prying hands from invading your exhibit's space readily), Small scissors/clippers to take off zip ties, *Small Broom/Dustpan (to

clean coop daily when they are over shavings), *Small Watering Can, *Black Sharpie (to write coop numbers in rabbit's right ear), *Large paper bag (to place rabbits in quickly when you are cleaning out their coop on a daily basis-keeps them from running away), *List of rabbits you are showing with coop numbers. Some people like to make a small colorful ID tag to identify their coops quickly. All decoration dimensions are noted in the show catalog.

People List:

*Show Catalog, *Comfortable Shoes, *Clothing for a week, *Easy to pack snacks and drinks (there are food vendors but lines can get quite long-don't want you to get too hangry!)

Purchase List:

*Distilled Water (I do not bring my own nor do I use the local water provided, I find distilled water works well and does not upset the show stock), *Hay (when I am flying in), baby wipes (you will need them for some reason).

RHDV2/COVID19 List:

*Virkon/Bleach (in today's world, you have to sanitize everything. Use 1:10 solution in water, must be applied and left wet for 10 minutes in order to be effective), *Empty spray bottle, *Clean new sponge/cloth (for application in coops that cannot be sprayed-has neighbors), *Clorox Bleach Wipes (for quick sanitation), *Clean/New Masks for people (required inside all state buildings at this time)

You will notice that no chairs are listed. Chairs are not allowed in the showroom. You will find them only around the food court areas or grooming areas.

Now back to counting down the days!

You will find entries are due about 3 weeks before convention. It is a good idea to have potential backups in the same entered classes in case you have to scratch. You will also notice that convention entries are much more expensive than a regular show plus there is an extra fee of around \$10 for each exhibitor that goes to the ARBA equipment fund. In addition, it is best NOT to wait till the last minute to make and pay for your entries. There is an online entry portal that can go down due to the heavy last day volume. I try to enter a day or two before the last day just to make sure my entries are accepted. After your entries are submitted, you will get a confirmation and your coop numbers will follow.

Then you pray. You pray for coats to stay in, for weather to be mild, for no one to go off feed, etc. Finally, you make your way to convention and stand before the banner that says, "For The Next Five Days, You Don't Need To Explain To Anyone Why You Show Rabbits." You are at convention!

Now you need to check in at the Check In booth. Make sure you have your ARBA card and get your packet. It will have your entry list, sales slips and a badge. Your badge allows entry and exit privileges when the convention is under security after coop in time. Find your coops, put the coop numbers in the right ear of your rabbits with your sharpie (many do this before leaving for convention), place your risers, cups/water bottles and cardboard inside your cage. Place your exhibits in their coops. Feed/ Water and decorate if you want to. Let them now rest and adjust.

Usually the schedule is: Saturday is reserved for final check in. Sunday/Monday are judging days. Monday is Best in Show. Tuesday is individual breed awards banquets and new breed/variety presentations. Wednesday morning is check out.

I want you to be aware that check out is usually long. Check out packets can be obtained either at the breed booth or Check Out booth. When checking out you load all your rabbits into your carriers and wait either at the breed club booth or the exit doors for someone to check you out. Someone will look at all ear numbers and sales slips to make sure you are not checking out “extra” rabbits or forgetting some. It is a long process, but necessary to ensure every rabbit is going home with the right person.

Finally, when convention is over, you will have so many great memories and experience a real “rabbit show hangover.” Needless to say, most people will start planning on attending next year because it was so much fun! See you there!

Running Rabbits at Convention 101

What is running rabbits?

The term, running rabbits, refers to the practice of bringing rabbits to the table for judging. At regular shows, we run our own rabbits to the table. At ARBA Convention, volunteers run rabbits to the table. Running involves bringing rabbits to the table, and when they are done being judged, returning them to their proper coop.

Who are the runners?

Everyone working at the breed table is a volunteer, and all runners are volunteers. Really, everyone who shows rabbits at convention should volunteer to run some rabbits. This is the best way to ensure that the show runs smoothly, and we have enough help. Each person should run as many rabbits as they are showing, and a few more, to cover the ones brought by the table help. Ramrods, writers, and clerks cannot leave the table to run rabbits. Right before the show starts, all breeders are asked to gather at the assigned show table for a pre-show meeting. There will be a call for runners, and short instructions given at that time.

How does it work?

Rabbits are cooped by group and class. All delivery to the table, and all judging is done by the coop number to help keep rabbits' identities unknown to the judge. The **Ramrod** for the judging table is responsible for keeping the show running, and getting the correct class of rabbits up to the table on time. The Ramrod and the **Writer**, or **Clerk**, will put the coop tags on top of the show coops *face down* when they need rabbits brought up. The runner takes that coop tag, finds the coop number listed on the coop tag, and brings that rabbit to the table, keeping the coop tag with the rabbit. When the rabbit is done being judged, the Ramrod or Writer will place the coop tag face up, and ask that the rabbit be returned to its proper coop by a runner. Again, keep the coop tag with the rabbit and leave it near the coop. A good place to leave the coop tag is just under the front edge of the coop wire. Always double check the coop number in the rabbit's ear to ensure you are putting the rabbit in the correct coop. *Do not rely on the coop tag for this information.*

Can I run my own Rabbits?

You may end up running your own rabbits by chance, but it's much more likely that you will be running others' rabbits more often than your own.

What else do I need to know about running rabbits?

Although we like to keep the show moving, safety is the number one priority. Remove and replace rabbits as gently as possible. Avoid thrusting, dragging, or tossing rabbits into or out of cages. This is how rabbits get hurt, and even a gentle seeming "toss" can cause a catastrophic outcome for the rabbit. Hold rabbits in a secure manner against your body for support.

It is best to run only one rabbit at a time. Though it may be tempting to decrease the number of times you run back and forth by taking more than one rabbit at a time, please remember that these animals are in a strange place, being handled by unfamiliar people. At any time, a rabbit could get fearful enough to jump out of your arms, and either you or the rabbit could get hurt. Handling one rabbit at a time gives a better chance of both you and the rabbit getting to the table and back unscathed. Think of every rabbit as your own, and handle them as gently as possible.

What if a rabbit is hard to handle?

If a rabbit is hard to remove from its cage, or you are afraid of it, either ask someone else to try that rabbit, or bring the card back to the Ramrod, and they will find a way to remove the rabbit.

What if a cage is zip-tied shut or locked shut?

It is the responsibility of each rabbit owner to ensure their cages are unlocked or zip ties cut. This should be done well before the show starts. If you encounter a coop that is zipped or locked shut, bring the card back to the Ramrod for instructions.

RHDv2 Basic Biosecurity Measures

by Cheryl Loesch

We've all heard that the Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease virus 2 (RHDv2), has hit the Southwestern United States, as well as being considered endemic to the area of Victoria, BC, Washington state where it showed up two years ago. RHDv2 has spread to wild populations of rabbits and hares. Though this is the first time we have seen the disease spread into wild populations, it does not necessarily mean the virus has mutated, but that it has now been observed and tested in those populations. What this does mean for us is that there are more vectors for the virus to transmit more rapidly. We know that the virus is "non-enveloped," or does not have a fatty protein barrier around it. This means that it can spread more readily, via many sources, and this is why some refer to RHD as a "sticky" virus.

RHD Spreads by via oral, nasal, conjunctival cavity contacts with the virus from:

- Fomites (clothes, shoes, furniture—anything that's come in contact with a contaminated source)
- Contaminated food/water
- Equipment
- Flies, vermin, predators
- Infected rabbits' excretions

The virus can be spread by insects and predators that have eaten or had contact with infected animals. Any pest, and any person, that has come in contact with a source of infection can spread the virus wherever they go. You can spread the virus on your clothes, hands, shoes, car tires, etc. There is a vaccination, however, it is not readily available as yet.

Our best protection against RHDv2 is to take biosecurity measures to protect our rabbits and rabbitries. This boils down to 3 basic steps: *Control, Close, Clean*.

Control what comes into your rabbitry: pests, feed sources, germs. Your best defense is to keep out things that might contaminate your animals. Screen your windows and doors and/or use other insect control measures. Find and plug holes that could allow rodents or other predators into your rabbitry. If you keep a cat for handling mice in your rabbitry, you may need to either keep that cat entirely inside, or entirely outside of your rabbitry, so that it cannot track virus particles back into the rabbitry. Keep food in pest-proof containers, and consider stopping any forage feeds that you cannot guarantee are free of contaminants. Do not share equipment. This means grooming tools, grooming mats and tables, cages, etc. In addition, take steps to control your outdoor environment by eliminating wild and feral rabbit access to your Rabbitry as much as possible. Do not release rabbits into the wild as a means of culling, as this will surely add to the problem.

Close your rabbitry to outsiders. No people in or out who don't need to be there for animal care. Quarantine new animals, or animals returning from shows for at least 30 days, and care for those animals after you've cared for all others. Don't allow your rabbits outside of your rabbitry, except for travel that must be undertaken, and then quarantine them upon return.

Clean and disinfect your rabbitry, equipment, and your clothes frequently. Remember that disinfecting requires cleaning first—disinfectants are generally deactivated by organic matter. Clean first, then use a disinfectant that will kill the virus (see below). Most disinfectants need to stand for 10 minutes before being rinsed off. Use a footbath or disinfectant foot mat at the entrance to your rabbitry. Wear clothes and shoes or boots dedicated just to your rabbitry,

and clean them immediately upon finishing your chores. The importance of washing your hands before and after handling your rabbits, and between handling rabbit groups (non-quarantined and quarantined) cannot be understated.

Because calicivirus lacks the fatty envelope that most viruses have, its infectivity is NOT reduced by ether or chloroform and trypsin (enzymatic cleaners) or quaternary ammonium compounds (Lysol and similar disinfectants). What disinfecting agents will kill the RHDv2 virus? You can use the following in your disinfectant sprays and footbaths:

The RHD calicivirus is inactivated by sodium hydroxide (1%) or formalin (1-2%), as well as 1.0–1.4% formaldehyde or 0.2–0.5% beta-propiolactone at 4C (39F). Chlorine dioxide at 10 ppm concentration also kills this virus.

Suggested disinfectants include: sodium hypochlorite (1:10 dilution household bleach), substituted phenolics, such as 2% One-stroke Environ® (Vestal Lab Inc., St. Louis, MO), and potassium peroxydisulfate (e.g. 1% Virkon-S® by DuPont), or Rescue Remember that 10 minutes of wet contact is required for disinfection.

Finally, establish a relationship with a veterinarian. Exotics or livestock vets are probably our best sources for medications, and for the RHD vaccines.

POISONOUS PLANTS TO RABBITS

I was asked to think of an article that could be put in this edition that would be beneficial at this time of the show season. Normally, we would be giving a report about Nationals and our local shows; however, the Covid-19 pandemic and social distancing orders in place have delayed our National show and cancelled local shows. One thing that everyone can do is take their Jersey Woolies out and let them play in the yard amongst the clover. With that being said, I thought an article about protecting our Woolies from poisonous plants would address this challenge.

I found an article written by Amy Grant of “Gardening Know How”. She gives some very good information that pertains to not just our Woolies, but all rabbit breeds. It is included below. The article can be found at: <https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/plant-problems/environmental/plants-toxic-to-rabbits.htm> if you would like to print the article yourself or save it for future reference. I hope you find it informational and useful as I did.

“Plants Toxic To Rabbits – Learn About Plants Rabbits Can’t Eat

Rabbits are fun pets to have and, like any pet, require some knowledge, especially regarding plants that are dangerous for rabbits, especially if they’re allowed to roam around the yard. Plants toxic to rabbits may vary in their toxicity levels. Some plants harmful to rabbits have a collective effect and poisoning may not be immediately noticeable until too late. That’s why it is crucial to be aware of plants rabbits can’t eat and shouldn’t eat. After all, if something tastes good to them, they will eat it without regard to whether or not they are rabbit poisonous plants.

About Plants Rabbits Can’t Eat

Rabbits have a fairly sensitive digestive system. They require a high fiber, low sugar, and low-fat diet. This is why most ‘people food’ is a no-no; rabbits can’t tolerate foods like bread, rice, chips, or chocolate for instance. When Thumper is nosing around for a treat, refrain from sharing your chips or other snacks and opt for rabbit healthy options instead.

So just what plants are toxic to rabbits? Rabbits kept as pets usually have a fairly limited menu, but those allowed to forage or have free range in a home are in danger of ingesting plants that are dangerous to rabbits.

Rabbit & Poisonous Plants

Those who allow their rabbits free range should be aware that all houseplants are considered poisonous plants. There may be differences in how toxic a houseplant is, but to be on the safe side, assume that all houseplants are toxic to rabbits.

It is said that wild rabbits tend to avoid rabbit poisonous plants. The same cannot be said for rabbits kept as pets. Since they live off of a limited variety of foods, when allowed to roam and forage on their own, they will most likely be happy to try just about any “new” green plant.

Their adventurous palates might turn out to be a very bad trait. There are numerous plants harmful to rabbits. It is your job to understand what plants these may be and remove them from the foraging area.

The following plants toxic to rabbits are considered dangerous to ingest. This is not a complete list but should be used as a guideline: Arum, lily, Buttercups, Columbine, Comfrey, Delphinium, Foxglove, Hellebore, Holly, Ivy, Larkspur, Monkshood, Nightshade, Periwinkle, Poppy, Privet,

Yew, Apple seeds, Apricot trees (all parts except the fruit), Onions, Tomato, Rhubarb, Potato, greens. Anything that grows from a bulb should be considered a plant harmful to rabbits. A lot of native produce such as wild carrot, cucumber, and garlic are toxic to rabbits. Also, steer rabbits away from nibbling on macadamia nut or almond trees. Other plants rabbits can't eat are Fool's parsley, Ragwort, Bryony, Poison hemlock, Aconite, Celandine, Corn cockle, Cowslip, Dock, Henbane, Hedge garlic, Spurge, Travelers' Joy clematis, and Wood sorrel.

Note: Unfortunately, poison hemlock is easily confused with cow parsnip, a particular favorite of rabbits. Cow parsnip is brighter green while hemlock has purplish-pink spots on the stems and shinier leaves. Hemlock is extremely toxic to rabbits and results in rapid upsetting death.”

Glossary – Rabbit Terms/Definitions

Abortion: A birth which occurs before the gestation period has ended.

Abscess: Pus forming at a point of infection causing swelling; also see “*4-H rabbit Diseases.*”

Adult: (see senior).

Agouti: A color group showing hair shafts having 3 to 5 bands, or rings, of color seen when you blow into the coat. Color group includes amber, chestnut agouti, opal, lynx, and the chinchillas.

Anterior Presentation: Normal birth, front feet and head presented first.

A.O.V.: Any Other Variety; a color group in some breeds that can include a random variety or varieties from a color group that is not otherwise shown. Currently, in Jersey Woolies, this color group includes all pointed white varieties (Black, Blue, Chocolate, Lilac), and Orange.

A.R.B.A.: The American Rabbit Breeders Association.

Arch: The gentle curvature of the spine, extending from the neck or shoulders to the rear of the rabbit.

Back: The top portion of the rabbit’s shoulders, loin, and hindquarters.

Balance: (1) referring to type, an orderly and pleasing arrangement of physical characteristics so as to present a harmonious appearance.

Banding: A hair shaft having various colors (see agouti)

Base Color: The color next to the skin.

Belly: The abdomen.

Belly Color: The color on the underside of the rabbit that is usually lighter than the color over the top of the rabbit, especially on shaded varieties.

BEW: Referring to a white rabbit with blue eyes; Blue Eyed White.

B.I.S.: Best in Show

Blemish: Any fault which detracts from the appearance of the animal.

Bloat: (see enteritis).

Bloom: The finish of a coat in good condition.

Blemish: Any defect or fault that distracts from the appearance of the animal (a severe fault)

B.O.B.: Best of breed.

Bob Tail: A tail that is shorter than normal usually caused by a bite during kindling.

B.O.G.: Best of group.

Bone: Usually referring to the thickness of the bone on a rabbit.

B.O.S.: Best opposite Sex (of breed).

B.O.S.G.: Best Opposite Sex of Group.

Bowed Legs: Forelegs or hind legs that are bent like a bow curving inwardly or outwardly.

Breeder: Anyone who raises rabbits; a rabbit used primarily for breeding.

Breeding Pair: A buck and doe of the same breed which are meant to be bred together.

Breeding Trio: Three rabbits of the same breed consisting of 1 buck, and 2 does that are meant to be bred to the buck.

Broken Coat: Fur with guard hairs that are missing or broken, or areas having been affected by molting which exposes the undercoat.

Broken Pattern: Any color of rabbit in conjunction with white.

Broken ear: A distinct break in the cartilage of the ear which prevents erect ear carriage.

Broken Tail: A tail that is, or has been broken and is out of line.

Buck: A male rabbit.

Butterfly: A nose marking on some marked breeds and broken varieties.

Butting Teeth: A form of malocclusion where the teeth meet evenly, without the top overlapping the bottom.

Carriage: (1)The manner in which a rabbit carries itself, the characteristic pose of a rabbit. (2) The way a rabbit carries its ears.

Cataract: (see walleye).

Cecum: The gut at the start of the large intestine.

Charlie: An extremely lightly marked broken or marked breed, usually having colored ears and eye circles, sometimes having a nose mark, may have little or no markings over the back and sides, caused by double broken genes, a Charlie cannot have solid offspring.

Cecotrophy: (see Coprophagy).

Cheeks: (1)The sides of the face, below the eyes. (2) The rounded head marking that forms the blaze and carries down along the jaw line of a Dutch.

Chest: The front portion of the body between the forelegs and neck.

Chopped: A condition of body type in which there is an abrupt and sharp vertical fall from the top of the hip to the tail.

Coat: A rabbit's wool.

Cobby or Stocky: A short and stocky body type which is close-coupled, and very compact.

Coccidia: Protozoan organisms which in rabbits infect the cells living in the digestive tract

Coccidiosis: A disease affecting the digestive system of many animals, rabbits carry 2 types of coccidia, one affecting the liver, and one affecting the intestines; also see: "*4-H Rabbit Diseases*".

Color Group: Varieties with similar genetics and/or characteristics that have been grouped together; Agouti, AOV, Broken, Self, Shaded, and Tan.

Compatible: In eye color, normal color that complements or matches the body color.

Compact Type: A body type that is basically a smaller version of the commercial typed rabbit and are generally posed in the same way.

Condition: The overall physical state of a rabbit in relation to health, cleanliness, fur, and grooming.

Conjunctivitis: see weepy eye.

Coprophagy: The normal practice of the animal eating some of the night droppings.

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 toes to turn outward from the body.

Crimp: The natural waviness of the fiber in a wool undercoat.

Culling: To select the least desirable rabbits, and remove them from the herd.

Dam: A mother rabbit.

Dead Hairs: Fur that lacks life, from molting or a dead coat.

Dead Tail: A tail that is hard and brittle due to the loss of circulation (not a DQ unless it's broken and out of place).

Definition: (1)The sharpness and clarity of a color break on a hair shaft as in the ring color in agouti fur. (2) Used to describe color contrasts.

Density: The quality of a thick coat of wool

Depth: (1)Measurement from the top line of the body to the lowest portion of the body. (2) Also used to describe the extension of color down the hair shaft.

Developing Period: The time from weaning until starting in production.

Deviated Spine: Vertebrae of the neck/spine where the normal alignment is replaced by deformed or misaligned vertebrae.

Deviated Sternum: (Pigeon Breasted) A condition in which the connecting tissue of the ribs and/or breastbone have fused together forming an irregular sternum. Usually found at the lower end of the rib cage and is characterized as a lump or cone shaped bony protrusion on the chest, which may also extend up into the internal cavity of the rabbit.

Dewclaw: An extra toe or "thumb" on the front feet.

Disqualification From Competition (DQ): One or more defects, blemishes, and/or deformities that render a rabbit ineligible for competition or registration; some disqualifications may be temporary, such as an abscess.

Doe: A female rabbit.

Dominate: The controlling characteristic (gene) of one parent (normal coat, eye color, etc.) that when passed to the offspring covers up a recessive characteristic (gene).

Dwarf: the smallest breeds of rabbit, weighing at or under 3 pounds at maturity.

Ear Base: The bottom of the ear, where they meet the head.

Ear Canker: Scabby, crusty ears on the inside, caused by ear mites.

Ear Carriage: The holding or carriage displayed by a rabbit's ears when it's in a relaxed, normal pose.

Ear Lacing: A black or dark colored line of fur that outlines the sides and tips of the ears on agoutis, and can be found on wide band varieties.

Enteritis: A condition causing loss of appetite, dehydration, listlessness, jelly-like substance found in droppings, etc. 2 forms of enteritis are known as *water bottle syndrome* and *bloat*. Most commonly found in young rabbits.

Extension: (1) The length of leg and limb. (2) Depth of color carried down a hair shaft.

Eye Circle: (see eye ring).

Eye Ring: A circle of color around the eye on a broken variety of rabbit, and on some marked breeds.

Faking: Any dying, plucking, or clipping so as to alter the appearance of the rabbit, (includes coloring toenails, powdering and indiscriminate use of grooming designed to alter the natural condition of the rabbit).

False Dwarf: A dwarf breed that does not carry a dwarf gene; an over-weight Netherland Dwarf may be a false dwarf (also see peanut).

False Pregnancy: A condition in which a doe thinks that she is pregnant and builds a nest, can occur if the doe is near a buck, has been with a buck recently, or was bred and didn't take.

Fault: Imperfection for a particular breed or variety (also see blemish).

Felting: Wool fibers that have become interwoven during natural growth.

Fine Coat: A coat of fur that is too fine in texture, lacking body. Guard hairs are weak and thin in structure. Lacking the proper amount of guard hairs.

Finish: The preferred condition of the coat, 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 back side of the ear.

Flank: The sides of the rabbit between the ribs and hips, above the belly.

Flat Coat: 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.

Foreign Color: Any color of fur, nails, or eyes that differ from the standard of a breed or variety.

Forequarters: The portion of the body that starts at the neck and ends with the last rib.

Fostering: Transferring the young from one mother to another, practiced when a litter is too large, a mother dies, or other complications exist.

Free Feeding: Giving a rabbit all it will eat.

Freckle: A foreign colored pigment on the skin in the nose and mouth area, a disqualification in some breeds.

Fringes: The wool appearing on the ears, bangs, and the head side trimmings on some wool breeds.

Fur Mites: A skin condition caused by parasitic mites, usually found first on neck and shoulder area and/or rump and tail area; also see “*4-H Rabbit Diseases,*”

Furnishings: The tassels and longer fringes on the ears, bangs, and head side trimmings on some wool breeds.

Genotype: The genetic, inherited characteristics and potential of a rabbit.

Gestation Period: The period of time from mating to kindling of a doe (usually 31 days).

Glossy: The reflection, luster, or brightness from a naturally healthy coat of fur

Grooming: Removing foreign materials or loose fur from the coat of a rabbit by hand or brush.

Guard Hair: The usually longer, coarser projecting hair which protects the undercoat.

Hernia: (see rupture).

Hind Leg: Consists of the hock, stifle (knee), and hip joint.

Hindquarters: The rear portion or section of the body from the last rib to the rump.

Hock: The “ankle” joint in the rabbit’s hind foot.

Hutch Burn: (see vent disease).

Hutch Stain: A stain on the coat usually caused by a dirty cage, rust on floor wire, or urine.

Hydrocephalus (water on the brain): A condition in newborn kits, top of skull raised, resembles a large welt. Ventricles of brain enlarged, filled with excess fluid, caused by a vitamin deficiency. Kits born with this condition should be immediately culled from the litter.

Impaction: Blockage or lodging of undigested food in the digestive tract.

Inbreeding: The mating of closely related rabbits such as father to daughter.

Inter Se Mating: Brother sister mating.

Junior: A rabbit under six months of age.

Ketosis: A disease affecting does near kindling time, caused by complications from does being over-fat.

Kindling: Giving birth to young.

Kit: A baby rabbit.

Lactate: To nurse, to produce milk.

Lap Spots: Usually darker belly color in the area of the groin.

Line Breeding: Breeding rabbits that have common ancestry, but not as close as inbreeding.

Litter: 2 or more kits that have been kindled by the same doe from the same mating.

Loin: The portion of the back on either side of the spine above the hips and saddle area.

Luster: Brightness and brilliance of fur.

Malocclusion: When the teeth do not meet wear as they normally should, also known as buck teeth and wolf teeth; also see “*4-H rabbit Diseases.*”

Marbling: Mottled eye color.

Mask: Nose and muzzle color which extends further up the face than a butterfly marking.

Mastitis: An inflammation of the mammary glands.

Matted: Tangled wool, knots.

Max Factor: A genetic defect usually found in the Netherland Dwarf.

Mealy: Off colored stray hairs in a colored pattern, giving the appearance of being sprinkled with meal.

Mid-Section: The portion of the body starting with the 6th rib, back to the rear legs.

Miss: Not conceiving; a doe that didn’t take when mated.

Molt: Shedding a coat.

Moon Eye: (see wall eye).

Molted, Mottling, or Marbled: (1)A pattern of eye color exhibiting streaks of differing color or shading. (2) The blotching or streaking of coloration on the fur.

Muzzle: The lower part of the face and nose on a rabbit.

Neck: The part of the rabbit connecting the head to the body; A wedge shaped marking that is a portion of the collar, behind the ears on Duch.

Nest Box: A box in which a doe will build her nest and raise her litter.

Nest Box Eye: Weepy eye found in young kits caused by a dirty nest box; also see: “*4-H Rabbit Disease.*”

Night Feces: Cecotropes. May be consumed at any time of day.

Nosefork: The center portion of the butterfly that extends above the wings resembling the body of a butterfly.

Open Coat: A coat lacking the ability to return to its natural position when stroked from the rump to the head.

Open Does: Female rabbits of breeding age which have not currently been bred.

Outcrossing: (see outbreeding)

Outbreeding: The breeding of unrelated animals of the same breed.

Ovaries: The reproductive organs of the doe which are used for producing eggs.

Packed: Wool that becomes compacted or felted.

Palpate: Feeling for kits in the uterus through the abdominal wall. A test breeders use to determine pregnancy.

Parity: The number of litters to which a doe has given birth.

Peanut: A dwarf breed that has 2 dwarf genes; most peanuts die within 3 days of age (also see false dwarf).

Pedigree: A record of ancestors showing at least 3 generations.

Peg Teeth: Two small teeth behind the longer front top teeth.

Phenotype: The physical appearance of the rabbit.

Pigeon Breast: A narrow chest with a protruding “V” shaped bone, a disqualification for some breeds.

Pinched Hindquarters: Hindquarters that taper towards the tail, giving a pinched appearance.

Plush: Dense, fine hair with a very soft feel; referring to Rex fur.

Pointed: A type or group of color having a white coat with colored ears, feet, legs, tail, and nose, Himalayan or Californian marked.

Points: (1) The dark color on the feet, ears, tail, nose, and forelegs on a Pointed Wooly. (2) The darker color on the feet, ears, tail, nose, and forelegs on shaded varieties.

Poor Coat: Fur that is not in good condition due to molt, stain, illness, or general poor quality due to genetic factors.

Posing: Setting the rabbit in its correct position showing the animal’s type qualities. Most breeds pose with their feet flat on the table with the back toes lining up with the hips and the front toes lining up with the eyes.

Pot Belly: (See enteritis).

Prime or Prime Coat: A rabbit that exhibits ideal condition of flesh and coat. A coat at its best.

Pseudopregnancy: (see false pregnancy).

Purulent Discharge: A discharge of white pus, emanating from the nose of a rabbit. A disqualification.

Quarantine: The attempt to reduce the spread of disease by isolating an infected or new animal from the rest of the herd.

Rabbitry: A place where domestic rabbits are kept.

Racy: Slim, trim, alert, and hare-like in appearance. Long and slender in body and limbs.

Ration or Feed Ration: The amount of feed given to a rabbit usually 1 to 1 1/2 ounces per pound each day.

Recessive: A characteristic which, when passed on from parent to offspring, is covered up by a dominant characteristic.

Registration: The official recording of a rabbit's pedigree along with a complete examination by an A.R.B.A. registrar of the type, condition, and health of the rabbit.

REW: Referring to a white rabbit with ruby colored eyes (albino); Ruby Eyed White.

Ribs: The curved portions of the sides, immediately back and under the shoulders.

Ring Color: The color of the intermediate portion of a hair shaft in agouti colored rabbits.

Rupture: A protrusion of an organ through connective tissue or through a wall of the cavity which is normally enclosed forming a hard lump.

Rust: A reddish-brown coloration of fur, usually appearing on the sides, flanks, or feet of a rabbit. May be caused by exposure to sunlight, an old coat, dirty hutches, etc.

Screw Tail: An abnormally bent, curled, twisted, or corkscrewed tail.

Self or Self Colored: Solid colored, the same color over the entire body. Color group includes black, chocolate white, blue, and lilac.

Senior: A 4-class rabbit that is 6 months of age or older.

haded: Shaded pattern is to show a gradual and discernible transition of a basic color, usually from dark to light. Darker color is usually on the back, head, ears, tail, feet, and legs, then shades to a lighter color on the sides and belly. Color group includes sable, seal, tortoise, etc..

Sheen: The shine on the coat of Satin fur; the result of hollow hair shafts.

Side Trimmings: Wool on the side of the head and face on some wool breeds.

Silvering: Appearance of silvery sheen or luster, silver tipped guard hairs interspersed through the fur as found on Silver Fox.

Simple Malocclusion: (see butting teeth).

Sire: A father rabbit.

Slipped ears: When the position of the ears is behind 12 o'clock. When ears are positioned on further back on the head.

Slipping Coat: A coat of fur that is molting or shedding.

Snipey: An elongated, narrow head, usually terminating in a pinched muzzle.

Snuffles: Respiratory disease marked by nasal discharge, constant sneezing and congestion.

Solid: A solid color; not a broken.

Sore Hocks: Sore foot pads on either the front or hind feet; also see: "*4-H Rabbit Diseases.*"

Splayed Legs: A condition where the rabbit can't hold the front or back legs under the body, the legs spread out from the body.

Specialty Club: A club that specializes in matters concerning 1 or 2 breeds of rabbit.

Split Penis: A disqualification from competition where the opening extends more than 1/2 way down the shaft from the tip toward the base. May resemble a doe.

Standing Fur: (Erect Coat) A coat of normal fur that, when stroked from the rump to the shoulders remains upright rather than moving back into place. This is a DQ.

Stifle: The knee joint.

Surface Color: The top color of the fur.

Tail Carriage: The natural positioning of the tail.

Tan Pattern: A color group that can have a near agouti appearance, with any accepted variety having a tan, white, or cream colored belly, chest, flanks, inside of legs, underside of tail, eye circles, nostrils, inside of ears, and triangle over the rest of the body. Color group includes otters, silver martins, and tans.

Tassels: The longer wool on the ears.

Tattoo: A permanent marking placed in the left ear for identification.

Test Mating: Returning a doe to the buck after mating. If she does not accept the buck, she may be pregnant. Breeding a pair to try to determine what color group they carry.

Texture: The surface and feel of the fur.

Ticking: Longer guard hairs throughout the coat of a color distinct from the underwool or body fur.

Top Color: The surface color of the coat.

Topline: The profile of the shoulders, back, and hindquarters, when viewed from the side.

Triangle: The triangle shaped marking on the back of the neck on agouti and tan patterned varieties.

Trimmings: The wool on the ears and cheeks on Jersey Woolies.

Tufts: Wool and guard hair on the tips of the ears.

Type: The body conformation.

Undercoat: The generally shorter, softer fur of the rabbit's coat that is protected by the longer guard hairs.

Undercolor: The base color of the hair shaft (the color next to the skin).

Under Wool: The shortest wool fiber lying at the base of the wool coat, somewhat like the undercoat on normal furred breeds. The proportion of under wool to other fibers may be a distinguishing characteristic of some wool breeds.

Undercut: (1) Where the skeletal or muscle structure does not fill the lower hindquarter. (2) The belly marking on a Dutch rabbit, which is a continuation of the saddle marking to the underside of the rabbit.

Unworthy of an Award (UOA): A rabbit that in a judge's opinion deviates from the breed's standard to the point where it does not represent the breed's proper characteristics.

Usable Portion of the Pelt: The portion of the pelt that remains after the removal of the dewlap, head, feet, legs, and tail.

Variety: The color of a rabbit's coat.

Vent Disease: A venereal disease in rabbits that affects both sexes, symptoms include scabby, reddened male and female organs, usually pus producing.

Wall Eye: An eye that is whitish on the surface of the eye; having a milky film over the eye causing blindness. A DQ from competition.

Weaning: To separate the young from the doe; ending the nursing and lactating period.

Weanling: A newly weaned rabbit regardless of future use.

Weepy Eye: An abnormal discharge from the eye that may result in severe matting in the area below the eye or the absence of fur below the eye; also see "*4-H Rabbit Diseases.*"

Webbed: Angora wool fibers that are in the beginning of felting or matting. A loose tangling of fibers that can usually be removed by grooming.

Wide Band: A color group in which rabbits 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: A form of malocclusion having protruding or elongated teeth in either the upper or lower jaw.

Wool: The fur type found on Jersey Woolies.

Wool Block: Same as fur block or hairball, but caused by wool instead of fur.

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, usually caused by an inner ear infection.