



SHOWMANSHIP CLASS

SHOWMANSHIP

RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP The main emphasis in Rabbit Showmanship is your ability to present your rabbit and **you** to your best advantage. There is a proper way of doing this which you will find as you read along further.

Preparation of Animal for Showing. Animals must be clean. Inside of ears should be clean - use only a slightly damp cloth.

Animals should be well-groomed. The bloom of the hair, through proper feeding and management, will come naturally. Rubbing a damp cloth or stroke with wet hands and then drying with a cloth, towel or such, will brighten the coat. Always rub the hair from head to tail, never the other way when cleaning the coat.

Outline and Tips for the Showmanship Class:

The Showman: Neatness, a well-groomed look, and cleanliness are as important to the exhibitor as to the animal.

Do not wear a hat. Do not chew gum or candy when showing. Do not speak unless spoken to by the judge or if you do not understand their instructions.

Be polite and courteous to the judge and others at all times. Display good sportsmanship in and out of the show area. Be alert and attentive at all times.

Be prepared to answer any questions relative to your exhibit and your project when asked by the judge.

Avoid unnatural positions or poise while showing your animal. Be at ease and stand naturally behind the show table.

Handling of the Rabbit: Avoid stretching or bunching the animal when showing it off to the judge. Place the feet squarely under the animal with the legs set straight.

The animal should be set up properly each time after it has been moved. Gentle, but firm handling of the exhibit when in the show ring is important. Do not be rough with your exhibit.

When you move an animal, grasp, carry and hold it properly.

When asked to turn your rabbit from side-to-side place your hands on either side of the rabbit and pivot it on the table, clockwise in quarter turns.

Don't pet your animal in the show ring.

Rabbits will show much better when they are at ease. Practicing careful handling and familiarity of owners and rabbit, well in advance of the show date, will be evident by a quiet, well mannered exhibit when it is being shown.

Practice posing your animal as you would for show. Teach your rabbit to stay where you place it. This can only be done though repetitive training! Have someone else feel your rabbit while you have it posed so that it will get used to the judge handling it.

Keep showing your animal at all times until you have left the show area.

Showmanship Techniques: - Keep one eye on the judge and one eye on your rabbit at all times.

When the judge is looking directly at your rabbit, place your hands on either side of the rabbit on the table. Never place hands behind back, because if your rabbit moves suddenly, your hands are too far away to quickly regain control of the animal.

Do not be distracted from showing by side noises, audience, or the exhibitor beside you.

Certain faults or weaknesses in an exhibit can be partly overcome by showmanship techniques. Both exhibitors and judges are aware of this. An exhibitor's ability to overcome these weaknesses in his exhibit is considered in judging showmanship competitions.

When the judge asks you a question answer it with only the information the judge asked for in clear, concise and complete sentences.

SUGGESTED SHOWMANSHIP PROCEDURE:

Upon entering the show ring, all members should place their rabbit on one of the table and do any minor last minute grooming to the rabbit and yourself. You should have done all your grooming before showmanship is called, so your time at the first table can be spent in preparing yourself mentally.

Pay attention, follow instructions, and answer questions in the proper manner.

Showperson's Actions: Carrying your rabbit: To carry your rabbit the usual method is to grasp the fold of skin over the shoulders with your right hand while putting your left hand under the rump, to support the weight, and lift into the left arm, tucking the head under the left elbow. If the rabbit prefers the head may be left out. The most important thing is to always have control of your rabbit.

Posing your rabbit - Show front, rear, or side view when asked to do so. Always pose your rabbit to its best advantage – unless specified by the judge which direction. The view chosen depends on the breed as well as good points or faults your rabbit may have. Usually the meat (or utility) breeds are

posed to show off their best features. When asked to show a different view, the easiest method is to use your hands on each side of the rabbit and turn while only slightly lifting the rabbit.

Showing the ears - Open the ears so that the judge can see deep into the ear. Be sure to show both ears. Turn the rabbit in the other direction to show the other ear.

Judge May Take Marks For: Loss of control of your rabbit; No support of the body; Unruly animal; putting the rabbit on the table before the judge asks. Failure to show both eyes, failure to check front feet for signs of snuffles, failure to part lips to expose teeth, failure to straighten the legs, failure to pose the rabbit to its advantage, failure to straighten the tail when posing for a rear view, failure to smooth out the rabbit after moving, failure to show both ears, failure to turn to the other side and general difficulty in posing the rabbit or failing to pose in the view requested.

Showing the eyes. You may pick the rabbit up and show the eyes, turning the rabbit to show the opposite side, or in particular with a larger animal, leave it on the table and turn to show the opposite side.

Showing the nose or checking for snuffles. Turn the rabbit over and tilt head toward the judge to show nose clearly. If checking for snuffles, also check the inside of the front feet for signs of caked mucus.

Showing the teeth. Turn the rabbit over and while tilting head toward judge, using thumb and index finger, gently part the lips to show the teeth. Your hand should be behind rather than in front of the mouth.

Showing the straightness of the front legs. With the rabbit facing the judge, place your hands just behind the front legs and gently push the elbows forward to straighten out the legs, while lifting front of the rabbit slightly.

Showperson's Actions. Showing the straightness of the hind legs with the rear of the rabbit toward the judge and your hands just in front of the hind legs, lift the hind end slightly off the table, while at the same time push on the knee to straighten the legs out toward the judge.

Showing the toenails - Flip the rabbit over and show the toenails by pushing the thumb into the center of the paw. Push back fur with index finger if necessary to see the toenails. Don't forget to show the dewclaw on the front feet. Be sure to show all four feet unless instructed otherwise.

Checking the hocks - Show bottom of back feet to the judge, rubbing the fur to check for thickness of fur on the hock of for signs of soreness or bare patches.

Checking the sex - Show the sex to the judge. Clamp tail between index and second finger; place thumb below vent area; and push toward front of rabbit. Check the testicles if a male. Return to posted position.

Showing the tail - Turn the rabbit to have the hind end facing the judge. Straighten the tail by gently pulling upward.

Judge May Take Marks For: Failure to straighten the legs, failure to show the dewclaw, failure to show the nails on all four feet, your inability to show the toenails. Failure to show both hocks, failure to check sex and/or the incorrect identification of the sex. Failure to check the testicles on a male. Leaving the rabbit sitting on tail. Unclean, stained animal or animal in excessive molt. Animals in poor condition, animals with diseases. Not knowing the difference between quality, condition, and density.

Checking for ruptures and abscesses. Run your hand over the chest and abdomen area to check for any abnormal lumps. Turn the rabbit upright and run the hands over the entire body as well.

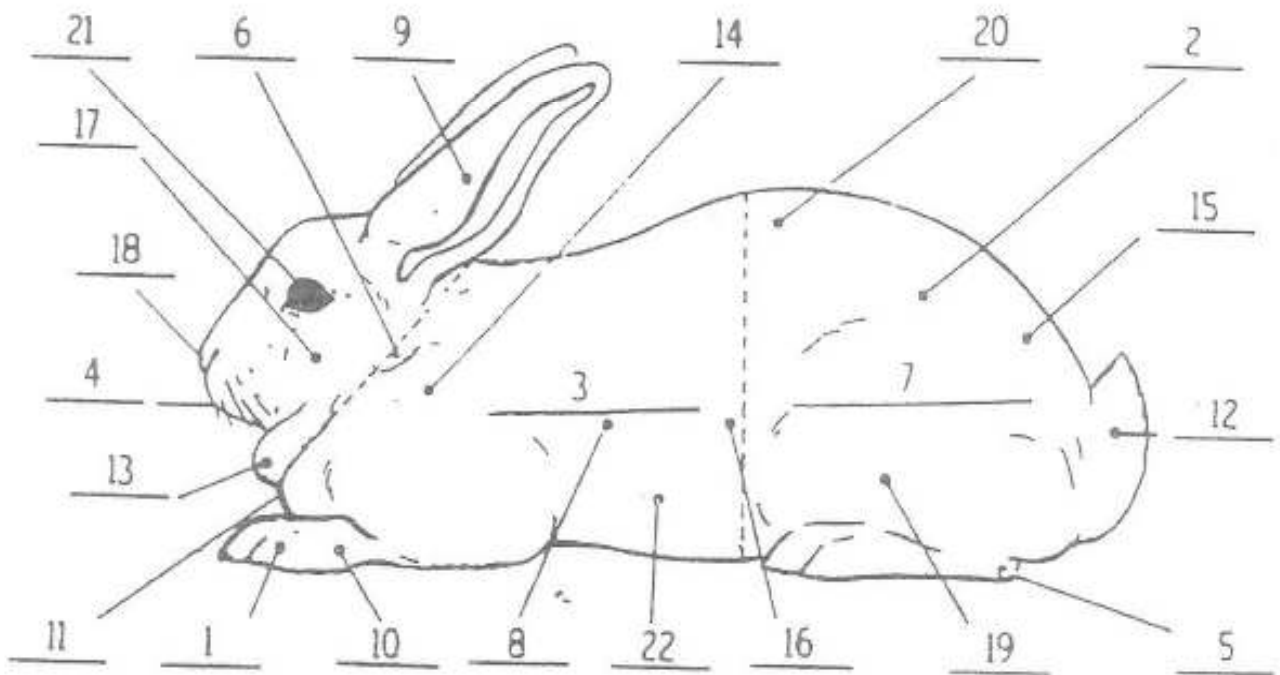
Checking fur quality, cleanliness, condition, and density. Stroke the fur towards the rabbit's head showing fur going back to normal. Position to show quality and cleanliness. Stroke rabbit from head to rear and show your clean hand to the judge to show the fur condition. Blow into the fur to show the density.

APPEARANCE, ACTIONS, AND KNOWLEDGE OF GENERAL RABBIT INFORMATION

Carry out actions in a confident manner, always being considerate of your animal, fellow showpersons, and the judge. The judge should have your attention at all times so that he/she doesn't have to come to you to get your attention. Eye contact is very important. If asked to move to another position on the table, pick up your animal and move behind other showpersons.

Word List

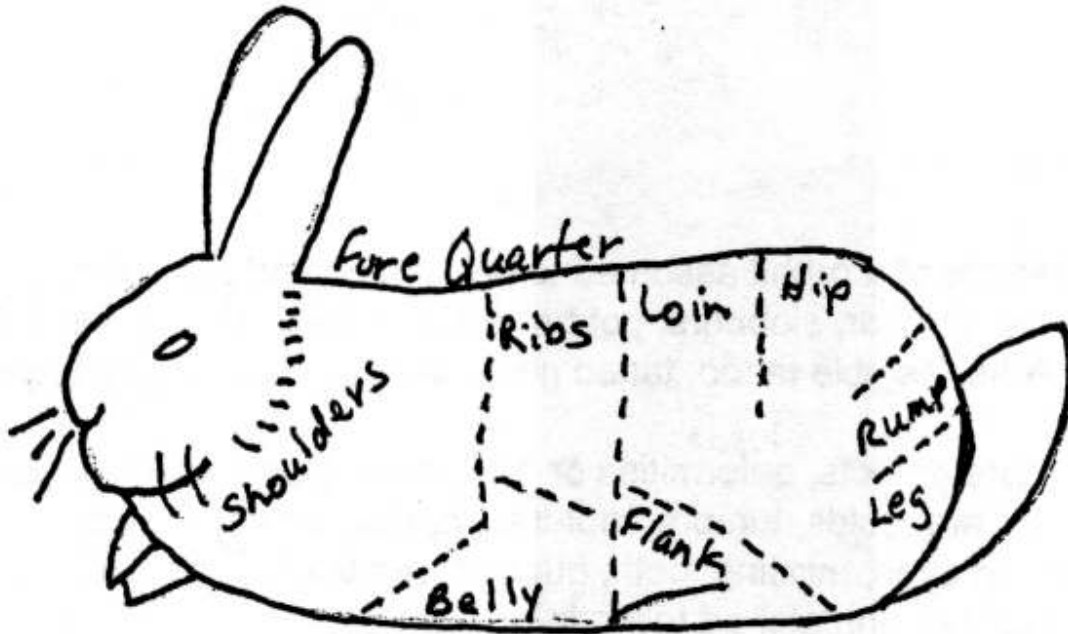
- | | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. toes | 5. hock | 9. ear | 13. dewlap | 17. cheek | 20. loin |
| 2. hip | 6. neck | 10. foot | 14. shoulder | 18. nose | 21. eye |
| 3. forequarter | 7. hindquarter | 11. chest | 15. rump | 19. leg | 22. belly |
| 4. mouth | 8. rib | 12. tail | 16. flank | | |



STANDARD GUIDE FOR JUDGING MEAT CLASSES

There are three factors, in the order of their importance in judging meat pens, are as follows:

- (1) MEAT TYPE (2) CONDITION (3) UNIFORMITY



(1) MEAT TYPE: A good meat pen combines the best meat type; **type** therefore, is the most important factor in judging these pens. The best meat type is found in those fryers that are compact, short, body well filled, rounded, solid flesh, smooth and well filled hips. (Protruding hip bones, or prominent “razor backs” are serious faults.)

(2) CONDITION: All fryers in a pen must be in prime condition. This reflects the care and management practices of the breeder. The fryers must be firm and solid; they must not show any signs of flabbiness, softness, or looseness. The pelt must be tight over the body, the animals must be clean and show no sign of neglect or disease.

(3) UNIFORMITY: This denotes the ability of the breeder to pick three fryers for each pen. Uniformity must be present in weight, size, appearance, condition and meat type, and should be as similar in all respects as possible. This uniformity applies also to the fur. The quality of the fur should only be determining factor in of an absolute tie.

QUALIFICATIONS: Meat Pens will consist of three (3) rabbits - all the same breed and variety. A pen is eliminated if more than one breed or variety is in the same pen. Weight limits not over 5 pounds for each rabbit. If one rabbit in the pen weighs more than the maximum weight, the entire pen is eliminated. If one rabbit in the pen is disqualified, the whole pen becomes disqualified.



SHOWMANSHIP QUESTIONS

What is a male rabbit called? *Buck*

What is a female rabbit called? *Doe*

What makes up a trio of rabbits? *A buck and two does.*

What is a rabbit cage called? *Hutch*

How many times a day should you water your rabbit? *At least twice a day.*

When is the best time to feed your rabbit? *At the same time every evening.*

Large fold of skin at the throat. *Dewlap*

A domestic rabbit can be bred with a wild cottontail rabbit. True or False? *False - They are different species.*

A domestic rabbit can be bred with a wild European rabbit. True or False? *True - Domestic rabbits are descended from wild European rabbits.*

How many teeth does a rabbit have? *28*

Name two ways to control disease in the rabbitry. *Keep hutches, food & water containers clean, do not lend rabbits, quarantine new rabbits, provide fresh food and clean water, bury or burn dead rabbits, good ventilation*

Good ventilation is important for disease control. True or False? *True*

How can you keep rabbits cool in the summer? *Frozen water bottle in cage, sprinkle water on hutch roof, keep hutches in shade, fans.*

Is heat or cold easier for a rabbit to tolerate? *Cold*

Name a cause of Sore Hocks. *Thin fur on foot pad, wet & dirty cage, rough wire, nervous rabbit, long toenails, inherited.*

What is the treatment for Ear Canker (ear mites)? *Mineral or vegetable oil or ear mite medication.*

What is the treatment for Mange (fur mites)? *Seven dust, cat flea powder or Ivermectin.*

Sun can fade a rabbit's fur. True or False? *True*

Shedding or changing of fur. *Molt*

Iceberg lettuce is a good treat for rabbits. True or False? *False (No nutritional value and can cause diarrhea.)*

What are the five points on the fur? *Ears, Noise, Eyebrows, Feet, & Tail.*

Name other meat pen breeds. *New Zealand, Californian, Palomino, Champagne D'Argents, Rex, Satins.*

Rabbits should never be put in drafty areas. True or False? *True*

What mammal order are rabbits classified as? *Lagomorphs*

Where are rabbits believed to have originally come from? *Spain*

Stain on the coat as a result of urine, manure or rust from the cage. *Hutch Stain*

How can Hutch Stain be removed? *Dab with lemon juice or use a mixture of cornstarch & water.*

What is a pedigree? *A record of a rabbit's date of birth and 3 generations of ancestors.*

Rabbits are classified as rodents. True or False? *False (Lagomorphs)*

How do you groom a normal furred rabbit? *Brush off loose fur, moisten hands, and rub them over the fur. Trim nails.*

Who originally is believed to have introduced domesticated rabbits to England? *The Romans*
Rabbit hutches should be placed in full sun. True or False? *False*

An extra claw on the inside of the front leg. *Dewclaw*

A rabbit's teeth grow 1/2 inch or more per month. True or False? *True*

Scabs and crusting in the ears. *Ear Canker (ear mites)*

What is the most important nutrient you can give your rabbit? *Water*

How often should hutches be cleaned? *At least once a week.*

What is the initial treatment for diarrhea? *Remove pellets, feed hay and rolled oats.*

Rabbits are considered serious pests in Australia and New Zealand. True or False? *True (They destroy vegetation)*

What is the biggest change in rabbits since they have been domesticated? *Increase in size and weight.*

What is the fifth toe on the hind foot called? *Trick Question, the hind foot only has four toes*

Rabbits should be picked up by their ears. True or False? *False (One hand under the midsection the other hand supporting the hind end.)*

How should you disinfect rabbit cages & equipment? *Wash with Clorox bleach and dry in the sun.*

What do "BOB" and "BOS" stand for? *"Best Of Breed" and "Best Opposite Sex"*

Teeth not properly aligned. *Malocclusion*

Is a salt spool necessary? *No (Commercial rabbit pellets contain adequate sodium)*

What is the most common feeding problem? *Over feeding*

What food provides the most balanced diet for a rabbit? *Commercial rabbit pellets*

What is the best way to prevent Coccidiosis? *Keep cages & feed dishes clean.*

Name three parts of a rabbit besides eye, ear, nose, mouth, foot or tail. *Cheek, dewlap, chest, toe, rib, belly, flank, hock, leg, shoulder, hindquarter, forequarter, rump, hip, loin.*

What is a baby rabbit called? *Kit*

A group of kits. *Litter*

What does "palpate" mean? *Feeling the doe's abdomen to see if she's pregnant.*

When should the nest box be put in for a pregnant doe? *28 days after the doe is bred. (3 days before kindling).*

Name two ways to control disease in your rabbitry. *Quarantine new rabbits, strict sanitation, good ventilation, good nutrition & fresh water, strict culling, rodent & insect control.*

What does it mean to quarantine a rabbit? *Keep it separate from the rest of the herd.*

When a doe gives birth. *Kindling – kindle*

A rabbit with no pedigree. *Grade*

Rabbit gestation (pregnancy) averages how many days? *31 days*

When you breed rabbits, do you mate them in the buck or the does cage? *Bucks cage. (If you put the buck in the does cage, the doe may attack the buck.)*

A buck and a doe should be left together for a least 1 week to ensure successful breeding. True or False? *False – The buck and doe should never be left unsupervised as they may injure each other.*

How long should a new rabbit be quarantined from the rest of the herd? *At least 3 weeks.*

Rabbits are born with their eyes open. True or False? *False*

What does ARBA stand for? *American Rabbit Breeders Association*

Fur that quickly returns back to it's normal position when stroked back to front. *Flyback*

Any defect or fault that detracts from appearance. *Blemish*

Fur that slowly returns back to it's normal position when stroked back to front. *Rollback*

Removal of undesirable rabbits from the herd. *Culling*

Name a common cause of breeding problems. *Overweight, Heat, Heredity, Vent Disease*

The mother of a rabbit. *Dam*

"Variety" is a term for what? *Color*

When do a baby rabbit's eyes open? *10-11 days*

Does with litters should be on full feed. True or False? *True*

What does "lactate" mean? *To produce milk*

Name a kindling complication. *Kits born on wire, doe with Mastitis or Caked Breast, Pneumonia, Ketosis, Dystocia, Abortion, poor maternal instincts, doe fails to produce milk*

The father of a rabbit. *Sire*

At what age should kits be weaned? *6-8 weeks*

Which ear do you tattoo on a rabbit? *Left*

A rabbit must be “purebred” to be shown at an ARBA sanctioned show. True or False? *False*

What book lists pictures, descriptions and standards for all the breeds? *The ARBA Standard of Perfection*

What does the term “Density” refer to? *The thickness of the fur*

Where would a “Butterfly” be located? *On the rabbit’s nose*

The color at the base of the fur shaft. *Under color*

“Red Urine” is a symptom of bladder infection in rabbits. True or False? *False – This is normal discharge of undigested protein.*

The longer, coarser hair of the coat that protects the undercoat. *Guard Hair*

Name two types of records that are important in good rabbit raising. *Expenses, Income, Pedigrees, Show Records, Hutch Cards, Doe Records, Buck Records*

Baby powder and silicone based hair sprays are commonly used to groom a rabbit for show. True or False? *False - These are illegal*

This disease is often caused by Pasteurella or parasitic infections and causes the head to twist to the side. *Wry Neck (Head Tilt)*

How do you treat Coccidiosis? *Sulfa medication*

What methods can be used to control flies around cages? *Frequent cleaning, lime under cages, fly poison, fly tapes.*

Symptoms of this disease are hair loss and flaking skin. *Mange (fur mites)*

A disease causing bad condition, potbelly, and loose droppings and is spread in the droppings of rabbits. *Coccidiosis*

What is the age for Intermediate rabbits? *6-8 months (large breeds)*

Name a Commercial breed. *French, Giant & Satin Angora, Champagne D'Argents, French Lop, Harlequin, Hotot, New Zealand, Palomino, Rex, American Sable, Satin, Silver Fox, Silver Marten*

When is the best time to palpate a doe? *12-14 days after mating*

Very contagious disease due to Pasteurella or Bordetella. Symptoms include sneezing and discharge from the nose. *Snuffles*

Bacterial infection in the eye often due to a Pasteurella or Staph infection. *Weepy Eye*

Infection of the does mammary glands often caused by Staph or Strep. *Mastitis (blue breast)*

Hind legs turned in at the hocks. *Cow Hocks*

Bacterial infection spread by mating. *Vent Disease (scabby nose)*

Difficulty breathing, bluish color to the lips, tongue and ears. *Pneumonia*

A pedigree guarantees the quality of a rabbit. True or False? *False*

A defect, deformity or blemish making the rabbit non-showable. *Disqualification*

A rabbit must be pedigreed to be shown. True or False? *False*

An official ARBA document indicating that a rabbit is of good quality and meets the standard for it's breed. *Registration*

You must be an ARBA member to register your rabbit. True or False? *True*

What is the written record of a rabbit's family called? *Pedigree*

What are the two parts of a "Butterfly" nose marking? *Nose Fork & Wings*

How many times a day does a doe normally nurse her young? *Once*

What does “polyestrous” mean? *No regular breeding heat cycle.*

Engorged breasts, not caused by infection. *Caked Breast*

How do you treat eye infections in kits? *Antibiotic eye ointment*

How do you treat Vent Disease? *Penicillin injections*

How do you treat Weepy Eye? *Antibiotic eye ointment*

What is the nose marking on the Champagne D' Argent and Crème D' Argent called? *Butterfly*

Name a cause of litter loss. *Predators, doe stomping her young, exposure, bacterial infection, doe eating kits, doe not producing milk, litter born on wire*

Prolonged temperatures of 85 degrees and over can cause temporary sterility (can't breed) in bucks. True or False? *True*

Name a Stress Factor that can lower a rabbit's resistance to disease. *Drafts, heat, cold, over feeding, fright, poor nutrition, environment changes, over crowding*

Name two ways to recognize illness in rabbits. *Not eating or drinking, change in droppings (runny or small & hard), continuous molt, dull eyes, not moving, rapid or noisy breathing, nasal or eye discharge, pot belly*

Give an example of a General Disqualification. *Malocclusion, crooked front legs, cow hocks, wry tail, white toenails on colored rabbits, illegible tattoo, etc.*

How many breeds of rabbits are recognized by the ARBA? *45*

Tail carried to the side. *Wry Tail (Screw Tail)*

Rabbit show category for breeds having an ideal adult weight of under 9 pounds. *Four-Class*

Rabbit show category for breeds having an ideal adult weight of 9 pounds and over. *Six-Class*

How many rabbits are in a Meat Pen entry? *Three*

What is the maximum weight of a Meat Pen rabbit? *Not over 5 pounds.*

How many pairs of chromosomes do domestic rabbits have? *22*

You must be an ARBA member to exhibit your rabbit at a National ARBA Convention. True or False? *True*

A form of Malocclusion where the incisors meet evenly together. *Simple Malocclusion (Butting Teeth)*

Give an example of a 4-Class breed. *American Fuzzy Lop, American Sable, English, French & Satin Angora, Belgian Hare, Britannia Petite, Standard Chinchilla, Dutch, Dwarf Hotot, English Spot, Florida White, Harlequin, Havana, Himalayan, Jersey Woolly, Lilac, Holland & Mini Lop, Mini Rex, Netherland Dwarf, Polish, Rex, Rhinelander, Silver, Silver Marten, Tan*

Give an example of a 6-Class breed. *American, Giant Angora, Beveren, Californian, Champagne & Crème D'Argents, Checkered Giant, American & Giant Chinchilla, Cinnamon, Flemish Giant, Hotot, English & French Lop, New Zealand, Palomino, Satin, Silver Fox*

What is a sign of poor ventilation in a rabbitry? *Condensation on windows, ammonia smell, temperature or humidity higher than the outside air*

Imperfection not serious enough to disqualify are called. *Fault*

A fungal infection of the skin. *Ring Worm*

Bacterial infection causing diarrhea and death. *Enterotoxaemia*

Very contagious disease that kills rapidly. Symptoms include fever, difficulty breathing, depression, seizures and bloody nasal discharge. *VHD (Viral Hemorrhagic Disease)*

Bacterial infection of the dewlap. *Wet Dewlap*

What is the treatment for "Wet Dewlap"? *Remove excess hair, apply antibiotic ointment.*

Disease spread by insects and birds. Symptoms include swollen eyes, ears, nose & genitals. More common in western states. *Myxomatosis*

Symptoms of this disease include sloshy belly, grinding teeth and jelly-like secretion in the stools. *Mucoid Enteritis (Enteropathy)*

Swelling caused by infection under the skin. *Abscess (Boil)*

Eye with a milky film over the surface. *Wall Eye (Moon Eye)*

Profuse drooling caused by tooth infection or illness. *Slobbers*

Distended, large stomach. *Pot Belly*

Mating rabbits that are closely related such as parent to offspring or brother to sister. *In-Breeding*

Breeding rabbits that are descended from a common ancestor. *Line-Breeding*

Mating unrelated rabbits of the same breed. *Out-Breeding*

Mating of rabbits of different breeds. *Cross-Breeding*

A "Triangle" is a feature of what color patterns? Tan and Agouti

Genes that hide the expression of other genes. Dominant

How does a rabbit acquire B Vitamins? Coprophagy (eating fecal or "night" droppings)

What are the 5 primary genes that control fur color in rabbits? *A B C D E*

You have to be an ARBA member to exhibit your rabbit at an ARBA sanctioned show. True or False? *False*

What is the recommended air exchange per hour for good ventilation in a rabbitry? *10 times per hour*

How do you know if a rabbit is registered? *It has the Registrar's symbol tattooed in it's right ear. (Circle with an R). Some rabbits may have the registration number tattooed in the right ear.*

What do BOV and BOSV stand for? *"Best Of Variety" and "Best Opposite Sex Of Variety"*

Genetically inherited characteristics of a rabbit. *Genotype*

The appearance of a rabbit. *Phenotype*