

# Special Event Rules & Guidelines

## Special Event Rules

1. All other show rules apply.
2. Entries will be \$3 per contest or \$12 to enter all 5 contests.
3. Contestants who enter all 5 contests are eligible for the Overall Exhibitor awards in their age division.
4. The Overall Exhibitor awards in each age category are figured by the amount of points won in each contest. Ties will be broken by the high score in Showmanship.
  - Each First place-5 points
  - Each Second place-4 points
  - Each Third place-3 points
  - Each Forth place-2 points
  - Each Fifth place-1 point

### Awards to be given

- Overall Senior Exhibitor-Belt Buckle
  - Overall Intermediate Exhibitor-Belt Buckle
  - Overall Junior Exhibitor-Belt Buckle
  - Second through fifth place will receive plaques
5. Plaques will be awarded to first place through fifth place in each event in each age category.

### Age as of September 1, 2012.

- Junior 8 (and in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade) – 10
  - Intermediate 11 – 13
  - Senior 14 – 18
6. The Special Events will be run on a come and go basis, please try to complete as many as you can before your rabbit(s) are shown. Showmanship will have a schedule, if you are scheduled for when any of your rabbits are in the table the showing of your rabbit takes priority.

# Rabbit Judging

In this contest exhibitors will place 4 rabbits as a judge would in a show. The rabbits will have already been placed by the show judge. Juniors and Intermediates will place 1 class, Seniors will place 2 classes. The ARBA Standard of perfection will be available. Youth will have 10 min per class to judge the rabbits. Rabbits will be tattooed and youth will write the placing on the score card. Exhibitors that tie will be called back to judge a different class. If you leave before the event is over and are tied you will take the lower placing.

Example.

Breed \_\_\_New Zealand\_\_\_\_\_  $\frac{4}{1^{\text{st}}}$   $\frac{1}{2^{\text{nd}}}$   $\frac{2}{3^{\text{rd}}}$   $\frac{3}{4^{\text{th}}}$

# Rabbit Costume Contest

Points can be earned in each of the following categories:

- originality/creativity
- appearance
- behavior of rabbit
- presentation
- judges questions

Each contestant should be prepared to talk to the judge about anything relating to dressing his or her rabbit. Judge will ask questions.

Contestants should be prepared to explain things such as, but not limited to...

- • Where did you get the idea for your costume?
- • Is the costume hand-made or did you make any modifications to the costume?
- • How much time did your costume project take?

# Rabbit Quiz

A competition in which individual participants test their general knowledge of the rabbit project in the areas of care & health, selection, breed & variety. The rabbit quiz will consist of a written test with 20-30 age appropriate questions. Questions will be true/false, multiple choice, matching or fill in the blank. Resources include but are no limited to: A.R.B.A. "Standard of Perfection", "Official Guidebook to Raising Better Rabbits and Cavies". Additional questions will be used for any tie breakers.

## Breed Identification

A competition to demonstrate the 4-H or FFA member's knowledge of the different breeds of rabbits using breed, showroom classification, and body type. Youth will view a variety of rabbits then will write answers on an official answer sheet. Use the A.R.B.A. Standards of Perfection to study.

### *Sample*

Rabbit Number	BREED	SHOWROOM CLASSIFICATION (color)	BODY TYPE
1	Mini Rex	Black	Compact
2	New Zealand	White	Commercial
3	Californian	Standard	Commercial
4	Holland Lop	Broken	Compact

## Rabbit Breed ID Contest Pointers

The contestant will view a variety of rabbits in cages. There may be any of the 45 recognized breeds. There will be approximately 10-15 animals, representative of their breed. Each cage will be numbered. Find the number of the cage on your answer sheet and write the breed on the line followed by the showroom classification, and body type.

The full A.R.B.A. Standard of Perfection name for the breed and classification is preferred. Abbreviations will be accepted. (Ex: Californian or Cal, Himalayan or Himi) However if it is a lop eared breed just putting lop will not count.

The name of the breed must be correct or no points will be given for the classification or body type. Breeds, which have no showroom classification, will be recorded as Standard.

Spelling should be as accurate as possible, but points will be given if the answer can be determined.

A participant may not touch or blow on a rabbit, but an adult/monitor may be asked to "get the rabbit up". Adults/Monitors may answer questions about the contest rules, but may not answer rabbit questions.

Keep your answers covered at all times. On lookers will be asked to leave immediately.

Hand in your answer sheet and the clipboard before you leave the contest. Do not discuss the rabbits until everyone has finished the contest. A tie breaker pen of rabbits may be included and will determine placement only in the event a tie.

## **DEFINITIONS**

- **Breed - A class of domestic rabbit that reproduces itself with distinctive characteristics, such as fur, markings, shape, and size.**
- **Showroom Classification (Variety) - A division within a breed. Color determines the variety.**
- **Body Type-the body shape of the rabbit**

## **SHOWROOM CLASSIFICATION**

- **Some breeds of rabbits have only one variety.**
- **These rabbits showroom classification is STANDARD.**
- **There are 15 breeds that are standard; Giant Angora, Belgian Hare, Californian, Champagne D'Argent, American Chinchilla, Giant Chinchilla, Standard Chinchilla, Cinnamon, Crème D'Argent, Dwarf Hotot, Florida White, Hotot, Lilac, Rhinelander, and Silver Fox.**
- **Most rabbits are shown by variety (often a color): American, Beveren, Britannia Petite, Checkered Giant, Dutch, English Spot, Flemish Giant, Havana, Himalayan, New Zealand, Palomino, Polish, Rex, Mini Rex, Satin, Silver, Silver Marten, and Tan.**
- **Some rabbit varieties are lumped together in groups.**
- **All "lop" rabbits are shown as Solid or Broken groups.**
- **English Angora, French Angora, & Satin Angora are shown in white or colored groupings.**

**Netherland Dwarfs and Jersey Wooly are classified in the following groups:**

- **Agouti**
- **AOV (all other varieties)**
- **Self**
- **Shaded**
- **Tan Pattern**

**Harlequins are shown in the groups:**

- **Japanese**
- **Magpie**

## **BODY TYPE**

Body type refers to the 5 body profiles of rabbits.

- ***Full Arch*** Type animals show an arch starting at the nape of the neck, running over the shoulders, mid-section, loin and hips to the juncture of the tail.
- ***Semi-Arch*** Type animals carry a very good arch starting back of the shoulders and carrying through to the base of the tail.
- ***Compact*** Type animals are considered to possess commercial possibilities but are lighter in weight and shorter in length than commercial breeds.
- ***Commercial*** Type animals are considered to be the ideal meat type. They are medium in depth equaling width, showing roundness of body and firmness of flesh.
- ***Cylindrical*** Type animals consists of one breed the Himalayan. This type is long, slim with fine bone and long slender head.

## **Showmanship Contest**

Showmanship will be held according to the Texas 4-H rules below.

### **Guidelines for the Texas 4-H Rabbit Showmanship**

Showmanship is a participant's opportunity to demonstrate his/her knowledge and ability to properly select and present rabbits to their best advantage. The participant's confidence, ability and the rabbit's response are indicators of the knowledge and skills gained in handling and identifying quality animals, as well as defects, disqualifications, breed and variety characteristics.

Rabbit showmanship should be performed individually or with two participants at a time.

The following procedure is explained step by step along with what the participant will do and what the judge will be evaluating. The participant should follow the steps below as though they were examining the rabbit by themselves. Order is not as important as a smooth, organized flow of presentation. Prior to beginning the contest, judges should read the material thoroughly to ensure their judging will support the work of the leaders who have taught their youth based on recommended procedures available to all youth.

When selecting your rabbits for showmanship, you should check the rabbit over thoroughly. The rabbit should be free of diseases, parasites and disqualifications. If the participant is young or new to the rabbit project, the judge may have to

prompt some. Extra points may be given for thorough knowledge; or points may be deducted for missed areas or incorrect reasons.

#### **STEP 1: PARTICIPANT WILL**

- 1. Carry rabbit to judging table and pose it. (Continue the following steps, explaining each step taken and its purpose.)**
- 2. To properly carry a rabbit, tuck the head under one arm and support the rabbit's weight by placing the other hand under the rump. One hand supports the weight of the rabbit, while the other hand controls the rabbit. You may keep a firm grip since a rabbit dropped from this position can easily break its back. You may want to remove your hand when you feel confident about being in control. If the judge asks you to move to a different spot on the table, always pick up the rabbit for carrying before moving to a new location.**
- 3. When you arrive at the exhibit table, place the rabbit on the table immediately and pose it. For proper pose, front feet should be even with the eyes. Rear feet should be firmly on table with toes even with haunch (thigh joint) with tail up.**
- 4. Facing left is the natural position for a right-handed presenter.**

#### **STEP 2: PARTICIPANT WILL**

- 1. Check Ears check the ears for: ear mites, proper tattoo (Tattoo should be in rabbit's left ear), torn or missing portions of ears, that distract from general appearance, proper ear carriage, tattoo obliterated by ink, that is unreadable.**
- 2. Turn rabbit over. Properly turn the rabbit over, supporting the rabbit on the table or against your body. The rabbit will remain in this position from steps #2 through #10.**
- 3. Check teeth. With your hand over the area of the eyes, place a thumb and index finger on each side of the split lip and push back lips to expose teeth. You are checking for tooth defects such as malocclusion or simple malocclusion, broken or missing teeth.**
- 4. Check eyes. Check each eye for signs of blindness or abnormalities. You are checking for wall-eyes or moon eye (this is an eye with whitish cornea given a milky appearance to the eye), unmatched eyes (two eyes not of the same color), spots or specks in iris or on cornea, off colored eyes (eyes other than color called for in breed standard), abnormal eye discharge, must be noticeable and pronounced and marbling, a mottling of eye color, except in some chinchilla breeds allowing blue-gray eyes.**
- 5. Check nose. Check nose for sign of cold. The animal must show a white nasal discharge to be evidence of a cold. Matted fur on inside front legs may indicate presence of a cold.**
- 6. Check toenails on all feet. Check toenails by pushing thumb into center of paw. Push back fur with index finger if necessary to see toenails. Don't forget to check dew claws.  
You are checking for missing toenails, unmatched toenails on corresponding feet, (including dewclaws), proper color toenails for the breed as stated in the breed standard.**

#### **STEP 3: PARTICIPANT WILL**

- 1. Check hocks and front feet. Check the bottom of the hind feet for sore hocks.**
- 2. Also check bottoms of front feet for sore areas. You are checking for sore, infected or bleeding areas, not just for bare areas.**

3. Check legs. Extend front legs to check for straightness. Run index finger and thumb the length of each front leg.
4. Extend rear legs out straight by placing your cupped hand ahead of the rear legs and pushing toward the feet. Legs should not be bent, bowed, deformed or cow-hocked.
5. Check body for ruptures and abscess. Run your hand over the chest and abdominal area to check for any abscess, tumors, or abnormalities. Ruptures may appear as lumps or large bumps under the skin, normally in the belly area. Abscess may appear as red lumps or sores in the belly area or the neck or chin area or under the arms, normally.
6. Check sex. Check for the sex of the rabbit. Place thumb below vent area and push toward front of rabbit with index finger. You are also checking for signs of vent disease (as indicated by a scabby, reddened sex organ), split penis and testicles.
7. All male animals in the regular showroom classes must show two normally descended testicles at the time of judging. Juniors must show both or neither testicles (because juniors showing only one descended testicle at time of judging would be disqualified from competition).
8. Check tail. Restore the rabbit to its posed position. Check to determine if tail is straight. Permanently set to either side, permanently out of line, screw tail, or bobtail are disqualifications from judging competition.

#### **STEP 4: PARTICIPANT WILL**

1. Check for proper surface color, undercolor, ring color, foreign spots, or smut.
2. You are checking the fur for foreign colored spots (white spots in colored animal, or colored spots in white animal, unless specifically accepted in the breed standard). Inspect fur for smut on the usable portion of the pelt on a Pointed White, Californian, or Himalayan marked breeds and varieties. Check for proper color. Check surface color. Check undercolor and/or ring color by stroking fur forward or blowing into fur over the entire body. Tan Pattern: any tan pattern marking appearing in the marking pattern of Pointed White, Californians, or Himalayan marked breeds or varieties, is a disqualification. Wrong under color, color other than called for in the breed standard, white hairs (excessive white hairs in a colored section) are also disqualification's.
3. Fur quality and cleanliness. Stroke fur toward rabbit's head to show fur going back into natural position, either flyback/rollback. Check density standing/upright fur, such as Rex and Mini Rex, by patting and blowing into several areas. Some wooled breeds, such as Angoras and Fuzzy Lops should be felt and blown into to check density. Stroke rabbit from head to rear for a molt condition. Check for stains on fur.
4. Pose rabbit for evaluation of overall balance.
5. Check front, rear and side views for overall balance. Locate each of the following with your hand: shoulders, ribspread, and fullness of loin.
6. Check hindquarters for fullness by stretching your hand across width and depth of the rump. Check hips for smoothness and fullness by running your hand over the top of the hip to the tail.
7. Participant's Appearance. Participant should demonstrate good posture, good eye contact with judge throughout presentation, smile/pleasant expression, neat dress, remove chewing gum, hats or caps and long hair should be pulled back.

## **STEP 5: PARTICIPANT WILL**

- 1. Participant's Actions. Carry out actions in a confident manner, always being considerate of your animals, fellow showman, and the judge. Demonstrate a gentle and smooth flowing presentation.**
- 2. Participant's Knowledge. Demonstrate quick, confident, and correct response to questions asked about your rabbit.**
- 3. At all times extra points could be given for detailed information freely given or points deducted for failure to explain each procedure.**
- 4. In addition to the above procedure, the judge may ask the exhibitor two or three specific questions.**
- 5. If questions are asked, they will be age appropriate and might cover such topics as the breed being handled by the participant, rabbit care and health, breeding, rabbit equipment, variety characteristics, and disqualifications. This information can be found in the current A.R.B.A. Standard of Perfection, the A.R.B.A. Domestic Rabbit Guide and the A.R.B.A. Official Guidebook to Raising Better Rabbits and Cavies, all of which should be used to prepare for the showmanship competition. You may want to contact your county Extension agent or a local breeder for more information.**