Rabbit Breeds

THE POCKET GUIDE to 49 Essential Breeds

Lynn M. Stone

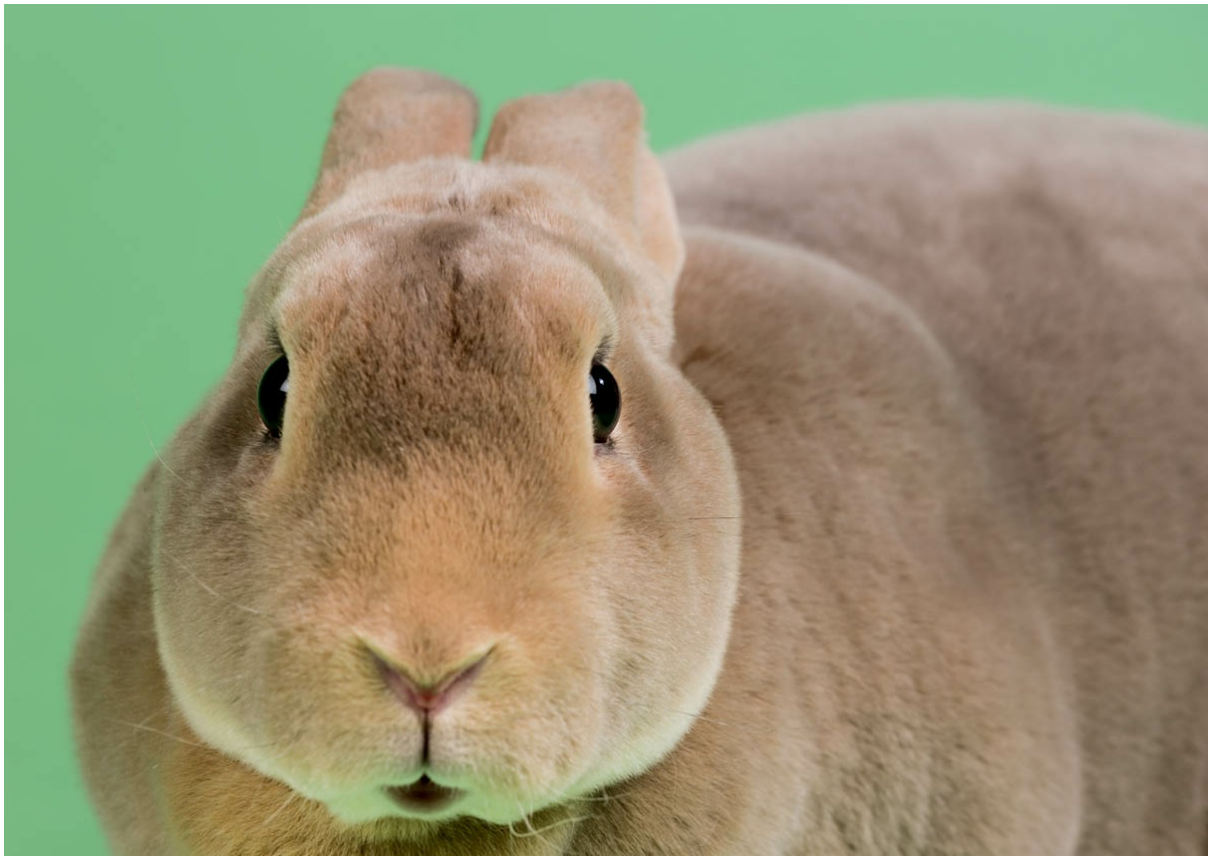
Our little ebook farmstand.

Learn something creative every month.

www.storey.com/freshpicks Storey

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com



Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

For my own Hop, Brittany, and her twins, Lemon and Sailor . . . and for Kimberly

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Contents

A Bit of Background

Introducing the Breeds

Glossary of Colors

American

American Chinchilla

American Fuzzy Lop

American Sable

Argente Brun

Belgian Hare

Beveren

Blanc de Hotot

Britannia Petite

Californian

Champagne d’Argent

Checkered Giant

Cinnamon

Crème d’Argent

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Dutch

Dwarf Hotot

English Angora

English Lop

English Spot

Flemish Giant

Florida White

French Angora

French Lop

Giant Angora

Giant Chinchilla

Harlequin

Havana

Himalayan

Holland Lop

Jersey Wooly

Lilac

Lionhead

Mini Lop

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Mini Rex

Mini Satin

Netherland Dwarf

New Zealand

Palomino

Polish

Rex

Rhinelander

Satin

Satin Angora

Silver

Silver Fox

Silver Marten

Standard Chinchilla

Tan

Thrianta

Glossary

Further Reading

Other Resources

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Acknowledgments

Expand Your Breed Knowledge!

Copyright

Share Your Experience!

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

A Bit of Background

EVEN IF YOU'VE NEVER ACTUALLY OWNED ONE, you've certainly had a rabbit or two in your life one way or another. For better or worse, rabbits have long been popular among various cultures worldwide, and their status has been enhanced by myth, literature, and film.

The Easter Bunny, perhaps the most iconic lagomorph of all, was first associated with the Christian holy day by German Lutherans in the eighteenth century. Originally known as the Easter Hare, the more winsome term "bunny" took over at some point. Like Santa Claus, the mythical Easter Bunny could differentiate between children's good deeds and bad, which must have saved parents a lot of judgment calls.

In 1865, more than a century later, British author Lewis Carroll published *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, which has introduced generations of

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

readers to the nervous, bustling White Rabbit and the tea-crazed March Hare. Across the sea, American storyteller Joel Chandler Harris was collecting tales about a very different character, the irascible Br'er Rabbit, whose clever escapes from Br'er Bear and Br'er Fox in the briar patch were published in 1881 under the title *Uncle Remus: His Songs and His Sayings*. The animation artists at the Walt Disney Company raised Br'er Rabbit to stardom in the 1946 film *Song of the South*, as they did with Carroll's rabbits in 1951 with *Alice in Wonderland*.

In 1902, British author Beatrix Potter bequeathed to us the adventuresome young Peter Rabbit, the nemesis of Mr. McGregor and his garden.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

American author Thornton Burgess created a rather different character in the dapper Peter Cottontail, who hopped across the pages of *The Adventures of Peter Cottontail* in 1914.

The endearing and enduring story of a cloth rabbit that comes to life through love, *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams, appeared in 1922. Just a few years later, A. A. Milne brought to life a whole group of stuffed animals in *Winnie-the-Pooh* and *The House at Pooh Corner*. Pooh's friend Rabbit was a large enough presence to be identified by the single generic name.

Felix Salten, author of *Bambi* (first published in 1923), also wrote *Fifteen Rabbits*, a maudlin tale about a litter of wild kits that faces more enemies than a Marvel hero but fares far worse. It was Disney's 1942 film adaptation of *Bambi* that introduced Thumper and his mother, who were far more engaging and less accident-prone than Salten's own rabbit characters.

Bugs Bunny, one of the most famous and beguiling of all animated characters, also made his first appearance in the 1940s, more than three decades before Richard Adams penned an entire warren of memorable characters in his acclaimed allegorical novel *Watership Down*, published in 1972.

The point is, we've all had rabbits in our homes and on our minds at some point in our lives, and because rabbits have had so much publicity, we tend to think we know rabbits much better than we do. When Smokey Bear became the friendly face of the U.S. Forest Service, his calm voice and nuggets of wisdom had a subliminal effect. Some people projected the fatherly caricature onto real bears, and the most foolish of Smokey groupies proceeded to treat wild bears with inappropriate familiarity. At least with rabbits, misunderstanding their behavior is less likely to result in severe injury.

What almost everyone does know about rabbits is that most of them have consumed a whole bottle of cute pills, plus they're soft, furry, and warm. Those traits alone are enough to lift rabbits into the realm of animal icons, with or without their prominence in folklore, literature, and film. It's

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

no wonder that rabbits are the darlings of thousands of fanciers around the world, youngsters and adults alike, who start out with one bunny, then another, and somehow wind up with a rabbitry.

This book, however, is not intended solely for those who work closely with rabbits, nor is it intended as a text about the biology, ecology, or husbandry of rabbits. Rather, it’s an introduction to domestic rabbits and a guide to the 49 recognized breeds of North American rabbits. It’s meant to be enjoyed by anyone — your average Beagle excepted — who simply wants a little more time on the bunny trail with Peter’s flesh-and-blood cousins.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Rabbits: A Natural History

Many people believe rabbits are rodents and therefore members of that mammalian tribe of mice, rats, beavers, squirrels, and other furry critters who generally make a living by gnawing things with a single set of paired upper incisors. In fact, rabbits and hares are not rodents but rather lagomorphs, members of the mammalian order Lagomorpha, which also includes little mountain-loving pikas (think baby rabbits with tiny rounded ears and stubby legs).

Rabbits and hares, unlike some rodents, are more or less terrestrial; they are generally adapted to life on dry land, where vegetative cover and the rabbits' speed and quick-turn mobility help them evade enemies. You won't find a cottontail on a high limb staring down a squirrel, although the mountain cottontail (*Sylvilagus nuttallii*) of western North America often climbs into low-lying juniper tree branches to feed. And certain members of the 47 living species of rabbits and hares are somewhat surprisingly adapted for swimming, the swamp rabbit (*Sylvilagus aquaticus*) of the southern United States being one of them.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

pika

Rabbits and hares are herbivores, and as dedicated salad eaters, they choose grasses and other herbaceous plants. When their usual food is scarce, they'll eat the bark of young trees and shrubs, and at times they may nibble on the stems of small shrubs.

Rabbits and hares initially occupied a huge natural range that covered most of the world's terrestrial masses, the exceptions being the island of Madagascar, most of the islands southeast of Asia, the West Indies, Australia, New Zealand, and the frozen Antarctic continent and its archipelagoes. But over the centuries, rabbits and hares have bounded down more bunny trails than Nature intended. They are among the most widely introduced mammals in the world, having been released by human

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

travelers in southern South America, Java, various oceanic islands, and most famously and disastrously in Australia and New Zealand, where they have thrived in a vacuum devoid of natural predators, competed with native species for food and habitat, and stoked the ire of sheepherders.

Splitting Rabbits and Hares

Within the order of lagomorphs, rabbits and hares collectively belong to the subgroup or family Leporidae (pikas are Ochotonidae). Rabbits and hares are far more alike than they are dissimilar, and whether any particular animal in hand is actually a rabbit or a hare is not worth the risk of betting the farm.

Generally, hares are larger than rabbits, and a hare's ear tips are usually black. Although hares typically have larger, longer ears than rabbits, other external differences between them are more ambiguous. Under the fur are differences in the animals' skulls, the dissection and discussion of which is far more interesting to scientists than to laypeople.

A much more obvious difference along rabbit/hare fault lines is their respective young. Rabbits are born naked and blind in a fur-lined nest prepared by the doe, and they are unable to fend for themselves for several weeks. In contrast, hares are born on the ground; wide-eyed and full-furred, they can run pell-mell just minutes after birth.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

ABOVE: *Rabbits are born hairless and blind and about two-thirds smaller than this larger-than-life image.*

The common names of certain hares and rabbits only ramp up the confusion. The term “jackrabbit,” for example, is applied to certain North American hares, such as the black-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus californicus*) and the white-tailed jackrabbit (*Lepus townsendii*). Snowshoe hares (common name) are often referred to as “snowshoe rabbits,” but the common name is more accurate. “Belgian Hare” is a red herring among domestic rabbit names; the Belgian Hare is, in fact, a rabbit.

Among the wild species of rabbits and hares, body length (from head to tail) ranges from 10 to 28 inches (25–70 cm) and weight ranges from 14 ounces to about 15 pounds (400–7,000 g). In most mammalian families, males are larger than females, sometimes overwhelmingly. (The most spectacular example is the southern elephant seal; an 8,800-pound [4,000 kg] male may outweigh its mate by a ratio as high as 8:1.) Rabbits and hares are an exception: females are usually bigger than their male counterparts, except for the size of their heads.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Wild rabbits and hares are covered by a coat of fur — their pelage — that may be a shade of brown, gray, or white, depending on the species of rabbit or hare and, in some cases, the season of the year. The Sumatran short-eared rabbit (*Nesolagus netscheri*) with its striped coat is an exception. The Arctic hare (*Lepus arcticus*) and snowshoe hare (*Lepus americanus*) undergo a transformation in pelage from summer brown to winter white, a cryptic seasonal adaptation that helps them avoid predators.

Wild rabbits, as well as domesticated ones, are most active at night or in the evening in their habitats of choice, which include forests, shrub zones, grasslands, mountain slopes, tundra, and, in the case of the familiar eastern cottontail rabbits (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), residential yards and gardens.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

ABOVE: *The color of a snowshoe hare's coat of fur adapts seasonally.*

Breeding Like, Well, You Know . . .

Rabbits and hares are well-known for their fertility. Wild rabbits and hares reach sexual maturity at 5 or 6 months of age, have a gestation period of 25 to 50 days, and typically produce several litters a year of 2 to 8 kits. A female rabbit, or doe, may occasionally have 15 or more babies.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

The fertility of the Leporids makes them a common and important prey species for hawks, owls, foxes, coyotes, wolves, and snakes. The eastern diamondback rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*), for one, has made a cottage industry of rabbit hunting. Human hunters, often accompanied by zealous canine allies, kill thousands of wild rabbits and hares in North America each year. However many rabbits fall to predators, many others don't, thanks to keen ears, a sensitive nose, and rapid reflexes. Some species are known to sound an alarm of sorts by rapidly thumping their hind feet when danger threatens.

Part of a rabbit's appeal as a pet, especially to someone who might have owned, say, Yorkshire Terriers or Beagles, is the rabbit's quiet nature. Rabbits are essentially mute, other than their chewing sounds. The exception to their silence occurs when a rabbit, wild or domestic, utters a shrill scream if it's sufficiently frightened.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

ABOVE: *European rabbits (Oryctolagus cuniculus) thump the ground to sound an alarm.*

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Rabbit Species and Breeds

Let us briefly consider the relationship between rabbit species and rabbit breeds. Beware of anyone who claims there are two breeds of rabbits, “wild” and “domestic,” lest you next be on the hook for oceanfront property in Omaha. There are neither two breeds of rabbits nor two species.

This book is largely about rabbit breeds. Breeds originate from species. The scientists who pore over the characteristics that separate one animal from another — the taxonomists — have determined that among the hares and rabbits are 47 distinct species, or individual groups of closely related rabbits within the family Leporidae. Think of the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and the gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*) as separate species whose characteristics set each of them apart from all the other fox species.

So confusing are the arcane differences in animal taxonomy and the nuances of nature that taxonomists themselves don’t always agree on whether a particular population of wild rabbits, or any other animal for that matter, constitutes a separate species, which helps explain the necessary concept of subspecies and races. Taxonomists do agree, however, that the familiar black-tailed jackrabbit, common in western North America, and the eastern cottontail rabbit, abundant in much of the eastern United States, unequivocally represent different species (see below). At a glance, they are both obviously Leporids, but they are just as clearly different kinds — species — of Leporids.

One factor that separates species is that a member of one species typically mates only with members of its own species, even if its natural range overlaps with that of other, related species. Nature is full of exceptions, of course, but generally speaking, eastern cottontail rabbits don’t commingle, say, with the closely related, water-loving marsh rabbits.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

ABOVE: *Black-tailed Jackrabbit*

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

ABOVE: *Eastern Cottontail Rabbit*

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Species, then, represent different kinds of wild animals that have evolved in nature, whether they are among the hawks, hornets, or hares. In contrast, Dachshunds, Golden Retrievers, and Saint Bernards are three different breeds of dogs. They have been developed by human beings from a single wild species of dog, most likely the gray wolf (*Canis lupus*). Each of these breeds, despite its apparent differences from the others, belongs to the species *Canis lupus familiaris* (the common dog). Despite sometimes vast differences in size, color, and behavior, dogs of single or mixed breeds can mate with each other and produce fertile offspring because they belong to the same species.

Like specific breeds of dogs, all pure breeds of animals, or purebreds, result from humans taking members of a wild animal species into their care and modifying them through selective breeding in some way or ways for human purposes. That modification typically involves some element of size, color, and behavior, or some combination of elements. When comparing the size, conformation, and disposition of the dogs' common wild ancestor to the characteristics of dogs, it's easy to see in the plethora of dog breeds how human husbandry and the accompanying processes of domestication and selective breeding can dramatically alter a wild species under human control.

Humans inherited species of animals as the products of evolution. We didn't inherit breeds. They are the by-products of purposeful engineering by humans to modify certain species. We may not be in a position to create new species, but the process of creating and refining breeds is ongoing.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

The Domestication of Rabbits

The establishment of a single, refined breed of any animal requires time and effort. The process begins with the recognition that a certain species would be of considerable value. For example, people prized wild cattle, like the now-extinct, long-horned aurochs, for their meat and leather. But someone of vision recognized that a large plant-eating animal might also be useful for milk and labor.

Harnessing and milking wild cattle, however, was neither safe nor efficient. The ancients figured out over a campfire or two, perhaps while gnawing on aurochs ribs, that their needs would be served more safely and far more efficiently if they could forgo the thrill of the chase and simply raise cattle in captivity, or at least in herds that would hang around camp.

The next step was to round up a few animals from the wild and then contain and tame them. It is the nature of human beings to tinker, to refine and perfect, so that over an extended period, the taming of aurochs resulted not only in herds of tame cows but also, eventually, in the widespread domestication of cattle and the use of selective breeding to establish specific breeds, each different from the others and refined for the particular purposes of the people managing it. (Think smallish Jerseys for their rich milk; Holsteins for their abundance of milk; Angus for their blocky, beefy bodies; Brown Swiss for their Alpine hardiness; and scores of other cattle breeds for niches worldwide.)

Long before the establishment of the American Rabbit Breeders Association and rabbit shows, humans reached a verdict: rabbits were of considerable value for their fur and meat, and it would be much more efficient to raise them rather than hunt them, since rabbits, out of self-interest, tended to bolt from their human pursuers. So far as we know, the great awakening with regard to rabbits occurred between 600 and 1000 CE, when French monks captured, tamed, and domesticated the Old World

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*), indigenous to southern France, the Iberian peninsula, and perhaps northwestern Africa.

More recently, rabbit breeders have carried domestication to a new level: selective breeding, which has resulted in the hundreds of rabbit breeds that exist today or did previously. (Like best-selling novels, rabbit breeds may endure or may be discarded and disappear like yesterday's news.)

Even though many rabbit breeds seem morphologically and behaviorally distant from *Oryctolagus*, all our modern breeds of rabbits, at least the 49 recognized by the American Rabbit Breeders Association, can trace their ancestry to one species of wild progenitor, the Old World rabbit.

ABOVE: *Josef Heintz developed the Rhinelander breed in the late 1800s by crossing a gray non-purebred rabbit with Harlequins and*

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Checkered Giants.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Introducing the Breeds

EACH BREED DESCRIPTION THAT FOLLOWS lists the breed country of origin, year recognized, uses, weight, body type, fur type, colors, and its Livestock Conservancy status. The following explanations will help you interpret that information.

Country of Origin

In many cases, such as the Palomino and the Satin, for example, a rabbit breed country of origin is well documented. In others, such as the Harlequin and, despite its name, the Himalayan, the country of origin is questionable. Many breeds, regardless of country of origin, have direct forebears from yet other countries, so in the final analysis, domestic rabbits tend to have an international flavor.

This book lists only those breeds accepted by the American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA). The ARBA recognizes breeds that are not necessarily North American by birthright but that are North American in the sense that they occur in North America in large enough numbers to be of ongoing interest to the rabbit fanciers.

Year Recognized

In most cases this is the year when the American Rabbit Breeders Association recognized the breed for introduction into the ARBA Standard of Perfection. The ARBA, however, was preceded by a number of organizations that were in the recognition business in the early 1900s, one of which was the National Pet Stock Association of America. Rabbits listed as having been accepted as breeds prior to about 1923 were probably

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

grandfathered into the ARBA from an earlier organization. The breeders' continued attention to pedigrees has kept them in good stead with the ARBA, which generally is unflinching in its adherence to the necessity of breed standards.

Uses

Many rabbit authorities maintain that any rabbit can be used for fur or meat (any coyote will attest to the latter). And any rabbit, if properly treated and cared for, can be a pet. Furthermore, it's clear that all the breeds recognized by the ARBA are exhibited and thus used for show. Though some breeds, such as the Californian or New Zealand, were originally used as research animals, laboratories today typically obtain rabbits from facilities that breed them specifically for that purpose.

Even so, each breed's most likely, or traditional, use (fur or wool, laboratory, meat, pet, show) is listed. Use as a pet and for show are generally givens, but those terms are highlighted for breeds that are particularly known for those purposes.

Weight

Each purebred rabbit breed has a breed standard, which, among other things, prescribes how much the ideal show, or exhibition, rabbit of that breed should weigh, depending on its gender and age class. This book indicates the maximum acceptable weight for the largest gender of the breed at its most mature. In some cases, both bucks (males) and does (females) share a maximum weight; in others, does are the larger gender. The maximum weight may not be the *ideal* weight, but many breed standards don't suggest an ideal weight.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

A purebred rabbit outside the maximum or minimum weight is not necessarily destined for the stew pot; however, the overweight or underweight rabbit cannot be shown competitively.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

SMALL PACKAGES

Usually, the smallest rabbit breeds are the ones most popular as pets. The most common purebred rabbit registrations between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, in rank order, were Mini Rex, Holland Lops, Netherland Dwarfs, Mini Lops, and Polish. These popular breeds are certainly among the cutest and easiest to house, but some individuals may have rather assertive natures. Determining the “best” breed for a pet rabbit is a matter of personal taste.

From a rabbit owner’s perspective, smaller breeds have some advantages over their larger cousins: they require less food and smaller quarters, and many of them come in a painter’s palette of colors, spiking particular interest among the fanciers who enjoy the challenge of breeding for color perfection.

ABOVE: *Mini Rex*

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

ABOVE: *Netherland Dwarf*

ABOVE: *Mini Lop*

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Body Type

The ARBA recognizes five rabbit body types: compact, commercial, semi-arch, full-arch, and cylindrical.

COMPACT RABBITS are small, short, and blocky. Some have only a slight rise in the topline because the depth of their shoulders is lower than the depth over their hips.

COMMERCIAL-TYPE RABBITS are the so-called meat rabbits, in type if not in actual practice (many of them are rarely used for meat). Commercial-type rabbits are of medium length, and the depth of their bodies equals the width. Fullness and firmness are qualities in the commercial-type.

SEMI-ARCH RABBITS have relatively long bodies and a defined rise starting near the back of their shoulders that rolls over the back and hips to the tail. The peak of the rise is at the top of the rabbit's hips.

FULL-ARCH BREEDS (there are just six) are sometimes referred to as "hare-like" because they pose on their hind legs, their long front legs keeping their upper bodies well above the ground, much like, say, a wild hare. The side profile of a full-arch rabbit tapers from the hindquarters through to the shoulders.

THE LONE CYLINDRICAL RABBIT is the Himalayan, which at rest shows a straight topline with neither arch nor rise; it is the closest thing among the North American breeds to a ready-made stole.

Fur Type

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Hair is an essential to being a mammal, although certain species, such as porpoises, have little of it. When mammals have a lush covering of hair, we call it fur, or wool; it is still hair, but it is hair in profusion, often with a soft, thick texture. “Fur” is not a scientific term, but a perception.

Rabbit fur is not as luxurious as mink or beaver, and commercially harvested pelts in the United States are mostly used for trimming collars and cuffs. Breeds categorized as having commercial fur and eligible for competition in Commercial Fur classes are breeds with a specific texture deemed desirable to the commercial fur market. Commercial fur is a flyback coat.

Only a few breeds, including Satins, Rex, and Angoras, are raised in relatively large numbers for their fur. The demand for rabbit fur declined rapidly after World War II as synthetic textiles, including faux fur, became increasingly popular and the public began to rein in its enthusiasm for natural furs in general.

SATIN rabbits have hollow hair shafts that give a unique sheen to their fur.

REX rabbits have guard hairs of equal length as the undercoat, creating a plush, velvety pelt.

ANGORA wool is long, soft, and shaggy. Generally speaking, “wool” applies to fur that can be sheared or plucked and is of a texture useful in spinning.

FLYBACK alludes to fur that quickly “flies” back to its original position when rubbed against the natural grain.

ROLLBACK fur stays fluffed up longer and returns more gradually to its former position.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

ABOVE: *Angora rabbits can produce quality wool throughout their life. It grows approximately one inch per month and is plucked or sheared to be spun into luxurious yarn. The fur of other breeds is harvested by killing and skinning the rabbit and processing the pelt.*

Colors

The names applied to rabbit colors — indeed, the colors of most domestic animals, like those of many automobiles — can be highly fanciful, more evocative than accurate. For example, don't expect a red rabbit to be the color of a matador's cape, or a blue rabbit to be sky blue. A red rabbit is more typically a golden tan or sunset brown, and the blue is much more gray than true blue. You can be sure, however, that a white or black rabbit will appear as advertised.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Color groups used for classification purposes include “broken” (a white coat with patches of color), “self” (a single uniform color), and “shaded” (a solid color that darkens around the eyes, nose, and ears, the lower sides of the body, and the tail). You’ll find that breed enthusiasts are clear about understanding the jargon of rabbit fur colors, even if it confounds the general public.

ALBINO. An all-white animal with pink eyes that lacks melanin as a result of a gene mutation.

AGOUTI. A fur color pattern involving rings of mixed light and dark colors on the hair shafts, typical of wild rabbits as well as several varieties of domestic rabbit breeds.

BROKEN GROUP. An essentially white coat that is “broken” with patches of darker color.

BUTTERFLY. A dark muzzle marking shaped loosely like a butterfly and extending over the rabbit’s nose and whisker beds.

CHINCHILLA. A breed of rabbit, so named because its coat color resembles that of the chinchilla, a small, wild rodent of the Chilean mountains. Also the unique speckled base color of both the breed and the wild animal.

EYE BAND. A circle of colored fur around the eye of a rabbit.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

POINTED GROUP. A lighter coat with darker shading on the flanks and dark points (muzzle, ears, legs).

SADDLE. The upper back of a rabbit or a color marking in that area.

SELF GROUP. Rabbits of a single, uniform color.

SHADED GROUP. Rabbits whose dark points (muzzle, ears, legs) fade to a lighter body color.

SILVERING. The silver gloss to rabbit fur that occurs due to the presence of white- or silver-tipped guard hairs (longer outer hairs, usually slightly coarser than the soft undercoat).

TICKED GROUP. In rabbit fur, a flecked appearance from guard hairs of a different color than the shorter fur.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

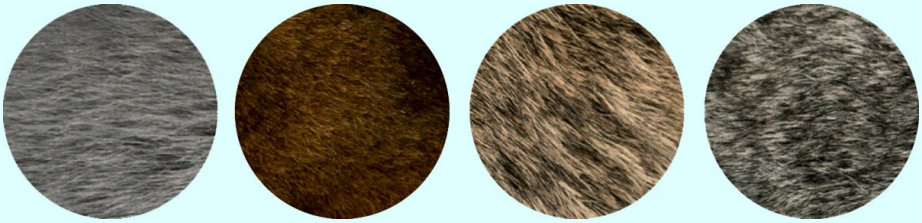
TRICOLORED GROUP. A white coat that has patches of two of a number of other accepted colors.

WIDE BAND GROUP. A uniform body color with some lighter coloring elsewhere, typically on the belly and underside of tail.

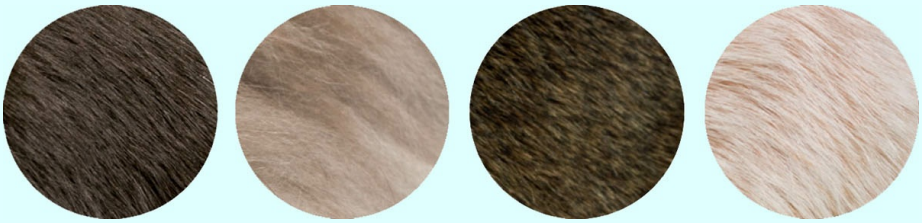
> **Note:** The colors shown below are meant to be representative, not exhaustive. A color may have the same terminology across breeds but look different, depending on fur type.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

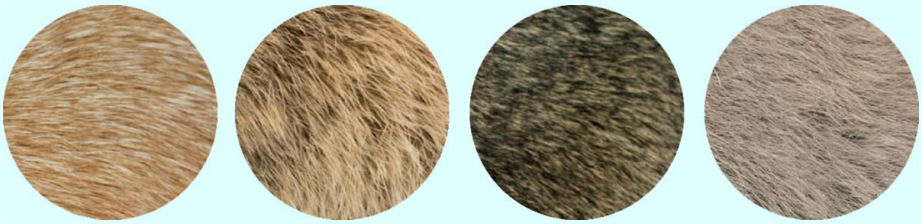
GLOSSARY OF COLORS



ABOVE: *Left to right: blue, castor, chestnut agouti, chinchilla*



ABOVE: *Left to right: chocolate (Havana), chocolate (French Angora), copper, cream*

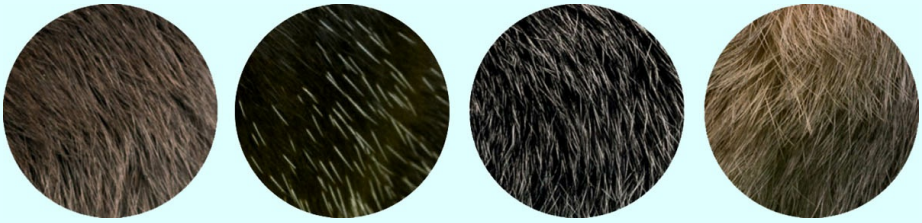


ABOVE: *Left to right: fawn, golden, lynx, gray, lilac*

ABOVE: *Left to right: lynx, opal (broken), otter (black), pearl/smoked*

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

ABOVE: *Left to right: red (Thrianta), red (Satin Angora), sable, sandy*



ABOVE: *Left to right: seal, silver marten (black), silver/silver fox, tortoiseshell*

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FROM BLACK TO WHITE

ABOVE: *Left to right: solid black, harlequin, broken black, classic black and white*

ABOVE: *Left to right: spots and stripes, black points, eye bands, ruby-eyed white*

Heritage Breed Status

The Livestock Conservancy (formerly the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy) keeps a watchful eye on heritage breeds of American livestock, including rabbits. If a rabbit breed developed in, say, 2015 disappears four or five years later, The Livestock Conservancy will be unmoved. But The Livestock Conservancy pays homage to long-established breeds that it considers part of the fabric of American livestock fauna and, for that matter, American livestock history.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

THE FIVE-TIER SYSTEM

The Livestock Conservancy employs a five-tier system for breeds whose numbers are low. A full quarter of the 49 ARBA breeds are on one Livestock Conservancy list or another.

You may wonder why a breed that becomes extinct couldn't be reengineered, because breeds are, after all, products of human labor. Reengineering could happen if the rabbit engineers had a complete genetic template for the breed's original development. But breeds were developed in many cases by persons unknown, using breeds either unknown or long gone, so the likelihood of successfully re-creating a vanished breed is right up there with finding a troll's tomb.

Breeds come and go, and sometimes they "go" without becoming extinct; their population in a certain country simply falls below a minimum and the governing organization, such as the ARBA, does not continue to maintain an interest, as in the case of the Alaska Rabbit, recognized by the governing British Rabbit Council but no longer recognized by the ARBA. Meanwhile, as breeds move out, either through extirpation (a breed's departure in its entirety from a location) or extinction, newly developed breeds move in, and the ARBA maintains an ongoing interest and involvement in those fanciers who wish to develop new breeds.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

ABOVE: *The American Chinchilla is a critically threatened breed.*

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

American

ABOVE: *The American was originally known as the German Blue Vienna, but was renamed during America's conflict with Germany in World War I.*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1918

USES: Fur, meat

WEIGHT: 12 pounds (5.5 kg) max., senior does

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

BODY TYPE: Semi-arch

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Blue, white

threatened

ONE OF THE FIRST TRUE AMERICAN BREEDS, the American was developed in the early 1900s by Lewis H. Salisbury in Pasadena, California. Salisbury was close-mouthed about the breeds he used in establishing the American, but it's likely he incorporated several blue-pelted breeds, including the Beveren, Blue Vienna, Flemish Giant, and Imperial. Salisbury met his objective to produce a rabbit that would be popular for both its meat and its fur. The breed commanded $2 for fine pelts and $25 and up for pedigreed does in 1920.

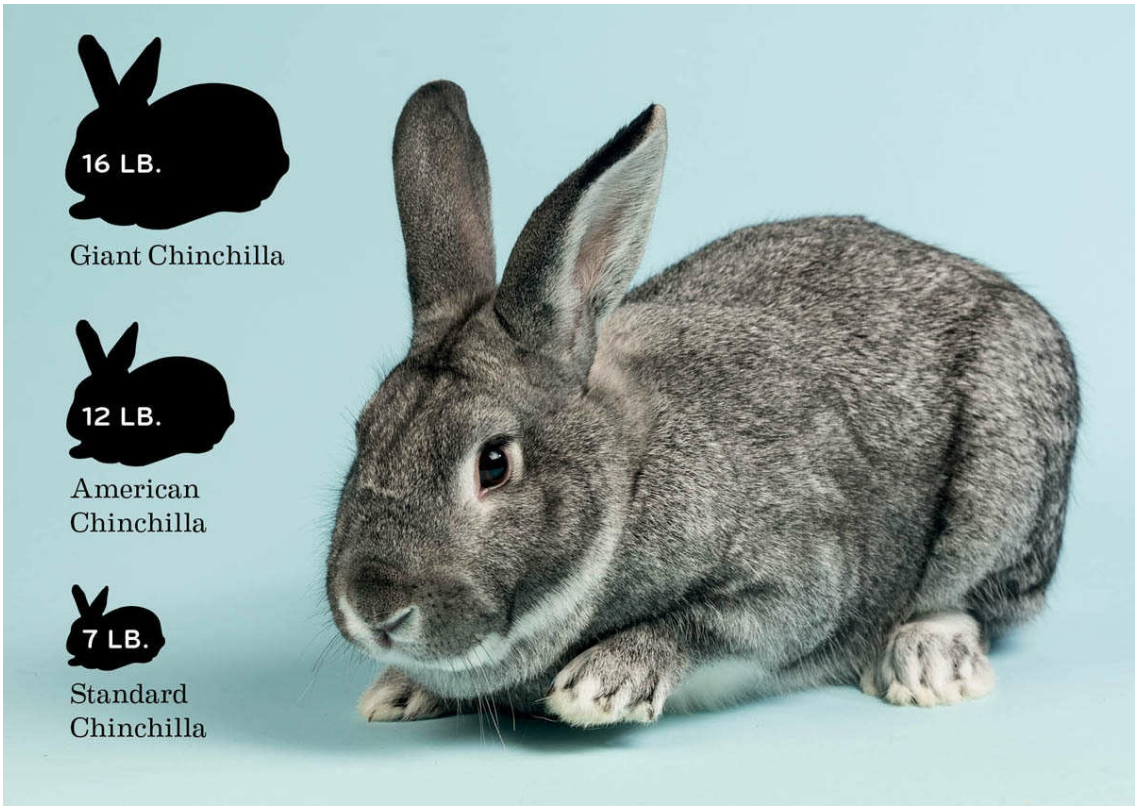
Because of the European breeds used in establishing the American, the animal was originally called the German Blue Vienna. America's conflict with Germany in World War I rendered the name politically incorrect, however, and the breed was renamed American.

That the American is now a threatened breed is testament to its decline in popularity as a commercial meat or fur animal. Nevertheless, a few score breeders nationwide, fond of the American's beautiful white or blue coat, its tasty meat, or its show qualities, have helped the breed rebound nicely since 1990, when a scant dozen breeders were keeping it alive.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

American Chinchilla



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1924

USES: Fur, meat

WEIGHT: 12 pounds (5.5 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

FUR TYPE: Rollback; 1⅛–1⅜ inches (2.9–3.5 cm) long; very dense, bright, smooth, glossy

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLOR

Chinchilla only

critically threatened

NAMED FOR THE RESEMBLANCE OF ITS FINE, EARTH-TONED FUR to that of the wild chinchilla, this is one of three Chinchilla Rabbit breeds recognized by the ARBA. Its fur is a complex tapestry of black and pearl bands over a slate-blue undercolor; long black guard hairs interspersed among the color bands give these breeds a distinctly ticked appearance.

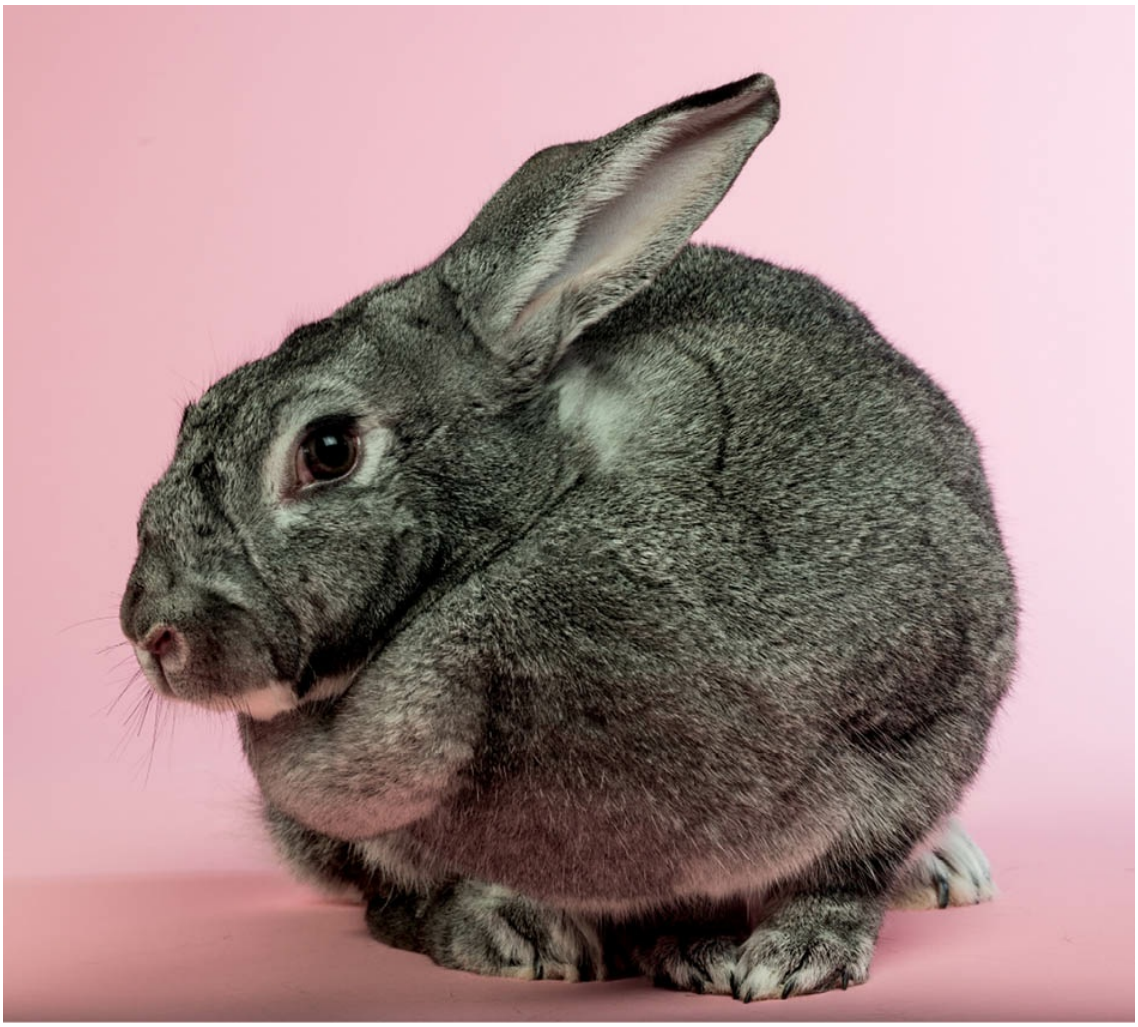
The modern American Chinchilla is an offshoot of an earlier American Chinchilla that was subsequently renamed Standard Chinchilla. With a maximum weight of 12 pounds (5.5 kg), this is the middleweight of the three, sandwiched between the 7-pound (3.2 kg) Standard Chinchilla and the 16-pound (7.3 kg) Giant Chinchilla.

In the 1920s, American breeders, applying the marketing logic "bigger is better," sought a larger version of the relatively small Chinchilla, a breed imported from France. The thinking, not without merit, was that a larger breed would have more appeal in both the fur and the meat markets. Selective breeding rapidly created a Chinchilla Rabbit breed considerably bigger than its progenitor.

With the decline in demand for rabbit fur and a growing preference for using white-coated rabbits for meat, however, interest in the American Chinchilla waned after World War II. Today this

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

heritage-breed rabbit is one of North America's most endangered breeds.



See also Giant Chinchilla and Standard Chinchilla.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

American Fuzzy Lop

tortoiseshell (left) solid; (right) broken

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1988

USES: Pet, show

WEIGHT: 4 pounds (1.8 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Compact

FUR TYPE: Wool; dense, slightly coarse

Downloaded from Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Agouti Group — chestnut, chinchilla, lynx, squirrel

Broken Group — any recognized breed color in conjunction with white and carrying the breed pattern

Pointed White Group — white body with markings of black, blue, chocolate, or lilac on the nose, feet, and tail

Self Group — black, blue, blue-eyed white, chocolate, lilac, ruby-eyed white

Shaded Group — sable point, Siamese sable, Siamese smoke pearl, tortoiseshell, blue tortoiseshell

Wide Band Group — fawn, orange

not threatened

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

ABOVE: *The American Fuzzy Lop's flat face makes its head look like a furry dented tennis ball with bright eyes.*

THE AMERICAN FUZZY LOP IS A CREATION OF THE 1980S, when Patty Greene-Karl decided to establish a fuzzy wool coat in a distinct breed. Prior to her careful breeding program, the fuzzy coat that had fascinated many breeders turned up only incidentally and unpredictably in lops, the result of French Angora blood, having been introduced to Holland Lops.

Greene-Karl worked on her project for several years, eventually creating a wooly, compact, muscled rabbit with solid shoulders and hindquarters. The American Fuzzy Lop's conformation is unmistakably akin to that of its Holland Lop forebears. In fact, the breed standard basically describes a wooled Holland Lop.

The Fuzzy Lop's fur is slightly coarse in comparison to that of the Angoras in its ancestry. The minimum length of an American Fuzzy

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Lop's fur is 1½ inches (3.8 cm); 2-inch (5 cm) fur is preferred. The fur is of consistent length all over the animal's body and comes in a multitude of colors.

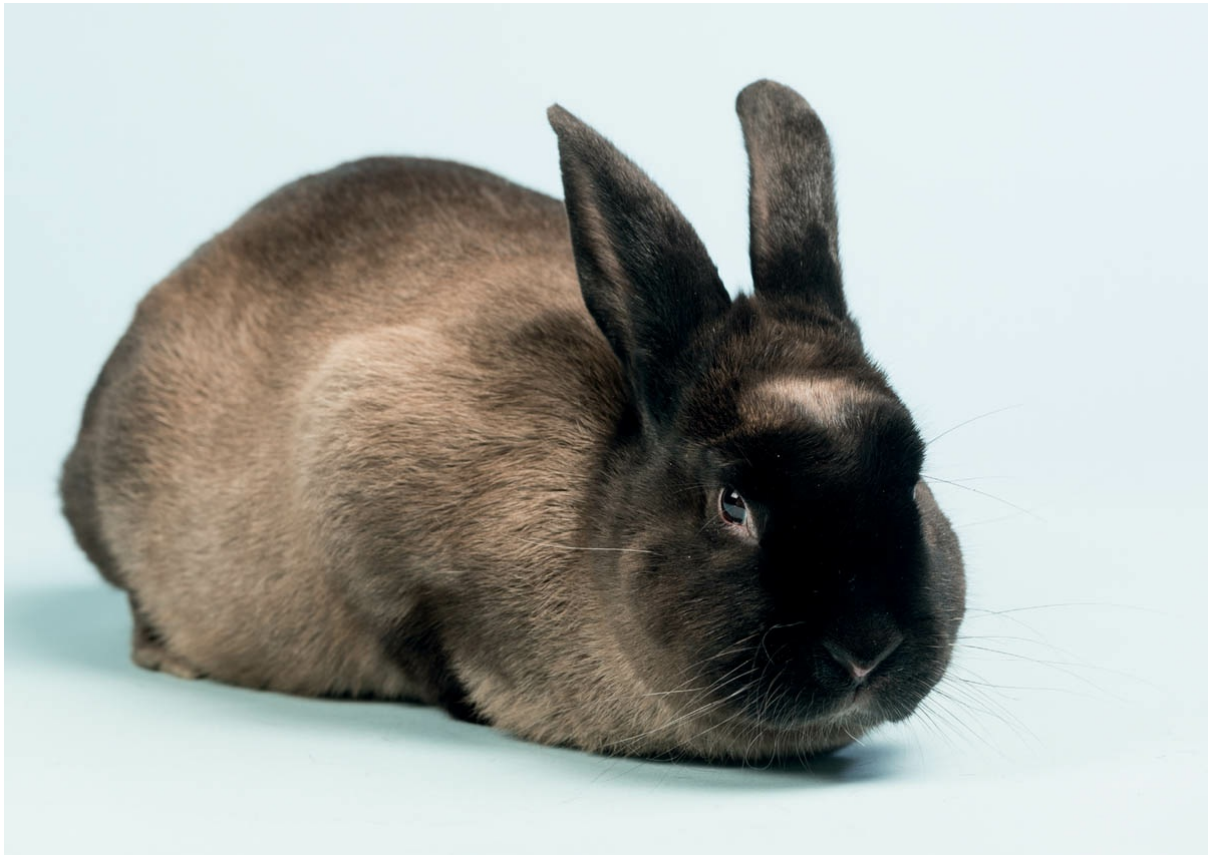
Like all other lop-eared rabbits, the Fuzzy has ears that flop down below its jaw, ½ to 1 full inch (1.3–2.5 cm) in the Fuzzy's case.

solid tortoiseshell

See also English Lop, French Lop, Holland Lop, and Mini Lop.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

American Sable



ABOVE: *The coloration of the American Sable resembles a Siamese cat.*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1931

USES: Show, meat

WEIGHT: 10 pounds (4.5 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Rollback; fine, soft, dense

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Sepia brown with paler shading on flanks

not threatened

DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAN SABLE BREED began in 1924 with atypically furred Chinchilla Rabbits from Otto Brock's rabbitry in San Gabriel, California. By 1931, rabbit breeders had established a distinct, predictable color variation of the Chinchilla. The name separated it from the Chinchilla and the Sable Rabbits of England, whose development occurred before the American breed.

The overall appearance of the American Sable is a medium-sized, erect-eared rabbit with Siamese cat–like coloration. Its coat is sepia brown on the ears, face, back, legs, and upper tail, with lighter brown shading elsewhere. The fur is silky with a soft, dense undercoat.

The breed declined dramatically in the 1970s, despite its high-quality fur. In 1981, just one American Sable was exhibited at the ARBA national show! The breed was rescued from oblivion by Al Roerdanz of Kingsville, Ohio, in the early 1980s, when he located seven purebred American Sables. He and a few others introduced new blood to the American Sable gene pool, largely from sable-colored Silver Marten and Rex Rabbits. The breed remains uncommon but is no longer on the threshold of extinction.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Argente Brun

ABOVE: *The newest ARBA breed is a large rabbit whose silvery brown fur darkens on the ears, muzzle, and feet.*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: France

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 2015

USES: Pet, show, meat

WEIGHT: 10.5 pounds (4.8 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Silvered chocolate brown with longer, dark brown guard hairs and dark chocolate undercolor; slightly darker muzzle, ears, and feet

being studied

THE ARGENTE BRUN IS THE MOST RECENT ADDITION to the ARBA roster of rabbit breeds, having been accepted in November, 2015, after a vetting process begun several years earlier. This is an American version, presented by Charmaine Wardrop of Washington state, of a breed that was first established in the late 1800s in France. Breeders in England imported the breed in the 1920s, but despite the attractiveness of the small, silvered-brown breed, it quickly lost favor and disappeared.

The Brits re-engineered the breed in the early days of World War II, an effort led by H. D. Dowle, who mixed Crème d'Argentes, Argente Bleus, and Havanas in the breeding program. Later, the addition of brown Beverens into the bloodlines gave the breed longer fur and richer color.

The American version of the Brun, sporting the characteristic brown coat, first appeared by chance, in a litter of Argente Champagnes in 2005. Breeders selectively bred that rabbit, and others of similar pelage, to create the American flavor of Argente Brun, a considerably larger bunny than its European forebears.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

In contrast to the much smaller Argente Brun of England (6 pounds [2.7 kg]), an American Argente Brun may exceed 10 pounds (4.5 kg). The breed standard ideal weight is between 9 and 10 pounds (4–4.5 kg).

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Belgian Hare

ABOVE: *The Belgian Hare is not a hare, any more than the antelope jack rabbit is a rabbit (it's a hare).*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: England

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1914

USES: Pet, show

WEIGHT: 9.5 pounds (4.3 kg) max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Full-arch

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Rich, deep chestnut over slate-blue undercolor with black ticking

threatened

THE BELGIAN HARE'S SLENDER, FULL-ARCH BODY suggests that of a wild hare. Its genetic origins are unknown, but it's likely that Flemish Giant, Patagonian Rabbit, and Stone Rabbit were among its ancestors. The breed originally appeared in a heavier, more squat conformation than the modern Belgian.

When Winter W. Lumb imported a more or less related group of Belgian-bred rabbits to England in the 1870s, he recognized their potential and immediately plunged into the business of refining them into a fixed breed. The new breed created considerable and increasing buzz in the United States upon its importation in 1888. Six thousand Belgian Hares reached U.S. shores in 1900.

The value of what was then a novel breed can best be understood by the sale of a buck from England for $5,000 in 1900. Rabbit authority Bob Whitman wrote that, in effect, the breed had kick-started the U.S. rabbit industry. The crest of the Belgian Hare wave peaked in 1901, but the breed remained the most popular rabbit in the United States into the 1920s.

Among the domestic breeds, Belgian Hares are unmistakable. Their front legs and ears are long and slight. Their comparatively rough fur is deep red-tan or chestnut with a slate undercolor.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Beveren

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

ABOVE: *The traditional blue is still the most popular in exhibition Beverens, but the less common blue-eyed, all-white Beverens leave a striking impression with viewers.*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Belgium

YEAR RECOGNIZED: Unknown

USES: Fur, meat

WEIGHT: 12 pounds (5.5 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Semi-arch

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Rollback; 1¼–1½ inches (3.2–3.8 cm) long; dense, glossy

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Black, blue, white

being watched

THE BEVEREN RABBIT HAS ACHIEVED HIGH MARKS for meat, fur, and exhibition. Curiously, it has never been an enduringly popular breed in North America. Its silky, high-quality coat, however, made it a bulwark of the early, but fleeting, American rabbit fur industry.

The Beveren was named for the Belgian town in which it originated, most likely in the late 1890s. It was among several blue breeds developed in that area, including the St. Nicholas Blue and the Flemish Giant. When Beverens, in both standard and giant sizes, were first exhibited in England in 1905, they garnered little attention. Beverens were imported in 1910 to the United States, where the breed joined six other blue breeds.

Beverens are good outdoor pets, and, as with all other breeds, cold weather thickens their dense, lustrous coats. Two facial characteristics help separate Beverens from their cousins: a curve that reaches from their forehead to the nose tip and long, broad ears held in a V shape.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Blanc de Hotot

ABOVE: *The Blanc de Hotot is named for a village in northern France.*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: France

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1979

USES: Fur, meat

WEIGHT: 11 pounds (5 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Rollback; 1¼ inches (3.2 cm) long ideal; dense, lustrous, fine

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Frosty white with black eye bands (circles)

threatened

SEEKING AN IDEAL FUR, MEAT, AND SHOW RABBIT, French breeder Eugenie Bernhard began developing the Blanc de Hotot (pronounced blonk DOE-TOE) around 1902, selectively breeding the French Giant Papillon until, by 1912, she had the desired breed characteristics. The breed nearly disappeared during World War II, but a few Blanc de Hotots remained in Switzerland and Germany.

Bernhard's objective had been to minimize markings in her Blancs, but the Swiss and German fanciers, some years later, bred for the dark eye band that identifies the breed today. Blanc de Hotots were first imported to the United States in 1978 and soon earned recognition.

A big white rabbit with distinctive eye bands, the Blanc de Hotot is one of the most stunning breeds but also one of the rarest. The Blanc is a thick-set, well-rounded rabbit with long ears carried in a V. Its fine, dense fur is characterized by the numerous guard hairs that create the sheen representative of the breed. Ideally, the strands of fur are 1¼ inch (3.2 cm) in length.

See also Dwarf Hotot.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Britannia Petite

ABOVE: *The Britannia Petite is the only mini breed with full-arch conformation.*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: England

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1978

USES: Show

WEIGHT: 2.5 pounds (1.1 kg) max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Full-arch

Downloaded from Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard; smooth, short, dense

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Black, black otter, blue-eyed white, chestnut agouti, ruby-eyed white, sable marten; broken (color includes any recognized breed variety in conjunction with white)

not threatened

THE BRITANNIA PETITE AND THE NETHERLAND DWARF are the smallest of the North American rabbit breeds. But the Petite's small stature belies a high-energy personality and a reputation for feistiness in certain situations, such as a doe in heat.

The Petite is basically a Polish breed rabbit that was modified by British rabbit fanciers who apparently crossed the Polish with Belgian Hares and later introduced Netherland Dwarf genes to expand the color range. After North American fanciers began to import the rabbits in the 1970s, they applied the current name to the Brits' Polish since another breed on the ARBA roster had already been named Polish (not to be confused with the British version).

Picking a Britannia Petite from a lineup of rabbits is comparatively simple because of its small size and full-arch conformation. The Netherland Dwarf and Dwarf Hotot, the only other two breeds in the Petite's weight class, have considerably different shapes than the Petite, which shares its full-arch conformation with the much bigger Belgian Hare. Also look for the Britannia Petite's erect ears, which tend to touch throughout their length.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

ruby-eyed white

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Californian

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1939

USES: Fur, meat

WEIGHT: 10.5 pounds (4.8 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

White with near-black nose, ears, feet, and tail

not threatened

THE CALIFORNIAN WAS DEVELOPED as both a fur- and meat-producing rabbit by George S. West in Lynnwood, California, starting in 1923. West raised New Zealand Whites, a well-known fur-and-meat breed, but he was frustrated by the number of atypical “woolies” that turned up in his litters. Rabbit pelts were marketed primarily at the time for the production of felt in hats; the fur of the woolies was almost useless. West wanted a breed that would more consistently yield fine fur as well as meat.

He experimented with Himalayan and Standard Chinchilla Rabbits, later adding New Zealand Whites. With the help of breeders Roy Fisher and Wesley Dixon, the Californian — originally known as the Cochinella — became a popular and distinct new breed.

In the United States, the Californian is a white rabbit with nearly black points (nose, ears, feet, and tail). It has similar markings to the Himalayan Rabbit but is more than twice the size of the 4.5-pound (2 kg) Himalayan. Californians are plump, firm, long-bodied rabbits with erect ears, short legs, and a dense coat. The breed has an unusually high yield of muscle, important to commercial meat producers.

George West was not concerned about the Californian’s personality, but the breed does make an attractive and good-natured

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

pet.

ABOVE: *The Californian's dark points should be confined to its ears, nose, and paws; ideally color should not appear on the dewlap, as shown here.*

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Champagne d'Argent

ABOVE: *European Champagne d'Argents are typically darker than the uniformly silver animals in North America.*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: France

YEAR RECOGNIZED: circa 1932

USES: Fur, meat

WEIGHT: 12 pounds (5.4 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Bluish white with black guard hairs

not threatened

IT'S FAIRLY CERTAIN that this breed originated in the Champagne region of France. But whether it was in the l8th or the 17th century depends on which source of information you believe. The breed was very possibly developed by Benedictine monks within their monastery walls. In any event, as far as purebred rabbits are concerned, the Champagne d'Argent is an old-timer.

One of the larger breeds raised in North America, the Champagne d'Argent was undoubtedly developed for both fur and meat. It has dense, glossy fur and the typical plump, firm body of a meat-type rabbit. As with many other breeds once valued only for their utility, Champagnes or "Champs" today are often raised for show as well as for their fur and meat. While 12 pounds is the maximum weight, 10.5 is closer to the ideal.

The Champagne d'Argent can be distinguished from other breeds by its silvery fur with dark trim and the abundance of black hairs that lend a pewter tone — sometimes described as bluish white — to the coat. The nose and muzzle, marked with a butterfly pattern, are much darker than the rabbit's body. The Crème d'Argent, a similar rabbit in conformation and name, is distinguished from the Champagne d'Argent by its cream-colored fur.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

See also Crème d'Argent.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Checkered Giant

ABOVE: *The Checker shares its full-arch conformation with the Belgian Hare and English Spot, among others.*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Germany

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1914

USES: Show, fur, meat

WEIGHT: 11 pounds (5 kg) and above, senior does

BODY TYPE: Full-arch

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

White with distinct black or blue markings around the eyes and on the ears, muzzle, spine, flanks, and tail

not threatened

THE HANDSOME, HIGH-ENERGY CHECKERED GIANT is one of just three ARBA breeds for which there is no maximum weight in the breed standard. But don't look for coyote-sized Checkered Giants anytime soon, These big rabbits typically check in between 11 and 16 pounds (5.0 and 7.3 kg).

The Checkered Giant is one of only a handful of North American breeds with full-arch conformation, a characteristic often referred to as hare-like, because when the rabbit sits up, its belly is well above the ground.

The Checker is predominantly white with specific black or blue markings: circles around the eyes, a butterfly marking on the muzzle, solid-colored ears, and either a single spot or a group of spots on each side. A dark line of color called a spine marking travels along the rabbit's back from the base of its ears to the tip of its tail.

The early ancestors of the breed appeared in Germany in the late 1800s. Otto Reinhardt refined the breed in the early 1900s by crossing Great German Spotted Rabbits with Flemish Giants, which produced the first Checkered Giants. Quickly popular in Europe, the new breed

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

was imported to the United States first in 1910. American breeders continued to develop the breed into the Checkers of today.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Cinnamon

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1972

USES: Fur, meat

WEIGHT: 11 pounds (5 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

FUR TYPE: ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLOR

Rust or cinnamon with gray ticking; smoke gray midway on side and darker on belly

not threatened

THE LARGE CINNAMON RABBIT is aptly named, as its cinnamon or russet color, dusted with gray and set off by dark ears, muzzle, and paws, distinguishes it from about a dozen other breeds of similar size and shape. Good-natured pet and show animals, Cinnamons are uncommon but are available across the country.

The evolution of the Cinnamon breed began entirely by accident in Missoula, Montana, when a New Zealand white buck mated with a Chinchilla doe in 1962. The owner, Ellis Houseman, wanted the crossbred rabbits for stew, but young Belle Houseman prevailed on her father to keep one of the bucks for a pet. During a subsequent 4-H project, Belle and her brother Fred crossed their pet with a crossbred Checkered Giant/Californian doe. An attractive russet-colored kit appeared in the litter.

More litters produced more cinnamon-colored kits, and when these additional same-colored rabbits were mated, they produced mostly russet kits. Now intrigued, the elder Houseman became enthusiastic about the cinnamon color and the sheen on the short coat. Ten years after the breed's unplanned beginning, the Cinnamon Rabbit was accepted by the ARBA as a distinct breed.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Crème d'Argent

ABOVE: *The uncommon Crème d'Argent was one of the first breeds recognized by the ARBA.*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: France

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1938

USES: Show, fur, meat

WEIGHT: 11 pounds (5 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLOR

Creamy white with orange cast from undercoat of bright orange

recovering

THE CRÈME D'ARGENT is one of the oldest breeds recognized by the ARBA, with its ancestry dating at least to the mid-1800s in France. The silvery Champagne d'Argent Rabbit, slightly larger than the 11-pound (5 kg) Crème, was undoubtedly a major influence in the breed's development.

A stunning rabbit when in perfect pelage, the Crème has golden-white fur with a bright orange undercoat and orange guard hairs, except on the cream- or white-furred belly. As with some other rabbit breeds, advancing age tends to lighten and dull the youthful bright coat.

The breed reached the United States in the 1920s but was faulted for having black ears and black guard hairs. Harry Clauss of Canandaigua, New York, added fawn-colored Flemish to the Crème gene pool and effectively eliminated the unwanted dark fur. These modern Crèmes, American style, were first shown in 1936. The ARBA officially welcomed the new breed in 1938.

One of a group of closely related Argent Rabbit breeds, the Crèmes never became popular in North America, despite their luxurious coat. Previously on The Livestock Conservancy's threatened list, the breed is now recovering.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

See also Champagne d'Argent.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Dutch

tortoiseshell

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN: Belgium, England

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1922

USES: Pet, show, meat

WEIGHT: 5.5 pounds (2.5 kg) max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Compact

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard; dense, short, lustrous

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

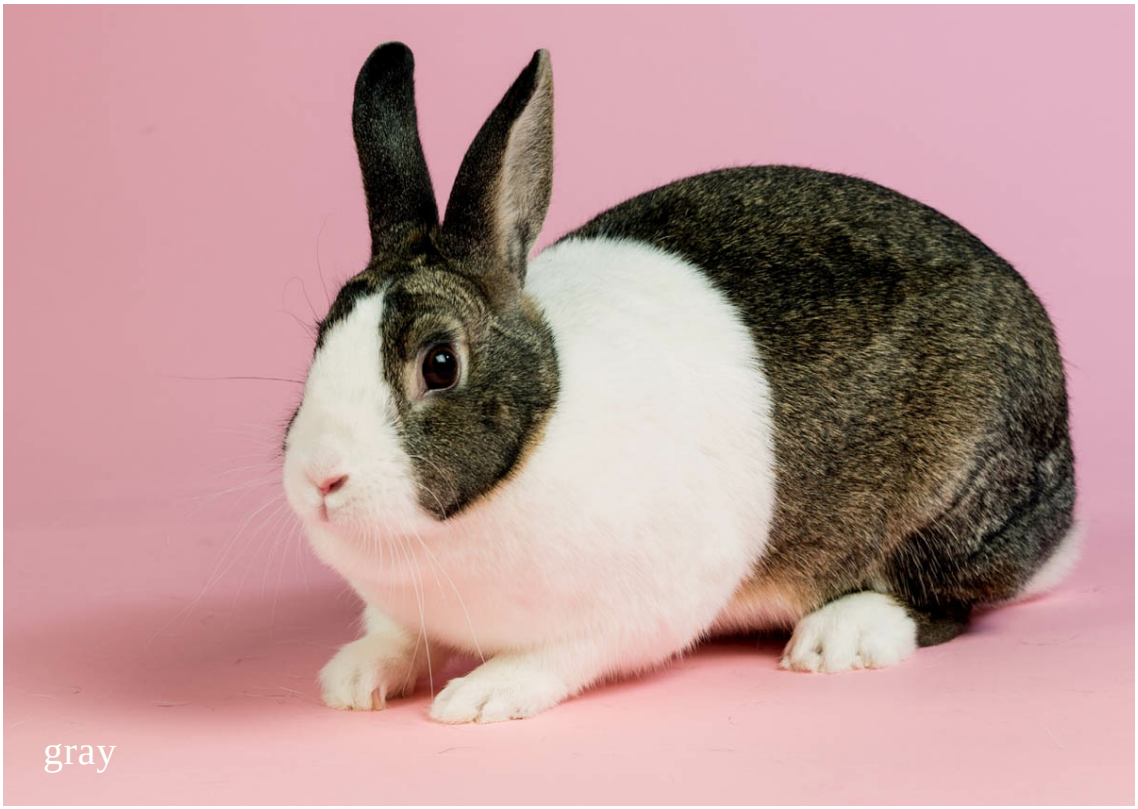
COLORS

Black, blue, chinchilla, chocolate, gray, steel, or tortoiseshell on ears, sides of face, and saddle

not threatened

IMAGINE AN ILLUSIONIST TAKING A PAIR OF SADDLE SHOES and turning them into a rabbit — that would be a Dutch, identified by its white face and wrap-around white saddle flanked by dark head, ears, and hindquarters. It has short, dense fur with sheen, and stocky ears that stand upright on its compact body.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com


gray

Modern Dutch Rabbits originated in England, but their forebears were developed in Belgium, when Belgium and the Netherlands were a single country. Thousands of rabbits were shipped from Ostend, now part of Belgium, to London. These imported “Dutch Rabbits” of the 19th century came in a variety of colors, but they were apparently the ancestors of the modern white-saddled Dutch.

As interest in perfecting and improving livestock breeds gained momentum in 19th-century England, rabbit breeders selectively bred their Belgian imports until they developed consistently two-toned Dutch Rabbits in the 1880s. U.S. fanciers imported the breed early in the 20th century, and by 1922 the ARBA had recognized the Dutch.

The breed’s relatively small size — 3.5 to 5.5 pounds (1.6 to 2.5 kg) — attracts many fans, and its reputation for being hardy, adaptable, and robust makes it a popular pet. Female Dutch are generally good mothers and often used as foster mothers.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

ABOVE: *The characteristic dark ears and mask of this breed, along with the saddle of white around its middle, are known as "Dutch markings."*

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Dwarf Hotot

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Germany

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1984

USES: Show

WEIGHT: 3 pounds (1.4 kg) max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Compact

FUR TYPE: Rollback; soft, dense, fine, lustrous

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

White body with eye bands (circles) of black or chocolate

not threatened

BROAD INTEREST IN DWARF BREEDS of rabbit prompted two German breeders — one in the former East Germany, the other in West Germany — to develop a small all-white, rabbit with distinct eye bands. Their experiments, conducted independently in the late 1970s, brought together several color varieties of Netherland Dwarfs with Blanc de Hotots. The two breeders exchanged stock in 1979, and their further experimentation resulted in small white rabbits with increased hardiness: the Dwarf Hotot (pronounced OH-TOE).

The breed was refined further by Elizabeth Forstinger, a Californian who purchased several Dwarf Hotots in Germany in 1980. Forstinger exhibited 15 Hotots at the ARBA National Show in 1981. The breed was accepted by the ARBA in 1984.

A Dwarf Hotot has the short, erect ears and compact conformation of a Netherland Dwarf, but its dark eye band on a field of snowy fur is distinctive. The Blanc de Hotot shares the Dwarf's color scheme, but it is a much bigger rabbit, outweighing the 3-pound (1.4 kg) Dwarf by some 8 pounds (3.6 kg). Only two other breeds recognized by the ARBA, the Netherland Dwarf and the Britannia Petite, typically weigh less than the Dwarf Hotot.

Downloaded from Vet-eBooks.com

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

ABOVE: *The Dwarf Hotot is one of the three smallest rabbit breeds recognized by the ARBA.*

See also Blanc de Hotot.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

English Angora

lilac tortoiseshell

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: England

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1910

USES: Wool, show

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

WEIGHT: 7.5 pounds (3.5 kg) max., senior bucks

BODY TYPE: Compact

FUR TYPE: Wool, with great density

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Agouti Group — chinchilla, chocolate chinchilla, lilac chinchilla, squirrel

Agouti Varieties — chestnut, chocolate agouti, copper, lynx, opal

Broken Group — white in combination with any accepted Angora color

Pointed White Group — white body with black, blue, chocolate, or lilac on nose, ears, feet, and tail

Self Group — blue-eyed white, ruby-eyed white

Self Group — black, blue, chocolate, lilac

Shaded Group — pearl, sable, seal, smoke pearl

Ticked Group — blue steel, chocolate steel, lilac steel, steel

Tortoiseshell Varieties — blue tortoiseshell, chocolate tortoiseshell, lilac tortoiseshell, tortoiseshell

Wide Band Group — cream, fawn, red

not threatened

ALL ANGORA RABBITS are known for their long, thick fur. In addition to being pets or impressive show rabbits, Angoras are raised for their wool, which can be harvested periodically by shearing or

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

plucking, at no risk to the animal, and woven or knit into various garments.

ABOVE: *The English Angora is the smallest of the four recognized Angora breeds.*

The rabbit's long, dense hair gives it the look of a fur ball with a pair of short, erect ears, tasseled with strands of long fur. Its coat is wonderfully soft and silky, but the English Angora requires more grooming than any other Angora breed because its fur mats easily.

The ARBA recognizes four Angora breeds, the smallest of which is the English. In addition to being the smallest of the Angora lot, the English was the first Angora to be recognized by a North American national standards organization, the National Pet Stock Association, a forerunner of the ARBA, when the rabbits were known as Angora Woolers.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

While called the English Angora — the breed was selectively developed in England for 150 years — its forebears were French-type Angoras. In the United States, Angoras can be traced back to the 1840s.

lilac tortoiseshell

See also French Angora, Giant Angora, and Satin Angora.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

English Lop

ruby-eyed white

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: England

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1914

USES: Pet, show

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

WEIGHT: 10.5 pounds (4.8 kg) and above, senior does

BODY TYPE: Semi-arch

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard; fine, silky, medium length

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Agouti Group — chinchilla with black, blue, chocolate, lilac, sable, or smoke pearl as a basic color; chestnut agouti, lynx, opal

Broken Group — any recognized breed color in conjunction with white and carrying the breed pattern

Pointed White Group — white body with black, blue, chocolate, or lilac nose, ears, feet, legs, and tail

Self Group — black, blue, chocolate, lilac, white

Shaded Group — frosted pearl, sable, sable point, seal, smoke pearl, tortoiseshell

Ticked Group — silver/silver fox, steel

Tricolored Group — any of the following colors in conjunction with white: black and golden orange, lavender blue and golden fawn, dark chocolate and golden orange, lilac and golden fawn

Wide Band Group — cream, fawn, orange, red

not threatened

ALL LOP BREEDS HAVE DROOPY EARS, but the English Lop takes them to absurd lengths. While five lop breeds are recognized by the ARBA, only the French approximates the English Lop's large body size, and none of the other lops — including the French — exhibits the prodigious ears that are characteristic of the English breed. They

Downloaded from Vet-eBooks.com

may stretch 30 inches (76 cm), measured from tip to tip across the skull. These exceptional ears require owner vigilance to avoid injury.

blue

The English Lop is considered the progenitor of all lop breeds, though its origins, and that of lops in general, are unknown. By the 1820s, however, English rabbit breeders were exhibiting lops, and they were the only rabbit breed shown at the agricultural shows of the period. English Lops reached America in the 1840s, and the breed is credited with fomenting major interest in domestic rabbits in North America.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

By 1945, the English Lop was in serious decline, both in numbers and conformation. Selective breeding for enormous ears had negatively impacted the rest of the rabbit. Fortunately, for the future of what had become a dying breed, Meg Brown of Scotland reconstituted the English Lop with an infusion of French Lop genes. The breed rapidly improved well beyond its ears in the 1960s and has since returned to prominence.

tricolored

See also American Fuzzy Lop, French Lop, Holland Lop, and Mini Lop.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

English Spot

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

black

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: England

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1914

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

USES: Show, fur, meat

WEIGHT: 8 pounds (3.6 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Full-arch

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard; short, dense, fine, lustrous

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Black, blue, chocolate, gold, gray, lilac, or tortoiseshell markings on a white body

not threatened

SPOTTED RABBITS WERE KNOWN IN ENGLAND for more than 200 years before careful selective breeding began. By the late 19th century, however, they had became regular winners at rabbit shows and achieved quick success when they were exported to Germany in 1889. The increasingly refined English Spot breed was imported by American breeders in the early 1900s and accepted by a forerunner of the ARBA as a distinct breed in 1914.

The English Spot is not the easiest rabbit to identify, although it is usually somewhat smaller than the similarly marked Rhinelander and considerably smaller than the Checkered Giant, another spotted breed. The Spot, at least superficially, resembles both breeds in conformation as well as color. Diagnostic, however, are the dark markings on the shoulders of English Spots. Like the Giant and the 10-pound (4.5 kg) Rhinelander, neither of which has shoulder spots, the 8-pound (3.6 kg) English Spot has a full-arch profile with the long, lean body of a hare.

By some accounts, the Spot is harder to handle and less adaptable to other pets than most rabbit breeds. It is also a difficult rabbit to breed to standard because its value in the show ring is attached largely to the arrangement of its spots.

Downloaded from Vet-eBooks.com

Flemish Giant

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Belgium

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1914

USES: Show, meat

WEIGHT: 14 pounds (6.4 kg) and above, senior does

FUR TYPE: Rollback; bright, glossy, dense

BODY TYPE: Semi-arch

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Black, blue, fawn, light gray, sandy, steel gray, white

not threatened

THE FLEMISH GIANT IS TYPICALLY A GENTLE GIANT among rabbits, and it enjoys a good reputation as a pet. It can weigh between 15 and 20 pounds (6.8 and 9.1 kg), but show Giants tend to be a more svelte — and manageable — 10 to 14 pounds (4.5 to 6.4 kg). Does in excess of 20 pounds (9.1 kg) were once fairly common in Belgium, where the breed originated.

Rabbit breeders in Belgium recorded so-called giant rabbits as far back as the 16th century. Over the years, it's likely that those who wanted to standardize Flemish Giants used the not-so-giant Stone Rabbit as a foundation along with the hefty Patagonian Rabbit, a giant variety that had vanished by the close of the 19th century.

At least six breed clubs had been established for Flemish Giants by 1850 in Belgium, all in the suburbs of Ghent, the epicenter of the breed. The first Flemish Giants were exported to the United States in the 1890s, commensurate with major importations of Belgian Hares.

Among the four ARBA-recognized "giant" rabbit breeds, the Flemish shares its semi-arch conformation only with the Giant Chinchilla. Fortunately, for the sake of identification at least, the Flemish Giant occurs in several colors, but chinchilla, the *only* acceptable color for the Giant Chin, is not one of them.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Florida White

ABOVE: *The Florida White is one of a handful of breeds that come in a single color.*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1967

USES: Show, meat

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

WEIGHT: 6 pounds (2.7 kg) max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Compact

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLOR

White with pink eyes

not threatened

ORVILLE MILLIKEN, A RABBIT SHOW JUDGE IN FLORIDA, developed the Florida White in 1960. Milliken wanted an all-white, compact meat and laboratory rabbit. Milliken used white Polish, white New Zealands, and albino Dutch in his breeding program. The breed was further advanced in the 1970s by Eabert (Fibber) McGhee of Oklahoma, who reintroduced Polish and New Zealand genetics and "fixed" the Florida White breed.

Florida Whites fell somewhat short of broad appeal as meat rabbits because of their small size, and labs typically preferred well-established breeds whose genetic makeups were better known. But this showy breed was hardly a failure. It does have some application as a lab animal, and its fine bone structure yields a high percentage of meat, so it has maintained a good reputation in the small meat-rabbit niche.

Like the larger New Zealand Whites, the Florida breed is a classic white rabbit, complete with pink eyes. At its 6-pound (2.7 kg) maximum, the Florida White is just half the size of an adult New Zealand, making adults of the two breeds easy to tell apart.

Breeders who show Florida Whites can concentrate on maintaining breed conformation and fur quality because, unlike many

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

other breeds, this one comes only in its namesake color.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

French Angora

smoke pearl

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: France

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1939

USES: Wool, show

WEIGHT: 10.5 pounds (4.8 kg) max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

FUR TYPE: Wool, with great density

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Agouti Group — chinchilla, chocolate chinchilla, lilac chinchilla, squirrel

Agouti Varieties — chestnut, chocolate agouti, copper, lynx, opal

Broken Group — white in combination with any accepted Angora color

Pointed White Group — white body with black, blue, chocolate, or lilac on nose, ears, feet, and tail

Self Group — blue-eyed white, ruby-eyed white

Self Group — black, blue, chocolate, lilac

Shaded Group — pearl, sable, seal, smoke pearl

Ticked Group — blue steel, chocolate steel, lilac steel, steel

Tortoiseshell Varieties — blue tortoiseshell, chocolate tortoiseshell, lilac tortoiseshell, tortoiseshell

Wide Band Group — cream, fawn, red

not threatened

Downloaded from Vet-eBooks.com

ANOTHER OF THE FLUFFY ANGORA TRIBE, French Angoras, which weigh up to 10.5 pounds (4.8 kg), are larger than English Angoras. Unlike the English breed, they have comparatively "clean-shaven" faces. Specimens with ear tufts have the tufts restricted to the ear tips. Seen from the side, the French breed has an oval appearance. Seen from above, the breed is oblong.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

sable

Like other Angora breeds, the French requires a great deal of coat care. It is an attention-getting exhibition animal, of course, but its primary purpose has always been the production of its long, silky hair, which can be plucked or shorn and subsequently spun into yarn for warm, lightweight garments.

British seamen brought Angora Rabbits to the Bordeaux region of France in the early 1700s, possibly from the Angora region of Turkey. By the 1840s, the long-furred rabbits were common in Savoy, particularly near the village of St. Innocent, which prompted an early moniker: Angoras of St. Innocent.

The breed spread rapidly in France and was exported to Japan (1920) and China (1932). The first export to the United States probably arrived in 1932.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

ABOVE: *This rabbit's coat is in good show condition.*

See also English Angora, Giant Angora, and Satin Angora.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

French Lop

chestnut agouti

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: France

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1914

USES: Show, meat

WEIGHT: 11.5 pounds (5.2 kg) and above, senior does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

FUR TYPE: Rollback; 1¼ inches (3.2 cm) long; thick, dense

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Agouti Group — chinchilla with black, blue, chocolate, lilac, sable, or smoke pearl as a basic color; chestnut agouti, lynx, opal

Broken Group — any recognized breed color in conjunction with white and carrying the breed pattern

Pointed White Group — white body with black, blue, chocolate, or lilac nose, ears, feet, legs, and tail

Self Group — black, blue, chocolate, lilac, white

Shaded Group — frosted pearl, sable, sable point, seal, smoke pearl, tortoiseshell

Ticked Group — silver/silver fox, steel

Tricolored Group — any of the following colors in conjunction with white: black and golden orange, lavender blue and golden fawn, dark chocolate and golden orange, lilac and golden fawn

Wide Band Group — cream, fawn, orange, red

not threatened

THE FRENCH LOP IS REMINISCENT of a big English Lop without the exaggerated ears. Exhibition does weigh at least 11.5 pounds (5.2 kg) and usually more; the breed standard suggests no maximum weight.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

The French Lop breed is an offshoot of the English Lops of the mid-19th century that were exported to Paris. There they were mated with other giant rabbits of the day, such as the Normandy, Flemish Giant, and French Butterfly. With the addition of erect-eared rabbits into the gene pool, the lops of France did not produce the massive, elongated ears of their English forebears. The English Lops were bred in large measure for exhibition; the massive, muscled French Lops were bred for meat.

ABOVE: *The French Lop is one of several popular floppy-eared breeds.*

Careful selective breeding apparently was not an early requisite in the development of the breed. French Lops did not have a recognized breed standard in France until 1922. The breed was established in the United Kingdom in the 1930s. French Lops had been rare in North America, but the formation of the Lop Rabbit Club in 1970 gave new

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

impetus to English and French Lops, both of which continue to be popular breeds. By all accounts, the French Lop is an excellent house pet.

broken opal

See also American Fuzzy Lop, English Lop, Holland Lop, and Mini Lop.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Giant Angora

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

ABOVE: *Seen only in white, the Giant Angora is also distinguished by its forehead tufts, mutton-chop cheeks, and fringed, tasseled ears.*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1988

USES: Wool, show

WEIGHT: 10 pounds (4.5 kg) and above, senior does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

FUR TYPE: Wool, with great density

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLOR

Ruby-eyed white

not threatened

THE SPECTACULAR BUT RARE GIANT ANGORA is a comparative newcomer to North American rabbitdom, having achieved recognition by the ARBA in 1988 after Louise Walsh of Massachusetts began developing the breed earlier in the decade.

Walsh wasn't particularly interested in developing a giant Angora Rabbit, but ARBA officials forced her hand. Walsh owned German Angoras, an old breed noted for its tasseled ears and exceptional wool production. Her effort to have the ARBA recognize her American version of the German Angora was thwarted, ostensibly because they were too similar to English Angoras.

The ARBA Standards Committee recommended that she drop her request and instead breed an animal considerably larger than the English Angora to achieve "separation" of the Angora breeds. Walsh added French Lop and Flemish Giant blood to her Angora gene pool and created the Giant Angora.

The Giant Angora has the heavy, commercial body type of the French Lop, rather than the more cylindrical shape of the German Angora. Like a great marshmallow in fur, the Giant Angora can be shown only as a ruby-eyed white. It has forehead tufts, furry cheeks,

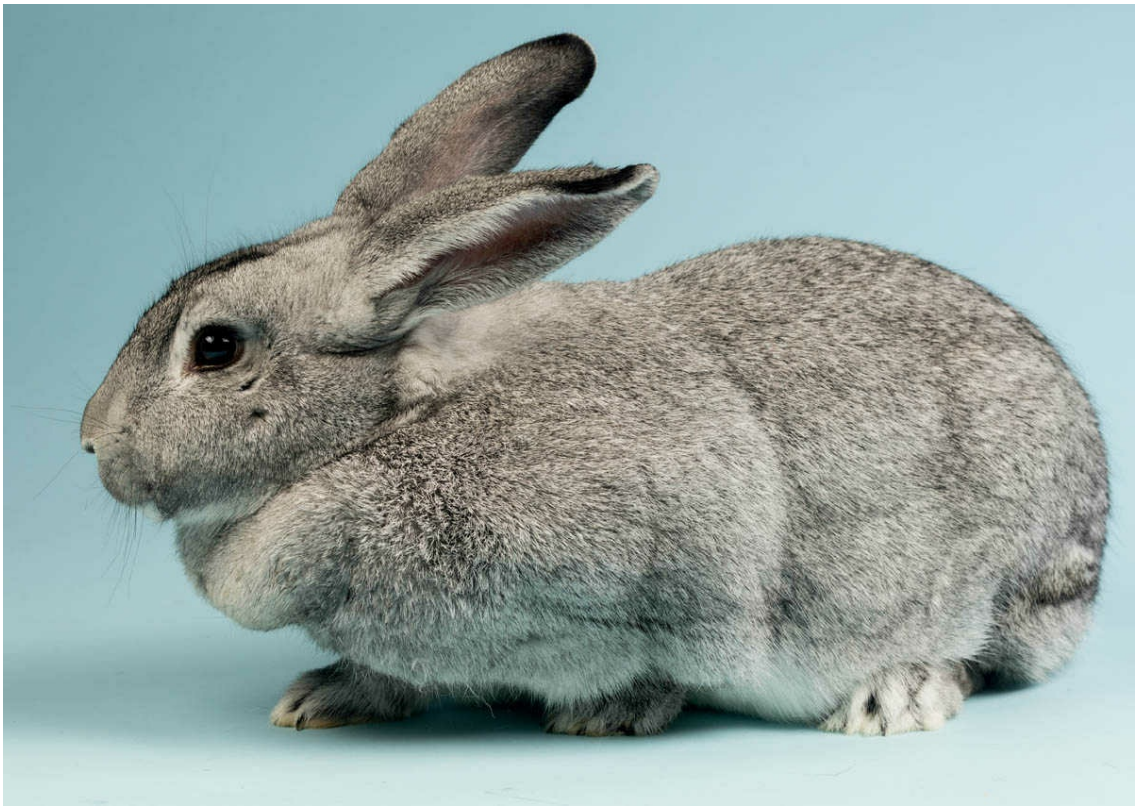
Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

and lightly fringed ears that are heavily tasseled, much like the German Angoras.

See also English Angora, French Angora, and Satin Angora.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Giant Chinchilla



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States

YEAR RECOGNIZED: circa 1928

USES: Fur, meat

WEIGHT: 16 pounds (7.3 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Semi-arch

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLOR

Chinchilla

being watched

THE GIANT CHINCHILLA IS THE LARGEST of the three Chinchilla breeds recognized in North America. Not surprisingly, it was developed for both fur and meat. Giant Chins on the show circuit typically weigh about 12 pounds (5.4 kg), but animals up to 16 pounds (7.3 kg) are acceptable. While there is clearly a family resemblance, Giant Chins appear darker gray than Standard Chins.

The Chinchilla, with its distinct fur color, a mackereled tapestry of blue, silver, black, gray, and tan, was originally developed in France in the early 1900s. The breed reached the United States in 1919, and one resourceful breeder, Edward H. Stahl of Holmes Park, Missouri, recognized almost immediately that the uniquely furred Chinchilla would have potential for great commercial success if only it were larger.

Applying the American imperative for bigger and better, Stahl began developing a larger Chinchilla breed. He used large Chinchillas, white New Zealands, white Flemish Giants, and American Blues. By 1921, Stahl had his ideal Giant Chinchilla and somewhat optimistically named her “The Million Dollar Princess,” leading to Giant Chin’s eventual reputation as “The Million Dollar Breed.”

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Commercial interest in the fur of Chinchilla rabbits waned after World War II. The Chinchilla breeds, including the Giant Chin, fell from favor, but small numbers of dedicated, enthusiastic breeders have kept the Chinchilla breeds viable.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Harlequin

blue japanese

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN: Japan (possibly), France

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1914

USES: Show, fur, meat

WEIGHT: 9.5 pounds (4.3 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Japanese Group — black with golden orange, lavender blue with golden fawn, chocolate and golden orange, lilac (dove gray) with golden fawn

Magpie Group — black with white, lavender blue with white, chocolate with white, lilac (dove gray), with white

being studied

THE HARLEQUIN IS BEST IDENTIFIED by the fascinating arrangement of color bands in its fur. Seen head-on, its muzzle and head are neatly divided into two colors, as if two half heads had been blended into one. Each side of its body sports five to seven alternating bars or bands of color. Even its legs and ears exhibit alternating colors.

The Harlequin was originally called the Japanese Rabbit. The breed may or may not have originated in Japan, but it spread from there into France in the 1870s and thence to England in the 1890s. The first imports to the United States occurred in 1917, when the novel Harlequin colors were responsible for adult rabbits fetching a staggering $40 apiece and juveniles $30.

For political reasons, the United States and England, in conflict with Japan during World War II, changed the breed name to Harlequin, to reflect its fanciful color schemes. The breed retains the name Japanese Rabbit in other countries.

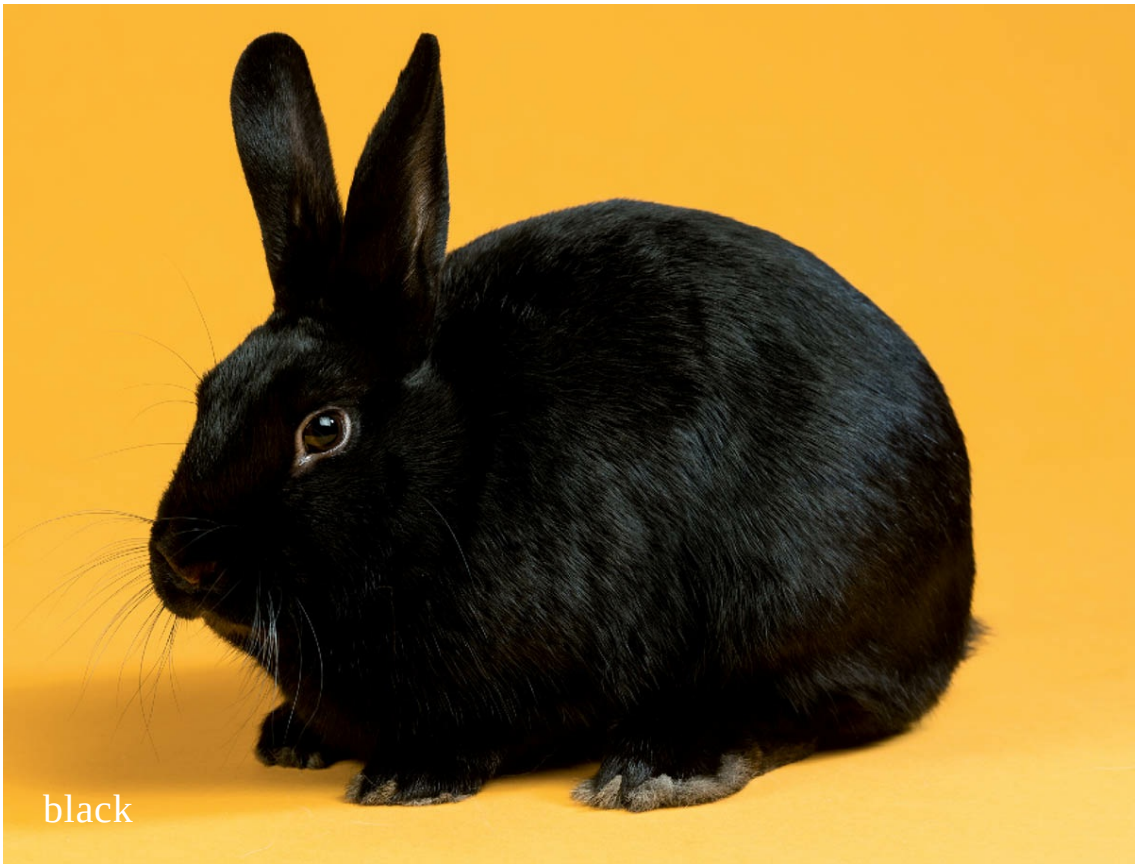
Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Harlequins are medium-sized rabbits, typically ranging from 6.5 pounds (3 kg) to a maximum breed standard of 9.5 pounds (4.3 kg). The Harlequin is uncommon enough in North America that it has drawn the concern of The Livestock Conservancy study group.

ABOVE: *The Harlequin is judged primarily on its coloring, rather than body type or fur quality. Among other requirements, the face is divided into two colors; the ears match the opposite side of the face.*

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Havana



black

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Netherlands

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1914

USES: Show, fur, meat

WEIGHT: 6.5 pounds (3 kg) max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Compact

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard; soft, dense, lustrous

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Black, blue, chocolate, broken (white with black, blue, or chocolate markings)

not threatened

THE COMPACT HAVANA'S NAME suggests Cuban origins — and there is a somewhat tangential connection — but the breed was born in the Netherlands, in a rather modest way. A chance mating between a black-and-white "farm rabbit" and another nondescript rabbit in Ingen in 1898 apparently produced a fascinating litter featuring brown and white kits. The dark brown fur intrigued established rabbit breeders, who stabilized the color with subsequent experimental breedings and in 1899 introduced a new breed they called Castor (the scientific name for the beaver) because of the dark brown color and lushness of the fur.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

chocolate

When Jeanne J. Lamaire showed the beaver-colored rabbits in Paris in 1903, she employed the name “Havana,” a reference to the dark tobacco leaf of Cuban cigars. It is questionable, of course, whether cigar leaf is any more evocative than the name of a large aquatic rodent, but “Havana” stuck, and even major political differences between the United States and Cuba weren’t enough to change it.

Havanas reached the United States by 1916, and Havana clubs arose by the 1920s. Eventually the breed included blues, blacks, and brokens as well as the original chocolates, which Havana owners liken

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

to mink in both texture and color. The breed remains fairly popular in North America, beloved for its usually gentle disposition and rich fur.

broken black

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Himalayan

ABOVE: *The Himmie is unique in having the only cylindrical body type of the ARBA breeds.*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Unknown

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1914

USES: Fur, show, pet

WEIGHT: 4.5 pounds (2 kg) max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Cylindrical

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard; short, fine, silky

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

White with black, blue, chocolate, or lilac points (nose, ears, legs, feet, and tail)

not threatened

THE ALL-WHITE, DARK-POINTED HIMALAYAN is the most cylindrical of North American rabbit breeds — long, light, and slender. One of the oldest rabbit breeds, its generally laid-back nature makes it an ideal breed for novices to raise. The little 4.5-pound (2 kg) Himmie wears a coat similar to the Himalayan cat, snow white with colored points (nose, ears, tail, legs, and feet). The kits are born pure white; the dark points develop over time.

The origins of the Himalayan have confounded researchers and rabbit enthusiasts for generations. The word "Himalayan" suggests origins in the high Asian mountains of the same name. There is no evidence to make that case convincingly, but the late Bob D. Whitman, who knew as much about rabbit breed histories as anyone, suggested that they perhaps were "natives of northern India and China, and perhaps some of the contiguous states." Whatever its origins, this is one of the most widespread rabbit breeds on the planet.

The breed was imported to the United States from England in 1912. It became a popular exhibition and fur rabbit, although its fur became less valuable over time as newer breeds, such as the Mini Rex and Satin, came into vogue and replaced the traditional fur rabbits.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Holland Lop

sable point

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Netherlands

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1979

USES: Pet, show

WEIGHT: 4 pounds (1.8 kg) max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Compact

FUR TYPE: Rollback; 1 inch (2.5 cm) long; glossy, dense, fine

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Agouti Group — chestnut agouti, chocolate agouti, chinchilla, chocolate chinchilla, lynx, opal, squirrel

Broken Group — any recognized breed variety color in conjunction with white; tricolored (white with black and golden orange, white with blue and golden fawn, white with dark chocolate brown and golden orange, or white with lilac and golden fawn)

Pointed White Group — white with black, blue, chocolate, or lilac points

Self Group — black, blue, chocolate, lilac, blue-eyed white, ruby-eyed white

Shaded Group — sable point, Siamese sable, seal, smoke pearl, tortoiseshell in black, blue, chocolate, lilac

Tan Pattern — otter in black, blue, chocolate, or lilac

Ticked Group — steel in black, blue, chocolate, or lilac

Wide Band Group — cream, fawn, frosty

not threatened

THE SMALLEST OF THE FIVE RECOGNIZED North American lop breeds, the Holland is one of the most popular rabbit breeds in the world. It's earned that distinction by its small size and astonishing variety of fur colors. Hollands are easily recognizable. Their faces are

Downloaded from Vet-eBooks.com

bulldogged onto heads and shoulders that appear massive on their small, thick bodies. Their thick, drooped lop ears should extend about 1 inch (2.5 cm) below their jawline.

broken

The Holland Lop was the brainchild of Adrian de Cock of Tilburg, Netherlands. De Cock raised Tans, but he was intrigued by the French Lop. De Cock felt the French Lop's massive size was a detriment for many would-be lop fanciers who neither wanted nor could afford large hutches and truckloads of rabbit food. De Cock began a project in 1949 to create a smaller lop.

Using French Lops, Netherland Dwarfs, and English Lops in his breeding program, De Cock had by 1955 achieved a smaller lop, in the 5- to 6-pound (2.3–2.7 kg) class, but it wasn't quite what he'd envisioned. Ten years later he had successfully downsized his new lop breed to the 4-pound (1.8 kg) animal recognized today as the Holland.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Holland Lops quickly spread throughout Europe. They were first brought into the United Kingdom in 1969. In 1974, Aleck Brooks III of Ardsley, New York, imported the first Hollands to the United States, where they were embraced enthusiastically.

ABOVE: *The charming and appealing Holland Lop comes in an astonishing variety of colors.*

See also American Fuzzy Lop, English Lop, French Lop, and Mini Lop.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Jersey Wooly

chestnut

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1988

USES: Pet, show

WEIGHT: 3.5 pounds (1.6 kg) max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Compact

FUR TYPE: Wool; slightly coarse with abundant guard hairs

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Agouti Group — chestnut, chinchilla, opal, squirrel

Any Other Variety Group:

Pointed — white body with black or blue markings on nose, ears, feet, and tail

Broken — any recognized breed variety in conjunction with white

Self — black, blue, blue-eyed white, chocolate, lilac, ruby-eyed white

Shaded — blue tortoiseshell, sable point, seal, Siamese sable, smoke pearl, tortoiseshell

Tan Pattern — black otter, blue otter, sable marten, silver marten, smoke pearl marten

not threatened

LIKE THE CALIFORNIAN AND THE FLORIDA WHITE, the Jersey Wooly invokes the name of an American state, or at least part of it. The breed originated with Bonnie Seeley of High Bridge, New Jersey, who wanted a small wooled breed with an easy-care coat for the pet trade. Angoras, of course, are wooly, but Angora coats are anything but easy to maintain, and even the English Angora was almost twice the size of what Ms. Seeley had envisioned.

Downloaded from Vet-eBooks.com

broken chinchilla and chestnut

Seeley began a breeding program in the 1970s, eventually using Netherland Dwarfs, Angoras, Chinchillas, and an unusually small Silver Marten. She had considerable difficulty downsizing the wooly rabbits sufficiently, but perseverance eventually resulted in a new breed of dwarf size, wooly coat, and friendly disposition. The Jersey Wooly was recognized by the ARBA in 1988.

The Jersey Wooly has a coat composed of dominant guard hairs over a layer of crimped underwool. That combination makes a coat of somewhat coarse texture with a healthy luster, a recipe for easy grooming. The wool forms side trimmings of longer fur on the animal's head, which is capped with shorter wool forward from the ears.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

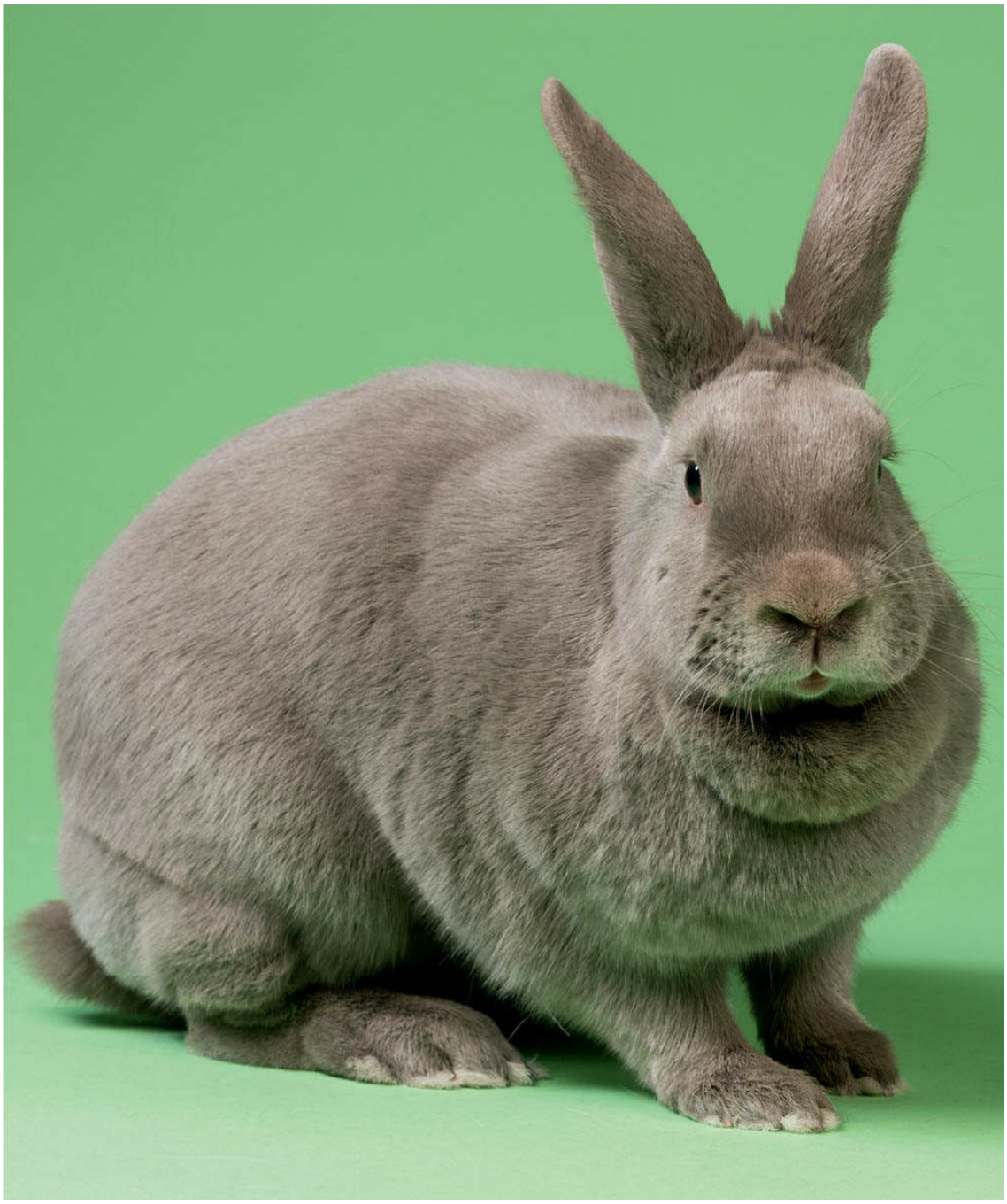
ABOVE: *The fluffy coat of the Jersey Wooly is surprisingly easy to groom, unlike its Angora cousins.*

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

siamese sable

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Lilac



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: England

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

YEAR RECOGNIZED: circa 1928

USES: Show, fur, meat

WEIGHT: 8 pounds (3.6 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Compact

FUR TYPE: Rollback; 1 inch (2.5 cm) long; dense

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLOR

Uniform lilac (dove gray) with delicate pink tint on surface

being studied

THE LILAC RABBIT TAKES ITS NAME from the light purple blooms of the bush by the same name. No, the Lilac is not really a purple rabbit, but animal names are often fanciful, especially where color is concerned. The Lilac breed, however, does sport a striking, light-colored coat sometimes described as “pinkish dove” or “dove gray.”

Lilacs are small, firmly fleshed rabbits that were developed for meat and fur. Their fur is dense, soft, and silky.

The Lilac was developed in England by at least two different breeders working independently of each other. Their efforts involved Havanas, Blue Imperials, and Blue Beverens. The two English strains eventually were merged.

Meanwhile, Dutch breeders had established a Lilac-like rabbit called the Gouda, and by the time the English Lilacs had reached the United States in 1922, the Gouda had already found its way into North America. Gouda numbers eventually dwindled in the United States, but the breed may well have been used by American breeders in refining the English Lilacs.

The richly furred Lilac has never been common in North America, hence its status on The Livestock Conservancy’s watch list.

Downloaded from Vet-eBooks.com

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Lionhead

ruby-eyed white

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Belgium

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 2014

USES: Pet, show

WEIGHT: 3.75 pounds (1.7 kg) max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Compact

FUR TYPE: Wool; rollback; soft, dense, of medium length; saddle clear of wool; mane at least 2 inches (5 cm) long

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Ruby-eyed white, tortoiseshell (black, blue, chocolate, or lilac)

not threatened

THE LIONHEAD RABBIT is a compact little creature with a telltale leonine mane spiking from its head and chest. In prime condition, a Lionhead's fur doesn't extend from the flanks or hind end. Jersey Woolies, probably the only breed that could be confused with the Lionhead, are completely covered by their long, wooly coats.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

ABOVE: *A Lionhead needs two copies of the "mane" gene to produce a fully fluffed-out mane.*

The origins of the Lionhead are unclear. Bob D. Whitman, who researched breed histories for many years, wrote that the Lionhead's forebear was the result of a gene mutation that created a "bearded" rabbit, traced to Belgium prior to 1960. Several bearded rabbits eventually surfaced and led to a European version of the Lionhead. The breed reached England in the mid-1990s and the United States shortly thereafter. Several Minnesota breeders, in an effort to expand the breed's gene pool, crossed Lionheads with other small breeds, including the Netherland Dwarf and the Florida White.

It can be difficult to achieve the "perfect" mane of the Lionhead breed standard. Breeders strive for a full-circle mane with strands of fur 2 to 3 inches (5 to 7.6 cm) long. Lionheads should not weigh more than 3.5 pounds (1.6 kg). That small size, blended with a generally

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

winning temperament and adaptable nature, tends to make them excellent pets.

pointed white

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Mini Lop

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Germany

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1981

USES: Pet, show, meat

WEIGHT: 6.5 pounds (3 kg) max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Compact

FUR TYPE: Rollback; medium in length; dense, glossy, lustrous

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Agouti Group — chinchilla with black, blue, chocolate, lilac, sable, or smoke pearl as a basic color; chestnut agouti, lynx, opal

Broken Group — any recognized breed color in conjunction with white and carrying the breed pattern

Pointed White Group — white body with black, blue, chocolate, or lilac nose, ears, feet, legs, and tail

Self Group — black, blue, chocolate, lilac, white

Shaded Group — frosted pearl, sable, sable point, seal, smoke pearl, tortoiseshell

Ticked Group — silver/silver fox, steel

Tricolored Group — any of the following colors in conjunction with white: black and golden orange, lavender blue and golden fawn, dark chocolate and golden orange, lilac and golden fawn

Wide Band Group — cream, fawn, orange, red

not threatened

THE POPULAR MINI LOP is in no way a big bruiser of a rabbit, but neither is it a tiny rabbit. It can weigh up to 6.5 pounds (3 kg), making it considerably stauncher than the Mini Rex and Mini Satin, as well as several other breeds that don't wear the "mini" moniker. The Mini

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Lop can outweigh the Holland, a similar lop as well as the smallest of the lops, by 2 pounds (0.9 kg).

The Mini Lop has a compact body, much like the Holland. It has a dense, shiny coat, and the does may have a dewlap, the fatty "bag" that often develops under the chin. Mini Lops appeal to some lop fanciers because they tend to be calmer and more sedentary than the smaller, more spirited Hollands.

The immediate ancestor of the Mini Lop was developed in Germany in the mid-1950s. During the next two decades, the evolving breed was infused with at least six others: French Lop, English Lop, Dwarf Lop, New Zealand, Polish, and Chinchilla.

ABOVE: *The Mini Lop's original German name was Klein Widder (little hanging ear).*

See also American Fuzzy Lop, English Lop, French Lop, and Holland Lop.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Mini Rex

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1988

USES: Pet, show, fur

WEIGHT: 4.5 pounds (2 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Compact

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Rex type; ⅝ inch (1.6 cm) long; extremely dense, straight, upright; lustrous, plush, with noticeable spring when touched

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Castor, chinchilla, chocolate, Himalayan (black or blue points), lilac, lynx, opal, otter, red, sable point, smoke pearl, tortoiseshell, white

Self Group — black, blue, blue-eyed white

Broken Group — white in any recognized breed variety color in conjunction

Tricolored — white in conjunction with black and golden orange; lilac and golden fawn; chocolate and golden orange; or blue and golden fawn

not threatened

MINI REX FANCIERS like to proclaim the breed's "sweet disposition," but the breed owes most of its acclaim to what it sees in the mirror: its thick, short, velvety fur. The Mini Rex and its twice-as-large cousin, the Rex, have unmistakably dense, plush, springy coats thanks to the absence of long guard hairs.

Guard hairs are coarser than a mammal's underfur, and they are typically longer. But Mini Rex ancestry dates to 1919, when a genetic mutation produced an unusual rabbit litter in the farmyard of Frenchman Desiré Caillon. The kits grew underfur of uniform length and — surprise! — guard hairs that were the same length, providing a unique, velvety, smooth finish. Duly impressed, a professor who was

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

also a rabbit enthusiast bought three of the rabbits and crossed them with Chinchilla Rabbits. Some of the offspring were also free of the long guard hairs.

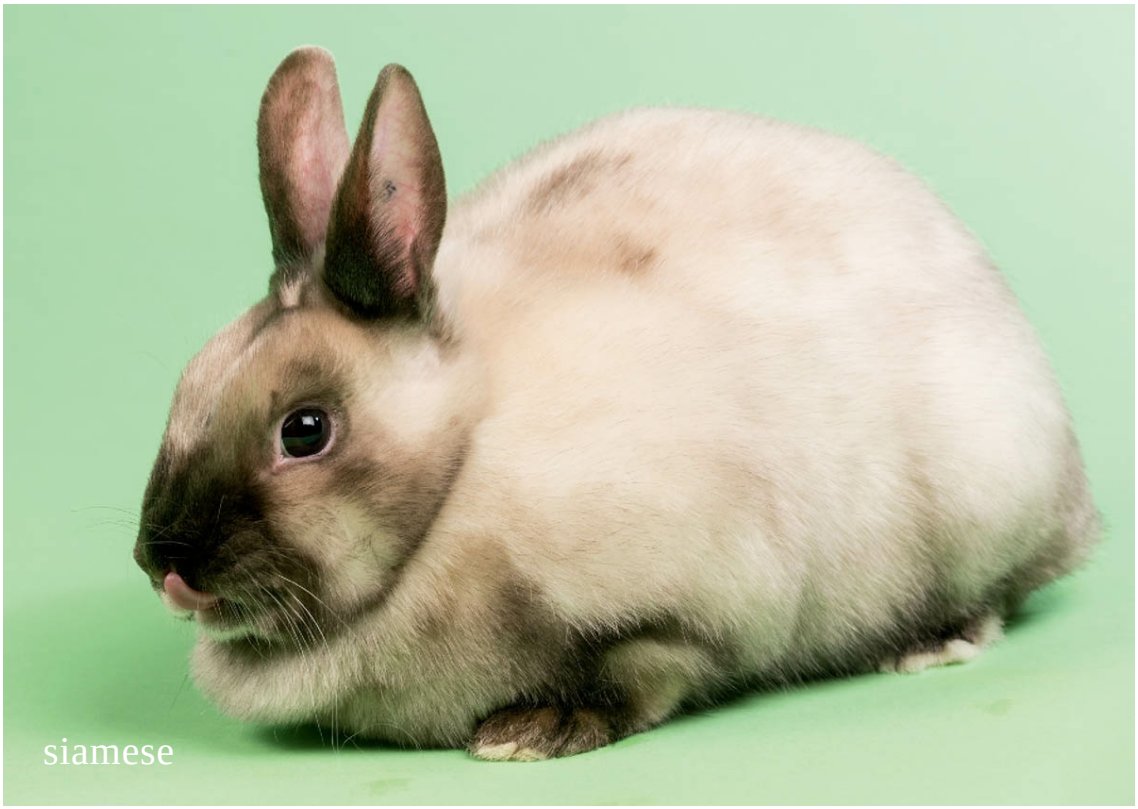
The modern-day Mini Rex form of the Rex was established by Mona Berryhill, who in 1986 won a pair of Dwarf Rex rabbits at an ARBA raffle in Orlando, Florida. She crossed the buck with a small standard Rex, a mating that produced seven kits and the Mini Rex foundation stock. The new Rex breed's popularity soared, and several colors appeared, thanks to the many varieties that were part of the original Dwarf Rex's ancestry.

broken black

See also Rex.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Mini Satin


siamese

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 2006

USES: Pet, show

WEIGHT: 4.75 pounds (2.2 kg) max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Compact

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Rollback; Satin type; silky, fine, very dense and interspersed thickly with lustrous guard hairs, creating sheen and resiliency

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Black, blue, broken, chinchilla, chocolate, chocolate agouti, copper, opal, otter, red, Siamese (blue, chocolate, lilac), silver marten (black, blue chocolate, and lilac varieties), tortoiseshell, white

not threatened

SATIN RABBITS ARE REVERED for the brilliant, lustrous satin sheen of their coats. The Mini Satin is the more recently developed of the two non-Angora Satin breeds. It has erect ears on a short neck, with a compact body and well-developed hindquarters and shoulders.

Ariel Hayes of Troy, Michigan, began developing Mini Satins in the 1970s. Crossing standard Satins with much smaller Polish Rabbits, she eventually produced a 4.5-pound (2 kg) rabbit that was close to the breed standard of today. Hayes called her rabbits Satinettes. Over the next 25 years the breed was infused with Mini Rex and Netherland Dwarf genes.

Hayes gave up her breeding program in 1982, creating something of a limbo in the breed's development. Attempts to further the breeding project met with various obstacles until J. Leo Collins of Salem, Ohio, established the breed to the point where it was accepted by the ARBA.

See also Satin.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Netherland Dwarf

ABOVE: *The appealing Netherland Dwarf comes in a variety of solid and broken colors.*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Netherlands

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1969

USES: Pet, show

WEIGHT: 2.5 pounds (1.1 kg) max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Compact

Downloaded from Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Rollback; soft, dense, with gloss

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Agouti Varieties— chestnut, chinchilla, lynx, opal, squirrel

Self Varieties — black, blue, chocolate, lilac, blue-eyed white, ruby-eyed white

Shaded Varieties — sable point, Siamese sable, Siamese smoke pearl, tortoiseshell

Tan Pattern Varieties — otter, sable marten, silver marten, smoke pearl marten; black, blue, chocolate, and lilac tan

Any Other Variety — broken: any recognized breed variety in conjunction with white; fawn, Himalayan, orange, steel

not threatened

ITS BIG BRIGHT EYES, dwarfish stature, and cute look belie the Netherland Dwarf's sometimes spunky attitude. Individual rabbits may occasionally use their teeth to settle disagreements. Nevertheless, its endearing appearance and kaleidoscope of colors may explain why it's one of the three most popular exhibitor breeds in North America.

With a maximum allowable show weight of 2.5 pounds (1.1 kg), it ties with the Britannia Petite as the smallest of the ARBA breeds. Size aside, the Dwarf and the Petite look nothing alike, largely because the Dwarf is a compact, round-headed rabbit with furry, erect, 2-inch-long (5 cm) ears. The Petite, with its long, slender front legs and its full-arch profile, looks like a small hare.

Downloaded from Vet-eBooks.com

Progenitors of Netherland Dwarfs, so-called Hermelin Rabbits, were first developed in Germany early in the 20th century. German and Dutch breeders settled on a standard in 1940, but World War II nearly destroyed the breed, reducing it to fewer than two dozen specimens. Eventually, British, American, and Canadian breeders helped restore and refine the breed.

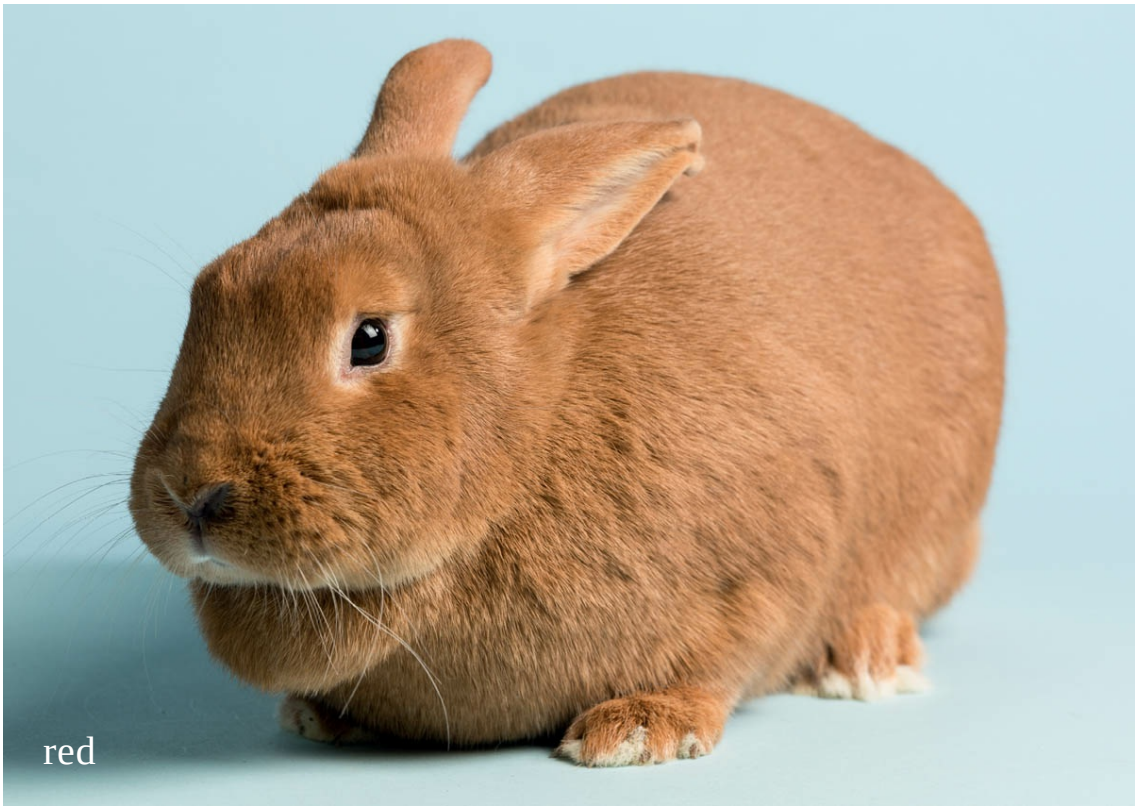
black otter

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

New Zealand


red

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1958

WEIGHT: 11 pounds (5 kg) max., senior does

USES: Meat, fur

BODY TYPE: Commercial

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Black, red, white with pink eyes, broken (white with marking in any accepted New Zealand breed color)

not threatened

DESPITE ITS NAME, this big, versatile rabbit is a Yankee, not a Kiwi. The first variety of the breed, the red, was developed largely in California, presumably from the now-extinct Golden Fawn and possibly Belgian Hares to enrich the color. The white variety was developed after four white kits appeared in William Preshaw's red New Zealand litter in Ripon, California, in 1917.

The late Bob D. Whitman, foremost among breed history sleuths, was baffled by the choice of names for the breed. He speculated that at least some early 20th-century historians believed — erroneously, in his opinion — that the breed had roots in Scotland and New Zealand. Early efforts, however, to change the breed's name to American Red were voted down.

The New Zealand has spread throughout the globe as a multipurpose breed, raised for meat, fur, the laboratory industry, and show. Most commercial rabbit operations today use the New Zealand or a hybrid derivative of it. Usually easy-going, the New Zealand is a worthy house rabbit. The white variety, with its erect ears, fluffy tail, and pink eyes, is perhaps the most classic of North American white rabbits.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

white

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Palomino

ABOVE: *The Palomino was developed specifically for its rich golden color.*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1957

USES: Fur, meat

WEIGHT: 11 pounds (5 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Golden, lynx

not threatened

THE PALOMINO RABBIT was developed for the appeal of its color, in many specimens reminiscent of the golden horses that bear the same moniker. Mark Young, from Coulee Dam, Washington, who established the Palomino in the 1940s and 1950s, was outspoken about wanting to develop a new rabbit breed. If his motives went beyond simply founding a new breed, regardless of type, they went unrecorded.

Young's approach to establishing the Palomino was simple and direct: he selected buckskin and yellow-brown specimens from the litters of multiple meat-type rabbits he'd purchased without regard to their pedigree. Over several years of inbreeding and outcrossing the buckskin rabbits, Young developed the Palomino in two color variations, a golden and a silver-tinged lynx.

Young wasn't forthcoming about his choice of original bloodlines because he really didn't know them. It's evident from the commercial conformation and size of the Palomino that the New Zealand, a very similar breed except in color, was a contributor.

Young's original name for his rabbit, Washingtonian, was not a crowd-pleaser. Seeking a change in label, Young reputedly set out a

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

coffee can for written suggestions of a new name. Among the entries, Palomino emerged the winner.

Palominos can be shown up to 11 pounds (5 kg). They're medium to large, with long, erect ears and well-developed shoulders and hindquarters, typical of meat-type rabbits. They enjoy a reputation for being trainable and having a pleasant disposition.

lynx

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Polish

chocolate; broken; black

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: England

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1914

USES: Pet, show

WEIGHT: 3.5 pounds (1.6 kg), max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Compact

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard; short, dense, and fine with glossy luster

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Black, blue, chocolate, blue-eyed white, ruby-eyed white, broken (white with markings in any accepted Polish breed color)

not threatened

EARLY POLISH RABBITS WERE WHITE, but the modern breed exhibits a broad array of colors, one of the characteristics that makes it one of the most popular breeds in North America.

blue

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

The Polish is a rabbit bantamweight, with show specimens allowed to weigh no more than 3.5 pounds (1.6 kg). They can be confused with Netherland Dwarfs, as both have small, compact bodies and relatively short ears. Unlike Dwarf ears, however, Polish ears should touch throughout their length, and the head of a Dwarf tends to be proportionately larger and rounder than that of a Polish.

Polish Rabbits are probably not from Poland, any more than New Zealands are from their namesake nation. Early records of the Polish Rabbit come from England, where it was shown as early as 1884. Prussian Rabbits, shown in England in 1858, appear from their description to have been very much like the Polish, giving rise to the theory that the Polish breed rabbits may have first originated in Germany. It is just as likely — perhaps more likely — that the Polish Rabbit's progenitors may well have been what the British once called "common hutch rabbits," with white fur. Careful selective breeding of livestock, including rabbits, is a relatively new phenomenon, but by the late 1800s, the British were highly invested in it.

The breed reached the United States from England in 1912 and was recognized by the fledgling National Pet Stock Association in 1914.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Rex

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: France

YEAR RECOGNIZED: circa 1932

USES: Fur, meat

WEIGHT: 10.5 pounds (4.8 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Rex type; ½–⅞ inch (1.3–2.2 cm) long, extremely dense, straight, upright; lustrous, plush, with noticeable spring when touched

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Amber, black, blue, Californian, castor, chinchilla, chocolate, lilac, lynx, opal, red, sable, seal, white

Broken Group — any recognized breed variety in conjunction with white, or white in conjunction with black and golden orange; lavender blue and golden fawn; chocolate and golden orange; dove gray and golden fawn

Otter Group — black, blue, lilac, chocolate

not threatened

THE REX IS A MEDIUM-TO-LARGE RABBIT with classic meat-rabbit conformation, well developed in the hips and loins. But like the much smaller Mini Rex, the standard Rex is mostly celebrated for its luxurious fur. Because the underfur and guard hairs are the same length, the pelt of a Rex is exceptionally soft and velvety.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

lilac

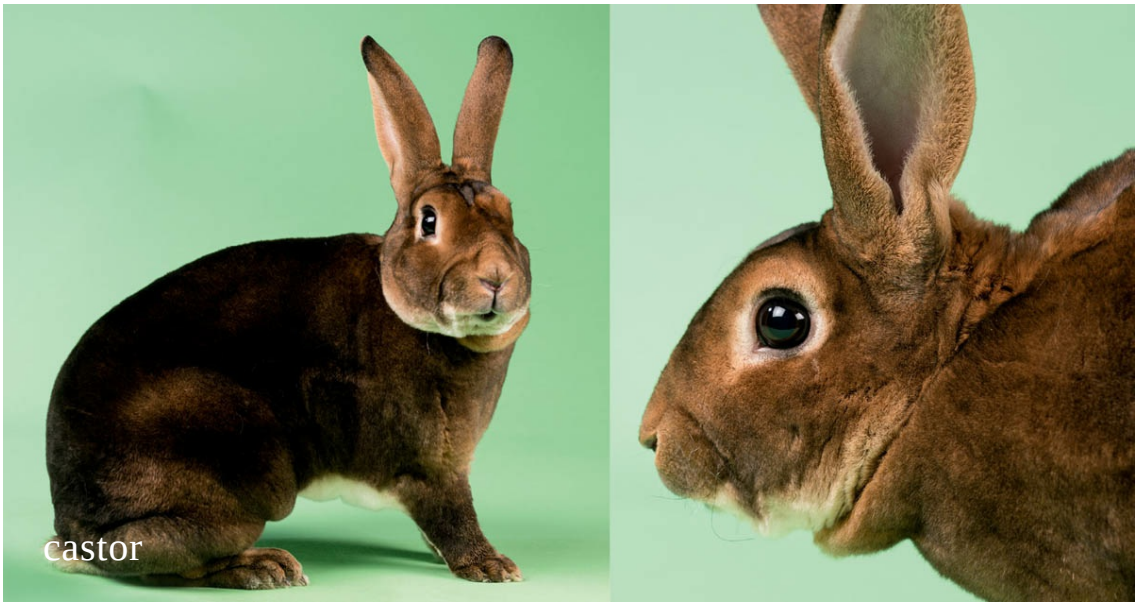
The Rex originated in the French commune of Coulongé in 1919, immediately after World War I. A French farmer gave the first specimens, the result of a fur mutation in a litter of non-purebred barnyard rabbits, to a French priest, Abbot Amédée Gillet.

The abbot soon realized he had exceptional rabbits, and he sold Rex-furred offspring for increasingly larger sums, but it took the involvement of a German university professor, Eugene Kohler, and

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

others to realize the potential value of the Rex Rabbits and implement selective breeding in a scientific way.

Meanwhile, Rex fur began to appear in other, scattered rabbit litters in Germany, the Netherlands, and France once again. John C. Fehr and Alfred Zimmerman bought a Rex pair for $350 in 1924 and introduced the breed to the United States. During the next few years, imported Rex rabbits fetched up to $1,500 per pair.



See also Mini Rex.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Rhinelander

black

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Germany

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1975

USES: Show, meat

WEIGHT: 10 pounds (4.5 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Full arch

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard; short, dense, fine, smooth in texture

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLOR

Black and golden-orange or blue and fawn on a white background with dark colors evenly distributed over all marked areas

being watched

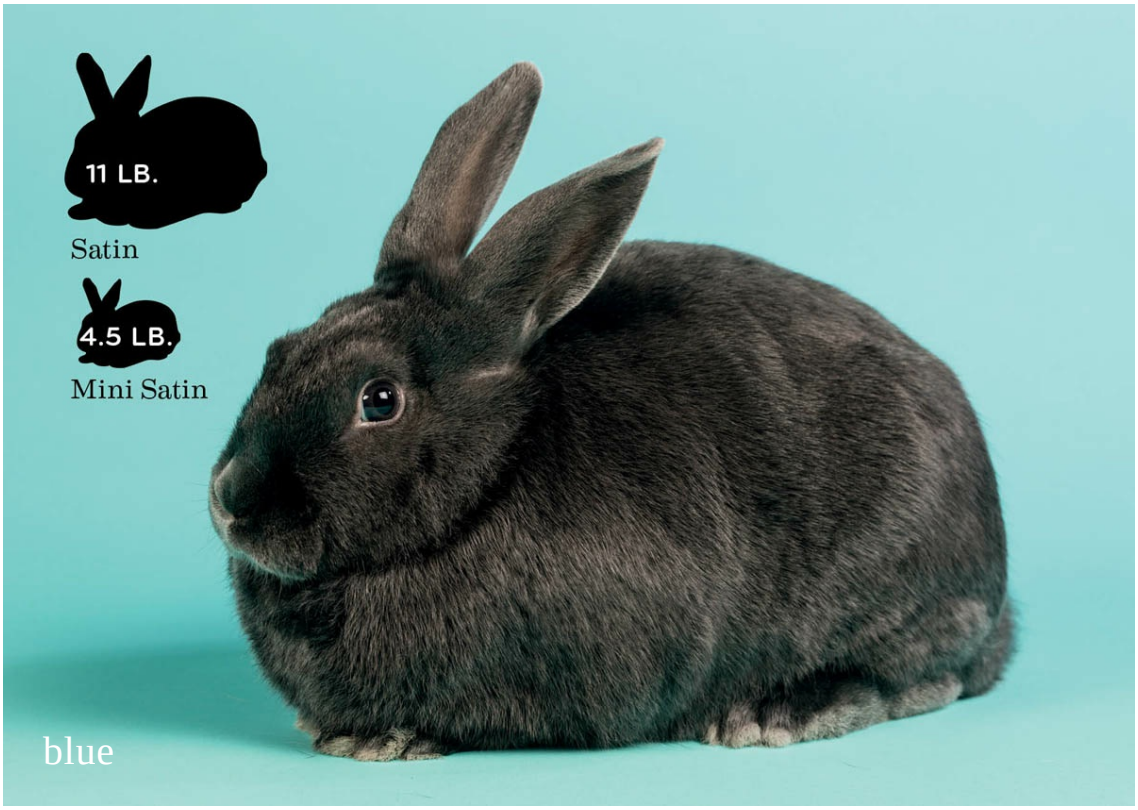
THE COLOR PATTERN IS THE HALLMARK of this breed: with distinct two-color markings on a white body, a streak along its spine, a dark butterfly mark on its muzzle, and dark eye bands, the Rhinelander is nearly unmistakable. A medium-sized rabbit, with an adult buck showing ideally at 8 pounds (3.6 kg), the Rhinelander has a fairly long body with a graceful, hare-like arch and dense, silky fur. It carries its ears in a V shape. It is challenging to exhibit because of the exacting color distribution standards.

The Rhinelander was developed by Josef Heintz in Germany in the late 1800s. Heintz used Harlequin Rabbits, a gray non-purebred rabbit, and Checkered Giants in his breeding program. The name “Rhinelander” reflects the breed’s German roots, as in the Rhine River region.

The Rhinelander made its debut in the United States in 1923 but vanished from the American rabbit fancy less than a decade later. It made a comeback in the 1970s and reappeared on the ARBA breeds roster in 1975, but it remains an uncommon breed.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Satin



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1956

USES: Show, fur, meat

WEIGHT: 11 pounds (5 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Rollback; Satin type; silky, fine, very dense and interspersed with lustrous guard hairs, creating sheen and resiliency

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Black, blue, Californian, chinchilla, chocolate, copper, otter, red, Siamese, white

Broken Group — any recognized breed variety in conjunction with white

not threatened

THE CONSEQUENCES OF INBREEDING, including gene mutations, are hard to determine in advance. To wit: Walter Huey was attempting to improve his Havana Rabbits through inbreeding when the first satin coats appeared on some of his stock in 1934. Harvard University geneticists found that fur length had not been affected, but they also found that the texture and sheen of the Havana coats *had* — in a wondrous way. The Satin fur type had been born, quite accidentally.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

copper (left); red (right)

Within two years the Satin Club was formed. By the mid-1950s, an avalanche of “satinized” varieties had been recognized and the Satin breed had been upsized and refined, clearly distinguishing it from the Havana. The Satin effect is the by-product of hair sheaths with glasslike clarity. Each translucent sheath reflects light, creating the sheen for which the Satin breeds are renowned.

The standard Satin, a medium-to-large rabbit in a meat-type body, is a multipurpose breed, noted for its show, table, and fur qualities. The compact Mini Satin is a smaller and more recent addition to the rabbit fancy.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

See also Mini Satin.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Satin Angora

pointed white

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Canada

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1987

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

USES: Wool, show

WEIGHT: 9.5 pounds (4.3 kg) max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

FUR TYPE: Wool; 3 inches (7.6 cm) long; finer than other Angora breeds but with similar great density

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Agouti Group — chinchilla, chocolate chinchilla, lilac chinchilla, squirrel

Agouti Varieties — chestnut, chocolate agouti, copper, lynx, opal

Broken Group — white in combination with any accepted Angora color

Pointed White Group — white body with black, blue, chocolate, or lilac on nose, ears, feet, and tail

Self Group — blue-eyed white, ruby-eyed white

Self Group — black, blue, chocolate, lilac

Shaded Group — pearl, sable, seal, smoke pearl

Ticked Group — blue steel, chocolate steel, lilac steel, steel

Tortoiseshell Varieties — blue tortoiseshell, chocolate tortoiseshell, lilac tortoiseshell, tortoiseshell

Wide Band Group — cream, fawn, red

not threatened

FOUR ANGORA BREEDS ARE RECOGNIZED in North America, all of which trace their ancestry to rather murky beginnings in Europe, Asia Minor, or perhaps both. Rabbits with Angora fur have been bred at

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

least since the early 1700s. The various refined Angora breeds of today, however, are fairly recent additions to the rabbit fancy.

ABOVE: *The Satin Angora's glamorous coat combines length and shine to eye-catching effect.*

The Satin Angora was developed in the early 1980s by Leopoldina P. Meyer of Ontario, Canada. Meyer found a wooly kit in a litter of otherwise typically straight-haired Satin Rabbits. Intrigued, Meyer crossed the wooly Satin to a fawn-colored French Angora, with which the breed today shares an oval-shaped head. By the second generation, her breeding project was consistently producing Satin Angoras.

A medium-to-large rabbit with a meat-type body, the Satin, like other Angora breeds, is prized for its dense long wool, not its muscle content. In contrast to the shaggy Giant and English Angoras, the Satin's face and erect ears are comparatively "clean-shaven." The texture of its shiny wool is finer than that of other Angoras, and its

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

sheen distinguishes the Satin from the otherwise similar, although slightly larger, French Angora.

white

See also English Angora, French Angora, and Giant Angora.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Silver

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: England

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1914

USES: Pet, show, meat

WEIGHT: 7 pounds (3.2 kg) max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Compact

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard; short, smooth, close to body

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Black with silver guard hairs; chestnut brown with black and silver guard hairs; fawn with silver guard hairs

threatened

THE SILVER IS ONE OF THE OLDEST RABBIT BREEDS and one of the rarest in North America. This medium-sized rabbit, with an ideal weight of 6 pounds (2.7 kg), was recognized by the National Pet Stock Association, a forerunner of the ARBA, in 1914, but its ancestry dates much earlier than that.

Domestic silver-gray rabbits appear in written English accounts as far back as 1631 and may have entered England as early as 1592. How they reached England is in doubt, though perhaps they were brought by Portuguese sailors. They may have reached Portugal from Siam (modern-day Thailand), but that's in doubt, too. However the silver-colored rabbits arrived, nineteenth-century Britons were pioneers of selective breeding and by the 1870s they had turned their attention to the Silver Greys, fixing the breed and making it fit to exhibit.

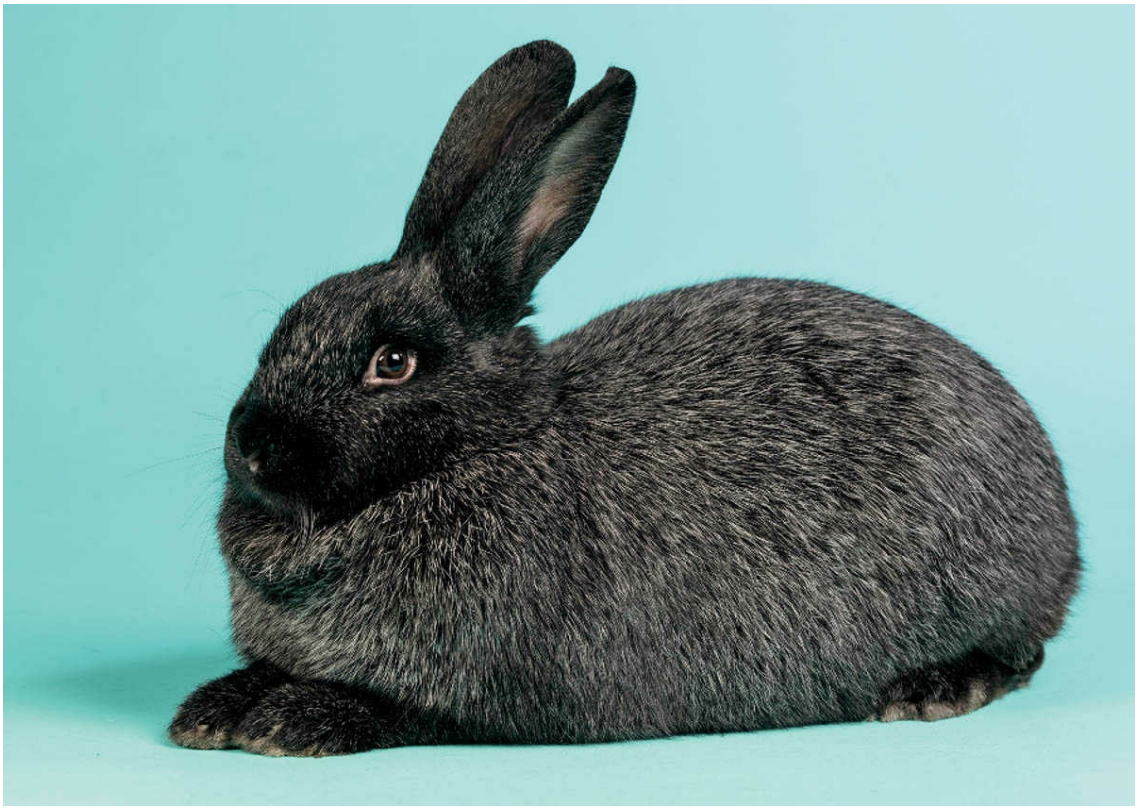
The modern Silver is distinguished by a silvery tone on a darker fur field of black, brown, or fawn. The silver effect is produced by silver-white guard hairs evenly distributed throughout the upper coat. Silvers have what is sometimes called the standard rabbit body: of medium length with a slight taper from the hindquarters to the shoulders. In conformation, they're similar to Silver Fox Rabbits, but

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Silvers are considerably smaller and have short, flat coats in comparison to the long, dense fur of the Silver Fox.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Silver Fox



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: United States

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1925

USES: Fur, meat

WEIGHT: 12 pounds (5.4 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

FUR TYPE: Rollback; 1½ inches (3.8 cm) long; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard; long and dense, with luster

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

White or white-tipped guard hairs evenly distributed on black

threatened

THE BIG, GENTLE-NATURED SILVER FOX is renowned for its fur. Stroke the fur forward, against the grain, and it will stand up rather than fly back. Ideally the fur is 1½ inches (3.8 cm) long and evenly silvered by lighter guard hairs. The breed was established by Walter B. Garland in North Canton, Ohio, in the 1920s.

Garland never explained his work, but it may have included a Checkered Giant with an unusual abundance of white hairs. Garland wanted a breed with the coloring of a Silver Rabbit on the chassis of a giant rabbit. Some have speculated that the breed resulted from crosses with the Champagne d'Argent and American Blue.

The breed was known as the American Heavyweight Silver when a standard for it was approved in 1925. The name was changed four years later to Silver Fox, linking the rabbit's color to the silvered color phase of the red fox.

Today the ARBA recognizes the breed only in black. Efforts are under way to restore the blue Silver Fox coat, accepted at one time by the ARBA but discontinued for lack of specimens. The Silver Fox Rabbit is on The Livestock Conservancy's threatened list, though in 2013–2014, it placed in the upper 50 percent of by-breed registration totals.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Silver Marten

ABOVE: *The silver trim on the ears, around the eyes and nose, and under the chin are part of the breed standard.*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: France, England, United States

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1929

USES: Fur, meat

WEIGHT: 9.5 pounds (4.3 kg) max., senior does

BODY TYPE: Commercial

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Silver tipping and white trim on a fur field of black, blue, chocolate, or sable

not threatened

THE SILVER MARTEN WAS DEVELOPED IN THE EARLY 1920S when black Chinchilla Rabbit kits began appearing in scattered litters in Europe, England, and the United States. These off-colored youngsters, called sports, intrigued some Chinchilla breeders but disgusted others, who began to doubt the quality of the parents.

In fact, the sports had appeared because of an infusion of Tan Rabbit genes into the gene pool to improve the Chinchilla's fur. Fans of the new rabbits, which were essentially Tans without the tan-colored trim, found that mating the black sports together produced offspring true to type and color. Silver Martens were shown for the first time in France in 1926. The black variety of the breed was accepted by the ARBA in 1929.

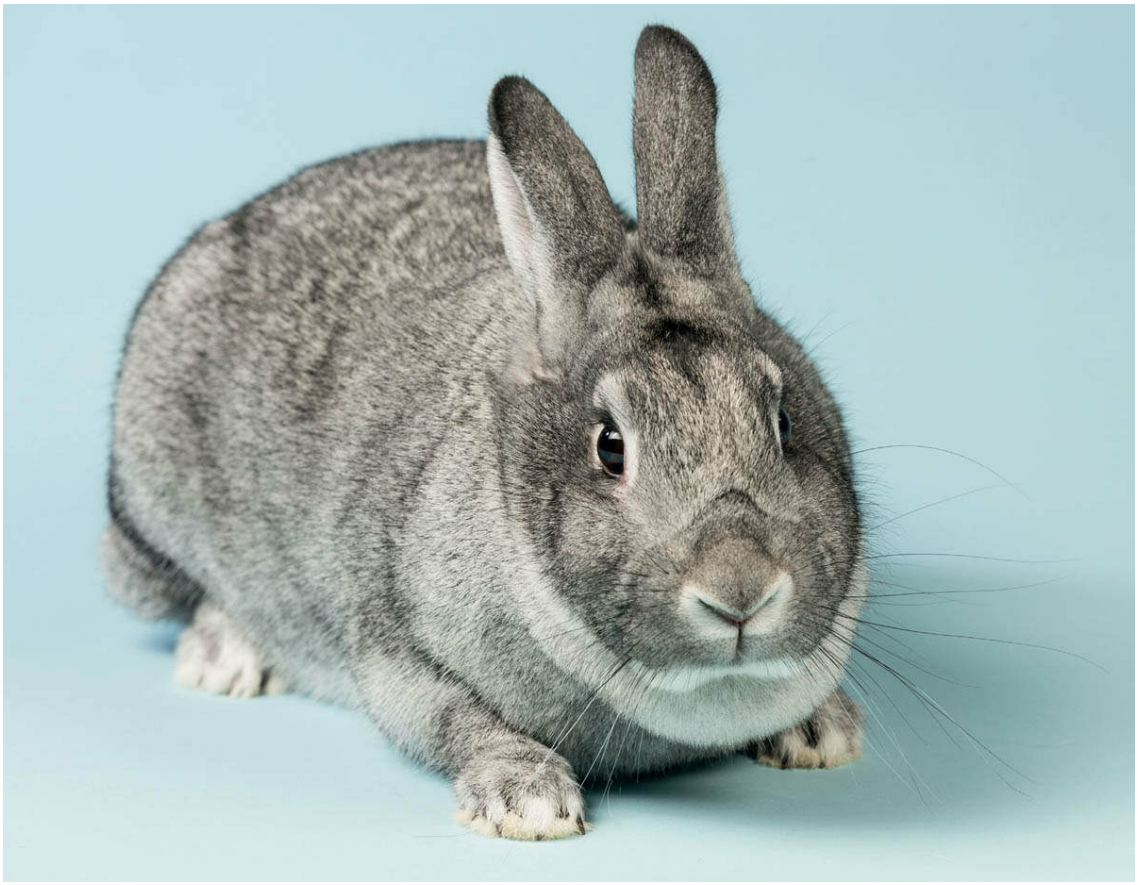
Silver Martens have dense fur with evenly distributed white-tipped guard hairs, lending the breed's namesake silvery appearance. The outside edge of the rabbit's ears match the body color, sans white hairs. The inner portion of the ear is silver-white, as is a fur triangle on the nape and a narrow collar that courses the neck to the rabbit's underjaw. The nostrils and belly are white, and the eyes are circled by silver-white.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Ideal weight for the Silver Marten is 8.5 pounds (3.8 kg) for adult does and 7.5 pounds (3.4 kg) for an adult male.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Standard Chinchilla



ABOVE: *Each hair in a Chinchilla pelt has several bands of color.*

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: France

YEAR RECOGNIZED: circa 1923

USES: Show, fur, pet

WEIGHT: 7.5 pounds (3.4 kg) max., senior does

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

BODY TYPE: Compact

FUR TYPE: Rollback; 1⅛–1⅜ inches (2.9–3.5 cm) long; very dense with fine texture

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLOR

Chinchilla

not threatened

THE STANDARD CHINCHILLA WAS DEVELOPED IN FRANCE by an engineer, M. J. Dybowski. Exactly how Dybowski achieved the breed is unknown, but he may have used some combination of Beverens, Himalayans, and Tans, as well as a wild rabbit. In any event, Dybowski had by 1913 developed a smallish rabbit whose fur color, either by chance or more likely by design, resembled that of the wild chinchilla (*Chinchilla lanigera*), a mountain-dwelling rodent of Chile.

American rabbit breeders were excited about the quality and color of the Chinchilla's fur when the animals were exhibited in 1919 in the United States. They were less excited about the breed's compactness, and several moved ahead with development of Giant Chinchillas and American Chinchillas, both of which are larger than the original Chinchilla, now known as the Standard Chinchilla.

Modern Standard Chinchillas are usually raised for show or pets. Their pelts are no longer prized as they were in the early 20th century, and they are too compact to be ideal meat rabbits. Chinchilla Rabbit fur is a rich blend of earth colors, much like that of the wild European rabbit. The dark, slate-blue base color has levels of pearl and black, with ticking of black guard hairs and light pearl-colored eye bands.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

See also American Chinchilla and Giant Chinchilla.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Tan

black

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: England

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 1914

USES: Show, fur, meat

WEIGHT: 6 pounds (2.7 kg) max., senior does

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

BODY TYPE: Full-arch

FUR TYPE: Flyback; ARBA Commercial Normal Fur Standard; medium-fine, short, high gloss

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

COLORS

Black, blue, chocolate, or lilac with tan

not threatened

THE TAN IS A FULL-ARCH RABBIT, strikingly furred in black, blue, chocolate, or lilac (dove gray tipped with pink) trimmed with rich, reddish mahogany (tan). Their short, polished, high-luster fur features a triangle of tan at the base of their necks and a tan collar.

The original Tans were mongrels, like most rabbits of even the late 19th century, when selective breeding was in its infancy. They first appeared in a warren kept in Derbyshire, England, that was populated by a mixture of so-called common hutch rabbits, wild European rabbits, and forerunners of the modern Dutch breed.

Some of those early rabbits were black with pale yellow bellies. The markings were unusual enough to draw attention from breeders who isolated the black-and-tans and improved the developing breed with an introduction of Belgian Hares into the gene pool. The Belgians added size and the more racy, athletic physique that characterizes both breeds today, although a Belgian may outweigh a Tan by more than 3 pounds (1.4 kg).

The British soon had two competing Black and Tan Rabbit clubs, which eventually blended their Black and Tan strains and added Silver Rabbit genes to the mix. The Tans appeared in the United States prior to 1908 and had an accepted standard by 1914.

Downloaded from Vet-eBooks.com

ABOVE: *The lively Tan wears a striking two-tone coat.*

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Thrianta

COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Netherlands

YEAR RECOGNIZED: 2006

USES: Show, meat

WEIGHT: 6 pounds (2.7 kg) max., senior bucks and does

BODY TYPE: Compact

FUR TYPE: Rollback; 1 inch (2.5 cm) long; soft, dense

Downloaded from Vet-eBooks.com

COLOR

Brilliant red-orange

not threatened

THE THRIANTA (pronounced “tri-AN-ta”) is the closest thing you’ll see to a pumpkin-colored rabbit, which was the intent of its originator, a Dutch gentleman by the name of H. Andreae, who used Tans, Havanas, and an English Spot in his breeding project. Thrianta coats are soft and dense; the bright, intense reddish hue distinguishes the breed from other midsized breeds of relatively short, compact body type.

The Thrianta, whose name is taken from an older name for the province of its origin (Drenthe, in the Netherlands), was recognized as a distinct breed just days before Nazi Germany invaded the Netherlands. The war and its aftermath nearly exterminated the Thrianta. The few specimens that survived the war were coarse. After the war, rabbit breeders in East Germany created a similarly colored rabbit called the Sachsengold, and to improve the Sachsengold’s color, the Germans imported the few remaining Thriantas from the Netherlands.

Crossing the Sachsengolds and Thriantas was successful. By the 1960s, Dutch breeders had reintroduced the improved Thriantas to the Dutch rabbit fancy under its original nameplate. The breed reached England in the early 1980s. U.S. fanciers imported Thriantas from the

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Netherlands in 1996 and earned acceptance for the breed by the ARBA in 2006.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Glossary

ARBA. American Rabbit Breeders Association.

BREED. Any one of several groups, or classes, of rabbits in which members of the group have similar characteristics that are predictably reproducible among members of the group.

BUCK. Male rabbit.

COMMERCIAL (BODY TYPE). A medium-length rabbit with equal depth and width of body.

COMPACT (BODY TYPE). A small, short, blocky rabbit.

CYLINDRICAL (BODY TYPE). Having a straight topline, a characteristic of only the Himalayan.

DENSITY. The degree to which hairs appear close to one another in a given area of skin.

DEWLAP. A flap of skin and fur that develops under the chin of some rabbits, particularly pregnant does.

DOE. Female rabbit.

DWARF. Any of the rabbit breeds that weighs less than 4 pounds (1.8 kg) at maturity; specifically a Netherland Dwarf.

FANCIER. One who raises rabbits or other animals for show.

FANCY. The hobby of showing rabbits or other animals.

Downloaded from Vet-eBooks.com

FLYBACK. A coat in which the fur immediately "flies back" to its original position after being rubbed in the opposite direction.

FULL-ARCH (BODY TYPE). Having a hare-like appearance, with long front legs.

FURNISHINGS. The fringes, bangs, ear tassels, and side-of-head trimmings that occur to varying extents in Angora breeds.

GUARD HAIRS. Coarse hairs that are typically longer than the softer undercoat.

INBREEDING. The breeding of closely related animals, such as full siblings.

KIT. Baby rabbit, especially one that is not weaned (typically under six weeks old).

LINE BREEDING. The breeding of related animals, though generally not parent/offspring or full-sibling pairings.

MUZZLE. The nose and lower part of a rabbit's face.

PEDIGREE. A three-generation record of ancestry.

PELAGE. The fur coat of a rabbit or other furred animal.

PELT. The harvested skin and attached fur of a rabbit or other fur-bearer.

PLUSH. Fur that is dense, fine, and soft.

PRIME. A fur coat that is at the peak of its health and lushness.

RABBITRY. A place where numerous rabbits are raised.

RACY. Having a slim, athletic, and active appearance.

Downloaded from Vet-eBooks.com

REGISTERED. Having a three-generation purebred pedigree certified by ARBA registrar.

ROLLBACK. A coat in which the fur stands up briefly before gradually returning to its original position after having been rubbed in the opposite direction.

SEMI-ARCH (BODY TYPE). Having a relatively long body that rises from the shoulder to the hips.

SENIOR. Any rabbit over six months of age in most breeds; any rabbit over eight months of age in medium and large or giant breeds.

THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY (formerly the American Livestock Breeds Conservancy). A nonprofit organization focused on preserving rare breeds of livestock.

WARREN. An outdoor community of free-roaming rabbits and their burrows, often maintained by human overseers.

UNDERCOAT. The coat of fur closest to the rabbit's body; an underlying coat.

UNDERCOLOR. The color of the undercoat (underwool), often in contrast to the color of the outer coat or guard hairs.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Further Reading

ARBA. *Standard of Perfection: Standard Bred Rabbits & Cavies, 2011–2015*. ARBA, 2011.

Johnson, Samantha. *The Rabbit Book*. Voyageur Press, 2011.

Martin, Sarah. *The Everything Pet Rabbit Handbook*. Privately printed, 2014.

Nowak, Ronald M. *Walker's Mammals of the World*, 6th ed. Vol. 1, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999.

Park, Karen. *The Rabbit Handbook*. Barron's Educational Series, 2010.

Russell, Geoff. *Mini Encyclopedia of Rabbit Breeds & Care*. Firefly Books, 2009.

Whitman, Bob D. *Domestic Rabbits and Their Histories*. Leathers Publishing, 2004.

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Other Resources

AMERICAN RABBIT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Bloomington, Illinois

www.arba.net

THE BRITISH RABBIT COUNCIL

Newark, England

info@thebrc.org

www.thebrc.org

THE DOMINION RABBIT & CAVY BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Amaranth, Ontario

www.drcba.ca

HOUSE RABBIT SOCIETY

www.rabbit.org

THE LIVESTOCK CONSERVANCY

Pittsboro, North Carolina

919-542-5704

www.livestockconservancy.org

NATIONAL 4-H COUNCIL

Chevy Chase, Maryland

http://4-h.org

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

NATIONAL FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA ORGANIZATION

Indianapolis, Indiana

888-332-2668

www.ffa.org

RABBIT GEEK

www.rabbitgeek.com

RAISING RABBITS

www.raising-rabbits.com

SMALLANIMALCHANNEL.COM

www.smallanimalchannel.com

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Acknowledgments

The author thanks the following individuals for contributions of time, effort, and information, during the production of this book: From ARBA, Ruth-Ann Bell (District 9 Director), Carrie Johnson, Rebecca Jones, and Eric Stewart; Kimberly Grapski, photo assistant; and Ilona Sherratt and Mars Vilaubi of Storey Publishing for their contributions to the photography, as well as my editors, Deb Burns and Lisa Hiley.

The following individuals graciously provided the rabbit models (breeds in parentheses):

Abbott, June (Satin Angora)

Adams, Alexandra (Holland Lop, Belgian Hare)

Adams, Mike (Mini Satin)

Albarran, Brittney (Havana)

Alger, Molly (Blanc de Hotot)

Anderson, Ellen (Thrianta)

Arena, Olivia (Holland Lop)

Bandy, Renee (Crème d'Argent)

Bowlby, Alyssa (French Angora)

Brannan, Faith (Dwarf Hotot, Himalayan)

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Caniglia, Christina (Havana)

Casper, Amy (Jersey Wooly, Silver Fox)

Chase, David (Dutch)

Clark, Kimberly (Standard Chinchilla)

Clemens, Deb (French Angora, American Chinchilla)

Cochran, James (Netherland Dwarf)

Crise, Michelle (Rex)

Ditter, Kathy (Jersey Wooly)

Dirienzo, Shauna (Tan)

Dunn, Caroline (Polish)

Earnest, Brandon (Satin, Himalayan)

Emley, Maggie (Havana)

Fine, Becky (Checkered Giant)

Fine, Brad (Silver Marten)

Fisher, Allyson (Palomino)

Flaherty, Kaitlyn (French Lop)

Freund, Sarah (Harlequin)

Funk, Misty and Hannah (American)

Greiner, Elizabeth (American Sable)

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Hamann, Trinity (English Lop)

Himmelberger, Bruce (New Zealand)

Johnson, Lacey (English Lop)

Kamer, Denise (Silver Fox)

Katyon, Alyssa (Mini Rex)

Kelly, Paula (Rex, Lilac)

Klein, Makenzie (Dwarf Hotot)

Krog, Ashley (Britannia Petite)

Lawrence, Virdanna (New Zealand Red)

Loeper, Matt (Silver)

Marshall, Michelle (Lionhead)

Mason, Emily and Nancy (Dutch, English Spot, Checkered Giant)

McKissick, Elizabeth (American)

Miller, Ann Marie (American Fuzzy Lop)

Miller, Emmalee (English Spot, Lionhead)

Muller, Cindi (Satin Angora)

Muszelik, Jenna (Netherland Dwarf)

Newman, Alexandria and Zackary (English Lop, English Spot, French Lop)

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Osborn, Judy and Phillip (Giant Angora)

Pellicone, Amy (Californian)

Pispisa, Jennie (Thrianta)

Ramthun, Brianna (English Angora)

Reed, Hunter (Polish)

Reitnauer, Keith (American Chinchilla)

Rourke, Angela and Brianna (Polish)

Ruark, Amanda (English Angora)

Rush, Patrick (Palomino)

Sartell, Jennifer (Satin, Flemish Giant)

Schweikart, Charlotte (French Angora)

Serrin, Stephanie (Mini Lop)

Shaw, Madison (Giant Angora)

Shenk, Morgan (Dwarf Hotot, Lilac)

Stalnaker, Carissa (Californian)

Steele, Tammy (Netherland Dwarf)

Strohl, Xanthia (Rhinelander)

Theurer, Jim (Argente Brun, Champagne de Argent)

Tushar, Brynna (Florida White)

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Udovich, Joey (Netherland Dwarf)

Usakowski, Taylor and Jessica (Jersey Wooly)

VanSciver, Grace (Californian, Mini Lop)

Velcheck, Peter and Joanne (Checkered Giant)

Vivian, Hannah (Mini Rex, American Fuzzy Lop)

Walsh, Rachel (Polish)

Waltz, Michelle (Californian)

Weist, Sara (Holland Lop)

White, Richard (Rhinelander)

White, Robyn (Lilac)

Whitehouse, Meg (Beveren, Giant Chinchilla, Belgian Hare)

Witherow, Kim (French Angora, Satin Angora)

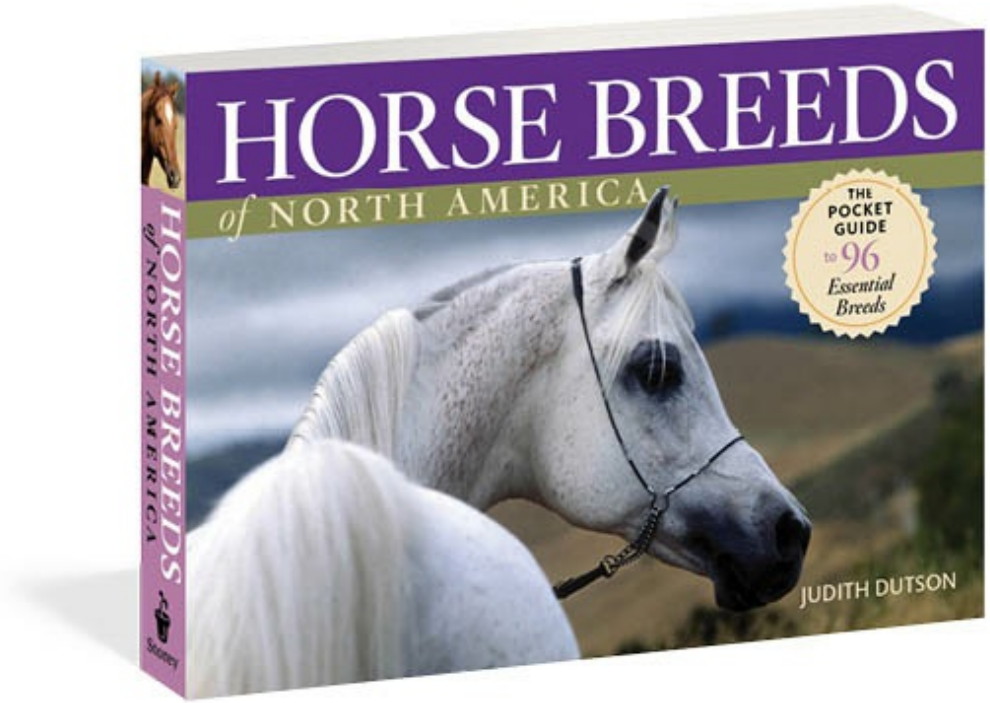
Woods, Kristin (Cinnamon)

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Expand Your Breed Knowledge!

Horse Breeds of North America

by Judith Dutson



No horse lover can resist this perfect pocket guide to 96 horse breeds of all shapes, sizes, and colors. See each breed galloping, grazing, and working, with conformation, historical, and usage facts accompanying the full-page photography.

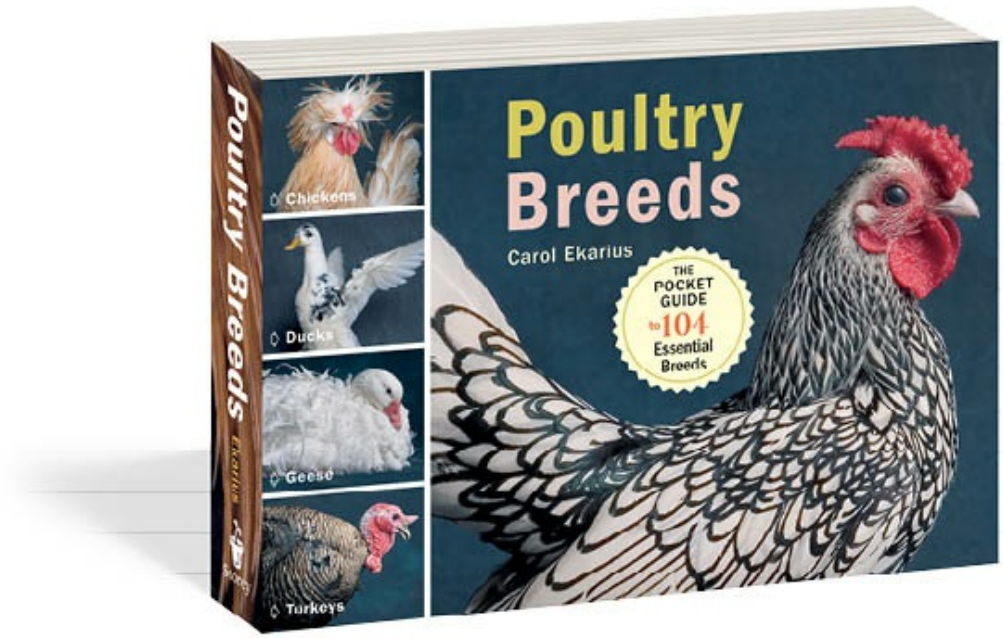
Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

READ MORE AT STOREY.COM

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Poultry Breeds

by Carol Ekarius



This definitive volume has more than 120 barnyard fowl, complete with full-color photographs and detailed descriptions. Farmers and fanciers alike will find everything from laying hens and heritage turkeys to exotic pheasants and giant ostriches.

READ MORE AT STOREY.COM

Downloaded from Vet-eBooks.com

The mission of Storey Publishing is to serve our customers by publishing practical information that encourages personal independence in harmony with the environment.

Edited by Deborah Burns and Lisa H. Hiley

Art direction and book design by Alethea Morrison

Cover and interior photography © Lynn Stone, except: German School (20th century)/Bibliotheque des Arts Decoratifs, Paris, France/Archives Charmet/Bridgeman Images, Easter card; © Christina Lichti/Alamy, Black-tailed Jackrabbit; © FLPA/Alamy, European rabbits; © James Mclaughlin/Alamy, pika; © Martin Smart/Alamy, snowshoe hare; © Print Collector/Getty Images, Br'er Rabbit; © Robin Arnold/iStockphoto, Eastern Cottontail Rabbit; © Tierfotoagentur/Alamy, newborn rabbit

© 2016 by Lynn Stone

Ebook production by Liseann Karandisecky

Ebook version 1.0
August 9, 2016

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced without written permission from the publisher, except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages or reproduce illustrations in a review with appropriate credits; nor may any part of this book be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means — electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or other — without written permission from the publisher.

The information in this book is true and complete to the best of our knowledge. All recommendations are made without guarantee on the part of the author or Storey Publishing. The author and publisher disclaim any liability in connection with the use of this information.

Storey books are available for special premium and promotional uses and for customized editions. For further information, please call 1-800-793-9396.

Storey Publishing

210 MASS MoCA Way

North Adams, MA 01247

www.storey.com

Printed in China by Toppan Leefung Printing Ltd.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data on file

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Share Your Experience!

We value your feedback, and so do your fellow readers. Reviews you leave on goodreads.com and at your ebookstore help more people find and enjoy the books you love. So spread the word, write a review, and share your experience!

REVIEW ON GOODREADS

REVIEW ON AMAZON.COM

EMAIL STOREY

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Table of Contents

Title Page	3
Contents	6
A Bit of Background	10
Introducing the Breeds	29
Glossary of Colors	40
American	45
American Chinchilla	49
American Fuzzy Lop	52
American Sable	56
Argente Brun	59
Belgian Hare	63
Beveren	67
Blanc de Hotot	71
Britannia Petite	74
Californian	78
Champagne d’Argent	81
Checkered Giant	85
Cinnamon	89
Crème d’Argent	91
Dutch	95
Dwarf Hotot	100
English Angora	105
English Lop	110
English Spot	115
Flemish Giant	120
Florida White	122
French Angora	126

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

French Lop 132
Giant Angora 136
Giant Chinchilla 140
Harlequin 143
Havana 147
Himalayan 152
Holland Lop 155
Jersey Wooly 160
Lilac 165
Lionhead 169
Mini Lop 174
Mini Rex 178
Mini Satin 182
Netherland Dwarf 185
New Zealand 191
Palomino 194
Polish 198
Rex 203
Rhinelander 208
Satin 211
Satin Angora 216
Silver 221
Silver Fox 225
Silver Marten 227
Standard Chinchilla 231
Tan 235
Thrianta 239
Glossary 242
Further Reading 245

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com

Other Resources 246
Acknowledgments 248
Expand Your Breed Knowledge! 253
Copyright 256
Share Your Experience! 257

Downloaded From Vet-eBooks.com