

## ARBA CONDITION STANDARD

An ARBA approved definition of condition has been referred to in each breed standard. Each breed has a point allocation according to the emphasis desired.

CONDITION-All animals (rabbits and cavies) are to have a definite appearance of health and vigor. They are to be bold and bright of eye. All animals are to have a good coat, firmly set in the pelt. They are to be firm in flesh covering, neither too fat, with soft, flabby flesh; not too thin in flesh, creating a bony effect when examined. Flesh is to be deep and even over the entire body.

### ARBA GENERAL FAULTS (ALL BREEDS)

Specimen that are in molt or otherwise out of condition (but not diseased). Hutch stains. Stray white hairs in colored fur. Poor tail carriage that is not permanently set to either side. Poor ear carriage. Poor eye color. Flabby or overly fat. Thin and extremely poor flesh condition.

### ARBA DISQUALIFICATIONS FROM COMPETITION (ALL BREEDS)

Some of the following are considered judgmental in nature, and as such, are not subject to protest. These Disqualifications from Competition will be indicated by an asterisk (\*). NOTE: *All general faults and Disqualifications from Competition apply to each breed's standard, unless specifically exempted.*

#### AILMENTS

ABNORMAL EYE DISCHARGE (\*)-Must be noticeable and pronounced.

COLDS (\*)-The animal must show a white purulent nasal discharge. A wetness around the nostrils or roughened fur on the inside of the foreleg is not sufficient evidence of a cold.

GENERAL (\*)-Ear canker, slobbers, potbelly, vent disease, or abscesses. Many condition, with flakes resembling dandruff or scale on the skin, or at the base of the fur. Infestation by mites, fleas, or lice.

RUPTURE OR HERNIA (\*)-Protrusion of abdominal viscera through the muscle in the abdominal cavity and collecting between the skin and muscle.

TUMOR OR ABNORMAL SWELLING (\*)-A swollen or distended mass forming a lump.

#### GENERAL

ABNORMALITIES (\*)-Any deviation from the normally accepted condition of the body structure. Indications of ill health, or other departures from generally accepted healthy condition.

GENITALIA-Split penis. Neutered animals.

OVERWEIGHT OR UNDERWEIGHT-Not within the minimum and maximum weight limits specified in the breed standard. The minimum junior weight will be at least ½ of the lowest top junior weight for the breed. If the breed does not have a top junior weight limit, the minimum junior weight will be ½ of the bottom senior weight for the breed.

PERMANENT EAR MARK (\*)-Illegible tattoo, or tattoo not in the left ear. Tattoo obliterated by tattoo ink so as to be unreadable.

TESTICLES-All male animals, in the regular showroom classes, must show two normally descended testicles at the time of judging. Juniors and Pre-Juniors are exempted. Juniors and Pre-Juniors must show both or neither testicle. Those showing only one at time of judging are to be disqualified from Competition.

WRONG SEX, BREED, GROUP, OR VARIETY-Disqualification from competition suspends the rabbit from competing in fur and wool classes and changes the number in the class.

## STRUCTURAL

BLINDNESS IN ONE OR BOTH EYES (\*)-Usually indicated by a filming of the cornea, and obstructing the pupil.

CATARACT-Opaque or white lens in either or both eyes.

CONJUNCTIVITIS-An inflammation of the inner membrane of the eyelid and sometimes the portion of the membrane that covers the white of the eye.

CROOKED LEGS (\*)-Bent, Bowed, or deformed legs, or cow hocks, if severe.

DEVIATED OR HOOKED SPINE-A deviation in the spine (vertebrae of the neck and back) whereby the normal alignment of the bones is replaced by deformed, misshapen, or misaligned vertebrae. The condition can often be detected by gentle palpation of the vertebrae along the top line of the rabbit (usually detected in the shoulder area).

DEWLAP (\*)-Disqualify when noted in the breed standard.

EARS (\*)-Ears carried below horizontal in regular eared breeds. Ears naturally carried above horizontal in lop eared breeds. Ears extending horizontally are guilty of poor ear carriage and should be faulted.

MALOCCLUSION-Buck or wolf teeth, which have the lower incisors extending in front of the upper incisors, sometimes curving to the sides, and usually long.

MARBLING-A mottling of eye color. Having two or more distinct pigment colors in the iris of the eye. Marbled eye color is acceptable ONLY in breeds/varieties when specified in the individual breed/variety description.

OFF COLORED EYES-Eyes other than called for in the breed standard.

PEGEON BREAST-A narrow chest with a prominent V protruding breastbone.

SIMPLE MALOCCLUSION/BUTTING TEETH/PEGGED

TEETH (\*)-When teeth meet head on, with no overlap of upper teeth over the lower teeth. Top incisor teeth must overlap the bottom incisor teeth to be acceptable.

SORE HOCKS (\*)-The foot portion showing infection or bleeding, not merely bare.

SPOTS OR SPECKS ON EYE-Spots or specks in the iris or on the cornea.

TAIL (\*)-Permanently set to either side or permanently out of line. The tail is to be considered as an on-line extension of the spine. Screw tail or bobtail. A portion missing, so as to be conspicuously out of proportion. A tail that is hard and brittle due to the loss of circulation is not a disqualification unless broken and out of alignment.

TEETH (\*)-Missing or broken tooth or teeth. The normal bite of the rabbit's teeth has the upper incisors overlapping the bottom incisors.

TOENAILS (\*)-Missing toenail(s), including dewclaw. Toenail too short to determine coloration. A portion of the toenail missing, but allowing the determination of the pigmentation is acceptable. Unmatched toenail(s) on the same foot or corresponding foot, including the dewclaw. Toenails lighter than called for in the breed standard shall be considered a fault. White toenail(s) disqualify in all colored breeds and varieties, including Himalayans, Californians and Pointed Whites. Colored toenail(s) disqualify in white or marked breeds and varieties in combination with white, unless specifically exempted in the breed standard.

TORN EARS OR EARS WITH PORTION MISSING (\*)-Must noticeably detract from the general appearance of the animal.

WALL EYE-Sometimes called moon eye. An eye with a whitish colored cornea, giving a milky appearance to the eye(s).

UNMATCHED EYES-Two eyes not of the same color.

## COLOR

AGOUTI PATTERN-Lack of ring definition on Agouti Patterned animals. Allowances should be made for pre-juniors, juniors, and animals in heavy molt.

ALTERING APPEARANCE (\*)-Any dyeing, plucking, trimming, or clipping so as to alter appearance. Coloring toenails. Any faking, including powdering and indiscriminate use of grooming preparations designed to alter the natural condition or appearance. NOTE: *Disqualification of any animal for altering of appearance may result in the disqualification of the exhibitor's entire entry under ARBA Show Rules.*

BROKEN COLOR (\*)-Broken with less than 10% coloration, in the judge's opinion.

POINT COLOR-Californian, Himalayan, and Pointed White animals will often exhibit a dark sepia coloration, which appears almost black. This is normal, and rabbits should not be disqualified for the dark sepia, or for molting, frosting, or dilution, which makes the color indistinct. The darker the color, and the closer the color approach pure black, the more desirable it becomes.

SHADED VARIETIES-Complete lack of discernible shading on any Shaded animal.

SMUT-Smut on the usable portion of the pelt in Pointed White, Californian, or Himalayan marked breeds and varieties.

SPOTS (\*)-Foreign colored spots in any animal. White spots in a colored animal. Colored spots in a white animal. All apply unless specifically exempted in the breed standard.

TAN PATTERN-Any Tan Pattern marking appearing in the marking pattern of Pointed White, Himalayan, or Californian marked breeds or varieties.

WHITE HAIR (\*)-Excessive white hairs in colored section.

WRONG UNDERCOLOR-Color other than called for in the breed or variety standard. Shade variations are acceptable, but considered a fault.

### UNWORTHY OF AN AWARD (\*)

Any animal that has any deviation from the standard to such a degree that it is non representative of that breed's requirements, shall not be placed and a notation shall be made by the judge, "*Unworthy of An Award.*" It shall be either worthy of a first place with only one in the class, or not placed with the above remark. It is possible that more than one rabbit competing in the same class may be determined to be "*Unworthy of an Award.*" The number in a class must be reduced for any animals excused for this reason.

Judges may deem Unworthy of An Award any animal they feel is an obviously older animal shown down in a younger age classification.

## REGISTRATION

If in a registrar's opinion, the Animal should be "*Unworthy of Registration,*" it would not be eligible for registration.

Animals applying for registration must meet all senior breed requirements.

Animal must be at least six months old to register.

For registration purposes, senior weight requirements shall apply to all breeds.

### CHANGES IN THE NUMBER OF ANIMALS IN A CLASS

Any animal Disqualified from Competition for wrong sex, breed, group, variety, or deemed Unworthy of An Award must be subtracted from the official number shown in the class. All listed disqualifications render that animal ineligible for competition in any other recognized class.

### VICIOUS ANIMAL (\*)

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

## STANDARD & GUIDE FOR JUDGING MEAT PENS

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

Meat pens shall consist of three rabbits, all of the same breed and variety. Broken group meat pens must also be of the same variety. A meat pen does not necessarily have to come from the same litter. Age limit 10 weeks. Minimum weight 3 ½ pounds each. Maximum weight 5 ½ pounds each. All rabbits must be weighed in the presence of the judge.

### POINT SCHEDULE FOR JUDGING MEAT PENS

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

MEAT TYPE-Points 40: The most desirable animals are those with commercial type. The body should be heavily muscled and well rounded. The back legs should be thickly muscled and extend far down the leg toward the hock joint. The loin should be wide and thick starting from the rib cage and continuing to the hip loin juncture. The rib cage should be deep, well sprung, and have a wide chest floor to properly house the heart and lungs, all of which are vital in the animal's growth. The front legs should also be considered in evaluating the animals and should carry enough muscle to balance and correctly support the animal. The hindquarters are most important, loin second, and forequarters are third in importance.

FAULTS: Fault for large frame, heavy bone, large head, thick ears, heavy hide. Fault animals that are thinly muscled, tapered in the loin, narrow chested, and exhibit protruding hips.

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

UNIFORMITY-Points 20: Uniformity reflects the ability of the exhibitor to select three fryers for the pen that have similar traits. Uniformity must be present in weight, size, appearance, condition, meat type, and fur, and should be as similar in all respects as possible.

All six elements of uniformity are to be valued evenly.

FAULT: Lack of uniformity.

FUR-Points 10: Fur should conform to the breed description in the standard and be uniform on all three animals in the pen.

### Disqualifications from Competition-All ARBA

Disqualifications from competition and breed disqualifications from competition apply to each meat pen, with the following exceptions: Body smut on pointed white marked animals.

Bucks must show both or neither testicle. Those showing only one at time of judging are to be disqualified from competition.

FAULTS: Stained or dirty animals

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