

ITS SHOW TIME!

By Melanie Lyons-NY State 4-H Rabbit Ambassador

NEWSLETTER #4

We all know that spring is here and that means spring cleaning! It also means that there will be some more shows. Let's talk signing up for a show and cleaning tips.

Shows: signing up for a show sounds easy but there are things you need to be careful of. First, you have to decide on what show to go to. Once you've decided, find the show catalog. It is usually online, but some 4-H shows come in the mail. Also if you are a member of the club you'll get it through a meeting or the mail. Make sure you sign up by the due dates. When filling out the form be sure to be thorough and fill it out correctly. If you have any questions about the show ask a member of the club or the secretary. When filling out a form do not abbreviate. Also, make sure you don't confuse the showroom classification and the registration variety. The showroom classification is the color of group the rabbit is shown in according to the ARBA Standard of Perfection or the 4-H catalog (for 4-H shows) the registration variety is the actual variety of the rabbit. Sometimes the registration variety is the same as the showroom classification. For example, in Holland lops a tortoise shell is shown under solid (showroom classification), but its registration variety is black tortoise shell. Finally, fill out your form in alphabetical order. In other words, agoutis come before brokens in Jersey wooly. Also, write down your senior bucks before your senior does, then your junior bucks, then junior does. This helps the secretary a lot. Also, make sure when you email your entries in you get a reply back confirming your entries. Also always bring a copy of your entries or the email in case of confusion or if

the secretary forgot to enter a rabbit so that you have proof that it wasn't your mistake. Another thing to know is when you show at your first ARBA show try to show only one breed because the breeds are shown at different tables at the same time unlike a 4-h show where there is usually only one table. Also, just go to a show without any rabbits just to get the feel of a show and you can learn. Most breeders will be happy to help you or answer any questions you might have. One last thing, make sure you get your rabbits up on the show table at the correct time and as quickly as possible. This helps the show run smoothly and quicker. Don't forget to BEHAVE, LISTEN, and PAY ATTENTION when you're up at the table showing your rabbits. Have fun!

Here is an example of a form. The tattoo number must be a permanent number/name in the left ear. Remember to list your varieties in alphabetical order. This will make your show secretary very happy. After you variety, remember to list your rabbits in order, sr buck, sr doe, jr buck, jr doe.

<u>Tatoo</u>	<u>Breed</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Oreo	Mini Rex	Broken Pattern	Sr	Buck	\$3
Snickers	Mini Rex	Castor	Sr	Doe	\$3
BB4	Mini Rex	Castor	Jr	Buck	\$3

When looking up a show for ARBA, you can go to the arba website.

<https://www.arba.net/showsSearch.php#showsearch>

Or you can go to www.arba.net and click on Member Resources/Shows/Show Search

You will have a screen that looks like this.

This is a wonderful tool to look up shows. You can put your state or a state that you wish to go to and click the Search Shows Listing button and all the shows for that state will be listed. You can just put a show date in if you have a day free and want to go to a show. Again, click the Search Shows Listing and all the shows for that day will appear for ALL states.

As I mentioned before, it is spring and that means spring cleaning. Here are some tips:

- Put your rabbits in show carriers while you clean their real cage. Be sure to disinfect it. Rinse it off thoroughly.
- Dump out and clean all your water bottles and feed dishes. This should be done quite often throughout the year.
- If you have a wool breed and there is a lot of hair built up on the bottom of a metal cage you can use a wire brush to remove the hair. (only on a dry cage. Have water nearby in case of an accident)
- Shop Vacs are useful to remove dangling poop or hair. I find it nice to do that frequently and it limits some cleaning.
- Allow the wet cage to dry and put the rabbit back in the cage with fresh food and water.
- Open up rabbitry doors to allow air to ventilate

If you need more supplies check out Pointer Hill Pet Products. They have some very nice, sturdy equipment. The workers are helpful too. They offer a discount to 4-Hers too.

<http://www.pointerhillcagesandpetsupplies.com/>

Thank you Dru Shepherd and Katrina Przybylowski for the Breed ID pictures!



Breed: English Angora Fur Type: Wool

Showroom classification: Colored

Variety: Lilac Tortoise Shell

Class: 4-class

Body Type: Compact



Breed: French Lop Fur Type: Rollback

Showroom classification: Broken Pattern

Variety: Broken Chinchilla

Class: 6-class

Body Type: Commercial