

RABBITCON: FULL ARCH BREEDS

Presented by:

Kelly Flynn, ARBA Judge #920

blueribbonrabbtry@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

- Full Arch Breeds:
 - Posed Breeds:
 - Britannia Petites and Belgian Hares*
 - Running Breeds:
 - Tans, English Spots, Checkered Giants and Rhinelanders
- We will discuss:
 - Personality
 - Care
 - Breeding
 - Stock Selection
 - Show Preparation
 - Showing



PERSONALITY

- Full Arch rabbits are more high strung than your average rabbit
- Most are NOT aggressive
- Highly intelligent
- Easily bored



CARE: CAGES

- Types:
 - Solid bottom cages: Checkered Giants and Belgian Hares
 - All wire cages: Tans, Britannia Petites, Rhinelanders and English Spots
 - Height of 18” for Brits and 24” minimum for all others
- Dimensions (single rabbits):
 - Britannia Petites – 18” X 24” or smaller
 - Tans – 18” X 24”
 - English Spots/Rhinelanders – 24” X 24”
 - Checkered Giants and Belgian Hares – 24” X 48”

CARE: CAGES

- Bigger is not always better!
 - Remember: these are high strung animals and they are more injury prone
- Does with litters:
 - Unreliable, high strung does may do best kindling in smaller cages
 - These does can then be moved to larger cages once their litter gets older and is no longer at a high risk for neglect or injury

SOLID BOTTOM CAGES



SOLID BOTTOM CAGES



CARE: EQUIPMENT

- Feeders/Watering:
 - Any standard feeder is appropriate. You may wish to place J-feeders high since full arch breeds have long limbs
 - Water bottles, crocks, automatic systems are all acceptable
- Nestboxes:
 - 2” Longer and 1” Wider
 - Higher front
 - Top



CARE: ENVIRONMENT

- Key to remember: these are easily excitable animals
 - More injury prone
- Limit visits from strangers and/or other animals
- Avoid loud/sudden noises
- Radio to drown out sudden noises

BREEDING

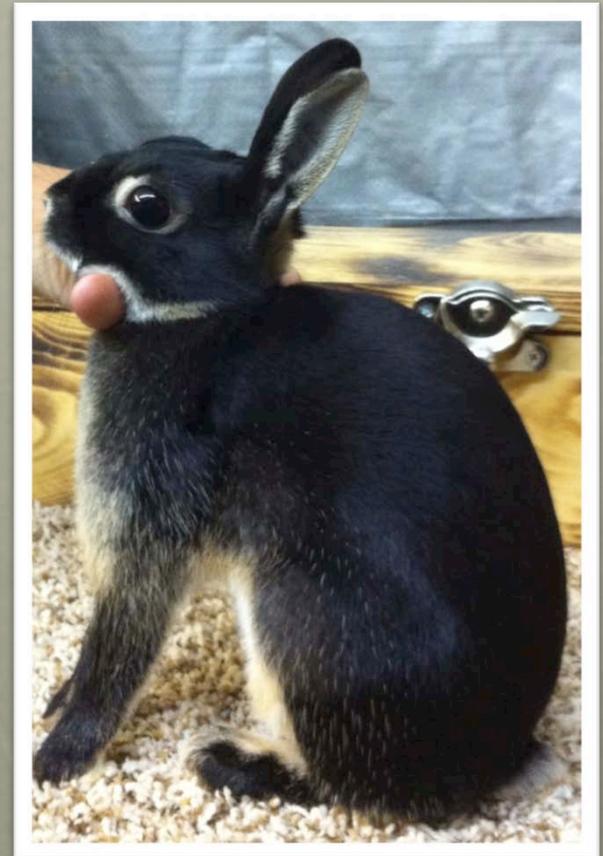
- Table Breeding
 - May be necessary with rabbits that are very cage territorial
 - However, may increase risk of injury/falling off table
- Cage Breeding
 - Usually the best method
 - Use traditional buck to doe's cage approach
- Honeymoon cottage
 - This involves a buck and doe co-habiting for an extended period of time
 - Should only be used when does are very difficult to get bred
 - No supervision means that injuries may occur

SELECTING STOCK

- It is imperative to understand difference between a rabbit lacking “table confidence” and a poorly structured animal
- For running breed: Watch the animal move freely and do not touch the animal at all!
 - Remember: there are no points on running itself!
- For posed breeds: Continuously work with them

SHOW PREPARATION

- Training Posed Breeds
 - Most important tip: pose your rabbits using each and every possible method a judge may use at a show
 - See posing session by Josh Humphries for more details
 - Handle your rabbits as often as possible
 - Trim toenails regularly



SHOW PREPARATION

- Training Running Breeds
 - Running table
 - Mimic judging table OR
 - Deeper table for multiple rabbits
 - Handle rabbits regularly and allow them to run on a table as often as possible
 - Exercise pens also work well
 - Trimmed toenails



RUNNING TABLE



SHOWING

- Reduce excitement of fine boned animals
 - Covering carriers may be necessary for certain rabbits
- Warm up your runners in the morning
 - Either do this at home OR early in the showroom before judges arrive as they may want use of their table
- Bring carriers to table. Do not attempt to carry rabbits across the showroom
- Assist fellow exhibitors with holding in rabbits if the judging coops are uncovered.

CREDIT

- Amanda Wampner & Maddie Pratt
- Krista Moe
- Jeanne Walton
- Paul Threapleton
- Chris and Terri Brunette & Mary-Ann Sedletzeck