



JUDGE ALONG

at the Missouri State Fair

Rabbits

What a judge might look for in rabbits:

- ◆ A properly balanced rabbit that is also uniform in weight.
- ◆ Straight front and hind legs.
- ◆ Good overall physical condition (ex. cleanliness, health).
- ◆ Good fur texture and exceptional fur quality.
- ◆ All markings that are correctly positioned on each breed.
- ◆ Eyes and toenails that are the proper color, depending on the breed.
- ◆ A meaty loin on commercial breeds.

TERMS

- Buck:** a male rabbit
- Doe:** a female rabbit
- Junior:** a rabbit younger than 6 months
- Intermediate:** a rabbit between 6-8 months

What a judge may look for in the show ring:

- ◆ Showmanship includes general appearance, especially cleanliness of the animal and the exhibitor's ability to control and pose the animal during judging.
- ◆ Each exhibitor brings his/her rabbit to the show table, where the judge examines each animal.
- ◆ Rabbits are grouped into classes for judging purposes (ex. senior buck, New Zealand White, etc.).
- ◆ There is a winner from each class. The judge selects the breed champion from the winners of the classes.
- ◆ A good showman is polite and courteous to other exhibitors and pays attention to both the animal and to the judge at all times.

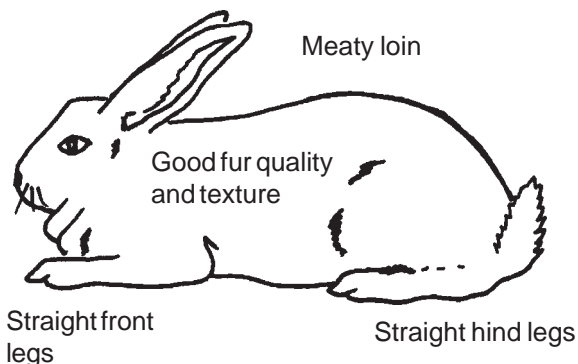
You give it a try and see how your placings compare to the judge's (fill in the exhibitor's number):

Your Choice:

- 1st Place _____
- 2nd Place _____
- 3rd Place _____
- 4th Place _____
- 5th Place _____

Judge's Decision:

- 1st Place _____
- 2nd Place _____
- 3rd Place _____
- 4th Place _____
- 5th Place _____



Look for similar "Judge Along" sheets near the other livestock show rings, or at www.mostatefair.com

Little Known Facts About Rabbits

1. Rabbits...
 - ... were first domesticated by man in Africa.
 - ... were first considered for food in Asia 3,000 years ago.
 - ... have been marketed in Europe for well over 1,000 years.
 - ... are eaten by the inhabitants of all the continents.
 - ... are now being raised all over the world at a profit for meat, pelts and wool.
 - ... are raised in all states in the U.S. and its territories.
 - ... are a valuable agricultural animal and not just pets.
 - ... are used for meat, fur, wool, laboratory, medical products, toys, novelties, and fertilizer.
 - ... produce over 6,000,000 lbs. of rabbit meat each year.
 - ... are one of the highest nutritional meats available.
 - ... show a larger pound of gain for pound of feed than any other animal.
 - ... are the only animal that will produce ten times its own weight in a year.
 - ... can be eaten year round, as they are non-heat flushing.
 - ... have a 30 to 32 day gestation period.
 - ... can be bred all year round.
2. Each rabbit will show a profit from \$12.00 to \$20.00 depending on factors.
3. Rabbit meat can be prepared over 300 different ways.
4. The wool of the rabbit is lighter and warmer than any other known.
5. Up to 93% of the rabbit can be used.
6. Only 7% to 8% of domestic rabbit is bone.
7. Domestic rabbits have no communicable disease injurious to humans.
8. Rabbit meat is good for people with stomach disorders, easily digested.
9. Domestic rabbit is an all-white meat.
10. Rabbit manure is among the best; high in nitrogen content.
11. A doe and litter may be kept in a space 30" by 36" with comfort.
12. Baby rabbits will double their weight in six days compared to 14 to 47 for other meat animals.
13. Does have been known to kindle as many as 23 young.
14. The largest rabbit on record weighed 23 lbs., another was reported up to 26 lbs.



To be successful in rabbit raising, join the ARBA (American Rabbit Breeders Association), your local club and your specialty club, if possible.

* *From A Progressive Program for Raising Better Rabbits and Cavies, published by the ARBA*