

Sankt Vith (B), 14. April 2007

Minutes of the 4. Judges' Seminar - Rabbits
Saturday, 14. April 2007 at 1.30pm in Sankt Vith, Belgium

Chair: Jo Vanhommerig – President – Netherlands
Minutes: Dieter Plumanns – Secretary - Belgium
Attendance: 51 Judges from 14 countries

Agenda:

1. Opening and Welcome by the Section President

The President welcomed all participants to Belgium.

2. Attendance

51 judges from 14 countries had made it to Belgium. See attached sheet which is included in the documentation folder; not mentioned were:

Herbert Zens, who took over as head judge from Dieter Plumanns, who was in charge of coordinating the seminar.

Last minute amendments were:

7.4 Dace Kula Let

3.2 Tomaz Benedik

3. Programme

The topics for discussion were divided into 10 themes. Each theme was headed by a head judge and all participants were divided into 10 groups.

Each participant was given the documentation and the topics for discussion. The head judge in each theme group briefly introduced the rabbits. The judges then proceeded to judge 2 rabbits in each theme group.

4. Evaluation – Report by the Head Judges

Jo Vanhommerig NL Head Judge „Colours“

Fawn: Judges do not know this colour well enough. The differences were pointed out –see standard description. Judges often recognise this colour as a poor yellow. Disqualification in topcolour is: hind quarters – blue-ish undercolour on flanks.

Marten dark sable:

Both rabbits could have been darker in flanks and belly. Differences in the undercolour on belly –marten coloured brown-blue.

This dark sable colour is very useful for breeding purposes, especially for crossing to albinos or Himalayans.

France is very tolerant of varying topcolour.

Peter Mickmann D Head Judge 'Agouti Colours'

Agouti colour

„German Giants‘ – hare colour.

In Belgium ‚Flemish Giants‘

Three Dwarfs; one steel and two of which were agouti.

Judgment of the Hare colour was very varied, whilst the steel was pretty uniform. One steel was almost dark grey. The dwarfs were better for colour.

Varying judgment of type and shape was also seen. Fly ears were disqualified, which was very harsh. Head judge should not have countersigned.

Question: What is the belly colour like for hare colour (yellowish – creamish) and agouti (white).

Steel giant –all 95 points –very good judgment.
The dwarfs showed considerable difference in judgment.

Germany has introduced maximum weight limits, so as to retain the type, but also because of animal welfare:

Giants (all colours)	: 11,5kg
Giant Lotharingen	: 10 Kg
French Lops:	: 9 Kg

Gustave Chapelier B Head Judge 'Belgian breeds'
A white Giant:
Same judgment from all judges.

Blue de Ham:
Reasonably uniform judgment, despite the fact that the breed is not well known. Good, even colour.

Blue de Sint Niklaas
Differing judgments, but the quality of the rabbit was questionable. Was even disqualified for its coat, which did not correspond to the standard description.

White de Dendermonde: Differing judgments, as the breed is not well known outside Belgium. A French judge correctly disqualified the rabbit.

Belgian Hare
Two lines of judging: Belgian and Dutch orientated judges tend to underline the length and stance, whereas German orientated judges (Pascal Schmit L) underline the rounding of the hind quarters.
All judges tend to agree on the length of front legs.
In Luxembourg great improvements have been made in the last 20 years on the hindquarters of Belgian Hares.

Belgian Silver
Very uniform judgments.

Thérèse Tompers L Head Judge 'Rex'
Thérèse Tompers thanked all judges, but criticised the lack of comments on the comment cards –the positions were disregarded.

Bald patches – Black Rex: One judge disqualified it whilst the other did not.

White-Rex: heavy type with narrow head – coat was good

The Rexes were commendable.

Yvon Weissenbacher F Head Judge 'Rex'

Marten colours in Rexes – blue and sable. There were some very good rabbits present. Type, coat and coat structure was very good.

Many judges did not understand the comment cards. They were not filled in properly, according to the European standard.

A Marten Rex was awarded 97 points, despite small patches.

A blue agouti Rex: thoughts should be given to the guard hairs when judging the colour.

All Rexes scored between 94 and 96 points. Some countries preferred the softer coat (problems with bald patches on hind feet).

Back leg stretched out – sole covered in fur = OK in Germany, otherwise disqualification.

Jacques Witry L Head Judge 'Dwarf Rex'

Various colours:

Castor: Very good specimen – another was a bit long.

Judging very uniform.

One judged an 'Otter' as a 'black'?!

The Black : 3 x disqualification.

Dalmatian / Himalayan: good judgment

None had less than 18 points in „coat“ –almost all scored between 18,5 and 19 points.

Pastel: This colour was recently standardised in Slovakia –slightly pale yellow to brown with white to cream undercolour on the back. The undercolour on the belly is dark cream. This colour could be discussed at the next seminar. A standard description is available.

Markus Vogel CH Head Judge 'Swiss Fox'

Swiss Fox

- black: judged very well.
- chinchilla: 3 x96 – 1x 93points.

Chestnut brown Lotharinger:

Great variation in judgment with great differences in type and shape. Many were favouring a shape similar to the Alaska –the fine, elegant shape was disregarded.

Dwarf Rex: black –was disqualified 5 times because of white patch

Dalmatian – markings were excellent.

The implementation on the rabbits – see photos.

Also consult report of the second seminar.

Dieter Meister D Head Judge 'Satin'

Various colours were judged. As time went on the rabbits lost quite a bit of condition. To start with the Satins reached 19 points in shape and type; after a while one was even justifiably disqualified because of a dewlap. The question should be asked whether it is fair to have one rabbit judged so many times in one day. Some Satins had little satinisation.

Many rabbits had long nails; unacceptable for both rabbit and judges.

Phenomenon – Dwarf Satin! Accepted in France and the Czech Republic.

Josef Blokesch CZ Head Judge 'Angora / Gent Bearded rabbit'

2 Angoras:

One had non rounded hindquarters. Lacked density on its back. The second had very good density, but was matted on hindquarters and head.

Coat length was more than 10cm. –already too long for show purposes.

„Matted“ coat comes under which position? Position 4 or 7 –the owners should brush the rabbit more often. Matting is penalised under position 4 in the Czech Republic.

1 Dwarf Angora:

Little ear furnishings – otherwise good.

2 Gent Bearded rabbit:

The judges did not know this breed; a lot of judges did not know the Belgian breeds. It would be helpful to discuss these breeds even more thoroughly at a future occasion.

Herbert Zens CZ Head Judge 'Belgian breeds'

All judges had been given good breed descriptions. Better preparation would have been helpful.

The comment cards were filled in in a variety of ways –it is important to derive from the card what is good and/or bad about the exhibit, as much for the fanciers as for the breed. A number of judges had made no comments at all.

Stone Rabbit:

One was disqualified – deformed penis.

Blue Beveren:

One had a deformed front leg.

Perlgrey de Halle:

Best judgment – almost unanimous.

In future, all head judges have to present and describe the breed first. Agreement has to be reached whilst the rabbits are being judged. The animals get too stressed.

5. Any Other Business

Bert Andersson: The rabbits should be kept on the table instead of being put back into their pens all the time.

Josef Blokesch insisted that the comment cards had to be filled in better.

Günter Möller agreed and said that more had to be written on the cards. Positive remarks were also imperative, e.g. very good head, ears slightly folded etc.

The grey Bourbonnais should be discussed once more on Sunday!

Jo Vanhommerig
President

Dieter Plumanns
Secretary