



# Southern Alberta Rabbit Breeder's Association

Established in 1944

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## Editor's Comments

It's hard to believe the year is coming to a close already.

We've had our AGM last month and it looks like the new executive will look very much like the old executive, with a few changes. Steve Stoyko is stepping down as Director - THANKS Steve for driving all those miles to contribute to the club! It was truly appreciated. I will also be stepping down from my position as Secretary but staying on as Director. I'll continue to look after the website as

well as edit the newsletter - unless someone else wants either job! The roles of Treasurer and Secretary will be combined and Ruth will take over both jobs.

Ruth made the trek to the ARBA Convention this year so we look forward to some tales and pictures in the new year.... right Ruth?

Other than that it's been fairly quiet - preparations are underway for the 2011 spring show and as always volunteers are

welcome!

Please remember that renewals are due!!



So, here's wishing you all a safe and happy season.

*Merry Christmas to all!!!*

## Upcoming Events

### NEXT MEETING:

**Regular Features:**  
**Saturday, February 5, 2011, at 2:00 PM**

**Chestermere Recreation Center.**

### Meeting Dates 2011 (tentative)

- Sat. March 26 at Chestermere Rec Centre at 2 p.m.
- Sun. June 5 at Chestermere Rec Centre at 2 p.m.
- no August meeting planned
- Sat. Sept. 17 Chestermere Fall Fair
- [AGM] Sat. Nov 5 at Chestermere Rec Centre at 2:00 p.m.- AGM

### SHOWS:

#### Upcoming Shows:

If you know of any, share!

**For Listings, See:**  
<http://www.arbadist1.com/shows.htm>



# Introduction to Coat Colour Genetics, Part II by Katrin Becker

## The 5 Main Groups: A(agouti), B(black), C(colour), D(dilution), E(extension)

There are 5 main colour genes: A, B, C, D, E (that's easy to remember!). There are others that control for spotting (**en**), dutch markings (**du**), and other things, but we'll get into those later. For now we'll deal with the first four.

### Agouti (A, at, a)

The agouti gene is also called the pattern gene and there are three different alleles. They determine how the colour is distributed on the body and the individual hairs. The pattern we often call 'agouti' is the basic "wild" colour and is dominant (**A**). Hairs on different parts of the body are coloured differently, but will have three to five different coloured bands on each hair. It's called Castor and looks different on a Rex because of the shorter hairs. The bands are smaller and the colours appear more intense (see below). On an Angora it also looks different too because the hairs are so much longer. The hairs should have at least three rings: the undercolour should be slate grey; the intermediate colour should be as rich an orange or rufous red as possible, and the tips should be black.

The tan (called otter in Rex) should have a solid body top colour with a lighter undercolour (next to the skin). The underside (from chin through belly to tail) should be white on the surface with a grey undercolour, and there should be a reddish line between the body colour and the undercolour. Tan is represented genetically as **at** and is recessive to **A**. This allele is also responsible for producing martens.

The third allele is recessive to both **A** and **at**, which means that a self (single, solid colour) carries two copies of the **a** gene,

and that two selfs bred together can only ever produce selfs.

Agouti patterns include: castor, amber, opal, lynx, chinchilla. The pattern can also be affected by other genes like the extension gene (**e**) but we will talk about those when we talk about the **E** gene.

### Black (B, b)

This gene has only two variations: black (**B**) and brown (**b**), or chocolate. You can see the difference it makes in the otters below. In an agouti it is the gene that changes a castor into an amber and an opal into a lynx. Black is dominant.

### Dilution (D, d)

We'll deal with dilution next because it too has only two alleles and is relatively simple. What this gene does is make the colour paler, so black becomes blue, chocolate becomes lilac and castor becomes opal. Full colour is dominant.

### Colour (C, c<sup>chd</sup>, c<sup>chl</sup>, c<sup>h</sup>, c)

There are 5 colour (shading) alleles. The shading gene controls the amount of pigment in the hair which can be thought of as relative units of black 'B' and yellow (or red) 'Y' colour. Imagine that the total amount of pigment in hair is the same for all hairs. As a result, shorter hairs appear darker (and also why long-haired varieties look faded). This also explains the shading pattern found in seals, sables, torts, and the pointed colours - the shorter hairs appear darker. The colour pattern of the chinchilla (**c<sup>chd</sup>**) is essentially the same as that for the agouti (**C**) except that it lacks the reddish colour in the mid-band - it has had most of the yellow removed. Here they are, listed in order of dominance (**C** is dominant over all others, **c<sup>chd</sup>** is dominant over the 3 below, and so on. An albino (i.e. a red-eyed white) must

have two copies of the **c** gene which means that if it is bred to another albino, ALL of the babies will be albino. You will not be able to see any other pattern or colour, and the only way to tell what the other genes (**A, B, D, E**) actually are is to do a test breeding.

- C** = Normal [BBBBYYYY]
- c<sup>chd</sup>** = Dark Chinchilla [BBBBY-]
- c<sup>chl</sup>** = Light Chinchilla [shaded : seal & sable] [BB- -]
- c<sup>h</sup>** = Himalayan [BB- -]
- c** = White [Albino : NO colour] [- - - -]

**C** is for full colour; dark chinchilla is an agouti with most of the yellow removed; the shaded gene removes the rest and some of the black; the himalayan restricts the colour to the points only; and white removes ALL colour. While the **C** hides all the others, the 3 at the bottom are not completely dominant over each other so a **c<sup>chl</sup> c<sup>chl</sup>** sable will have better colour than a **c<sup>chl</sup> c** one.

*next time: That tricky E (extension) gene and what we can learn from test breeding.*



Castor



Lynx



Blue



Otter



Chocolate vs Black Otter



From Top: Chinchilla, Castor, Lynx





## Southern Alberta Rabbit Breeders Association

### Membership Application and Dues 2011

Membership is normally for one (1) year, renewable in January of each year.  
New members joining after July may pay half the yearly dues.



<b>Please check one:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>New Membership</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Renewal</b>

<b>Please check or circle one:</b>			
	<b>Adult:</b>	<b>Youth:</b>	<b>Family</b>
<b>1 year:</b>	<b>\$18.00</b>	<b>\$12.00</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>3 years:</b>	<b>\$48.00</b>	<b>\$30.00</b>	<b>\$60.00</b>



I hereby make application to and agree to abide by the constitution and bylaws of the Southern Alberta Rabbit Breeders Association. I understand that said membership includes a bi-monthly copy of the club newsletter and all privileges and benefits of the Association.

<b>Date:</b>		<b>A.R.B.A. Membership #:</b>	
<b>Name:</b>			
<b>Birth Date (if under 10):</b>			
<b>Address:</b>			
<b>City:</b>		<b>Province / State:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>		<b>Postal Code:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>			
<b>Website:</b>			
<b>Rabbitry Name:</b>		<b>A.R.B.A. #</b>	
<b>Breeds Raised:</b>			
<b>Recommended by:</b>			

Please make cheque or money order payable to the **Southern Alberta Rabbit Breeders Association (S.A.R.B.A.)** and send with application to:

**SARBA, Katrin Becker  
MINK HOLLOW FARM**

<b>Received (dates):</b>		<b>Payment Details:</b>		<b>Entered:</b>	
<b>Treasurer:</b>		<b>Cheque #:</b>		<b>Accounts:</b>	
<b>Secretary:</b>		<b>Bank:</b>		<b>Membership:</b>	
<b>Filed:</b>		<b>Amount:</b>		<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Acknowledgement Sent:</b>		<b>Email / Letter</b>			



**S.A.R.B.A  
2010 Executive**

**President:**

**Valdine Short**

- Club Historian

**Vice-President:**

**Chris Berry**

**Secretary:**

**Katrin Becker,** 

- Webmaster
- Newsletter Editor (temporary)

**Treasurer:**

**Ruth Blazenko,**

**Directors:**

- **Tony Berry**
- **Sylvia Moore**
- **Steve Stoyko**

**Show Secretary:** *Leona Dekoter*

**Silent Auctions:** *Chris Berry*

**We're on the Web!**

See us at:

[www.sarba.ca](http://www.sarba.ca)

**Tips & Techniques**

Collectively, we have many decades of experience working with rabbits and over the years we have all picked up various tricks and techniques that we have found useful. This space is a place to share that information with other members.

Send me YOUR ideas and I'll add them when-ever we have some space.

**Remedy for Wry Neck:**

Wry Neck is a condition that can have many causes. Here's one suggestion for treating it:

Cream Soda, approximately 2cc given by mouth twice a day until better. It is also thought that cream soda can help to stimulate appetite in a bunny that's not eating well.

The picture on the right is of a rabbit owned by the editor. She got wry neck

when she was under a year old. She was treated with antibiotics and got better, but never fully recovered. She produced healthy litters, and seemed largely unbothered by her condition.



**Winter Morning From My Kitchen Window**

*by Marlene Bruneau November 2010*

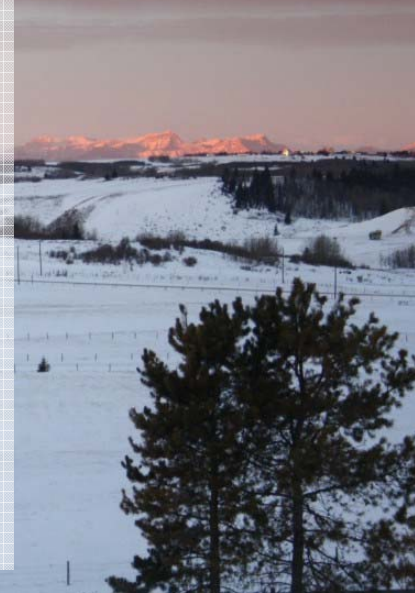
I look out my kitchen window and smile at the sight  
The yard is covered in a blanket of glittering snow  
Bowing pine trees deep green again the bright

I pour coffee in my kitchen, aroma fills the air  
Close my eyes, enjoy the taste and warmth  
Soon I must venture out and leave my cozy lair

I step outside of my kitchen, into a wintery day  
Crunching through the snow down to the barn  
Bunnies, birds, horses awaiting their grain and hay

I laugh outside my kitchen window as my dogs play  
Chasing each other through the glittering mounds  
Burrowing noses in the snow, tossing snowflakes away

I stomp into my kitchen, cold nose and ruddy faced  
My second cup of coffee beckoning to enjoy  
Outside the window snowflakes swirl, winter's embraced



**SARBA Newsletter Editorial Policy**

The SARBA Newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Southern Alberta Rabbit Breeder's Association dedicated to the advancement of the domestic rabbit and the domestic rabbit breeder. SARBA reserves the right to refuse to accept for publication any advertising or articles which it deems are not in the best interest of members. Lengthy articles may be edited.

Articles, statements or opinions published may not necessarily be those of SARBA, and are the sole responsibility of the author.

**Publication Dates: March, June, September, December**