



Southern Alberta Rabbit Breeder's Association

Established in 1944

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Editor's Comments

Happy Spring Everyone!!!
 Our annual spring show has come and gone again. A huge THANKS goes out to all the people who helped to make the show a resounding success once again. So hats off to: Leona (and her family) for all the work they did before the show (that no-one really sees) as well as for keeping things running smoothly on both days. Thanks also to the younger Dekoters who were great clerks. Thanks also to Ruth, Valdine, Chris, Tony, and Sylvia

and to everyone else who drove people and equipment, looked after the judges, helped set-up, and clean-up or any of the dozens of other jobs – we couldn't have done it without you.

The full results are posted on our club's website (sarba.ca – click on the link in the menu that says "Show Results") but you will find the highlights on the next page.

We've also got an article from one of our new members, Piet van Genugten who has

experience with rabbit shows in Europe. They do things a little differently there and I look forward to hearing more from Piet.

As promised, we also have a Breeder's Profile feature this time and we have two of our members showcased. If there are any other members out there who would like to contribute articles or who want to share something about themselves and their rabbits, you can send me mail directly, or fill out the online form that is available on the website in the **members only** section.

Continued on last page....

~~~~~ Upcoming Events ~~~~~

NEXT MEETING:

**Saturday,
 September 18,
 2010, at 1:30 PM**

**Chestermere
 Recreation
 Center.**

Other Meeting Dates (tentative)

- Sat. Sept. 18
 Chestermere Rec Centre at 2:00 p.m.
- **AGM:** Sat. Nov 6 at
 Chestermere Rec Centre at 2:30 p.m.

SHOWS:

Upcoming Shows:

July 9-11 2010: Sandpoint, ID
 North Idaho Rabbit Breeders
Secretary: Donna Parnell
Contact:

August 21-22: Nanaimo BC
 Vancouver Island Exhibition
Secretary: Judy Currie
Contact:

Sept. 4 2010: Kalispell, MT
 Flathead Rba
Secretary: Ronald C Frazier Jr
Contact:

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

2010 SARBA Show Results

Harlequin Specialty Results

Judge: Jim Roland

Best in Show, Best of Breed: Magpie Senior Doe, Barb Adams
Best Opp in Show, Best Opposite Sex: Magpie Junior Buck, Dusty Ruggles-Lynes

Holland Lop Specialty Results

Judge: Jim Roland

Best in Show, Best of Breed: Solid Pattern Senior Buck, Shannon Moore
Best Opp in Show, Best Opposite Sex: Solid Pattern Senior Doe, Kathy Pelton

Polish Specialty Results

Judge: Jim Roland

Best in Show, Best of Breed: Chocolate Senior Buck, Stacy DeKoter
Best Opp in Show, Best Opposite Sex: Blue Polish Senior Doe, Steve Stoyko

Rex Specialty Results

Judge: Jim Roland

Best in Show, Best of Breed: Otter Senior Doe, Lydia Hultholm

Best Opp in Show, Best Opposite Sex: Castor Senior Buck, Don Hultholm

Open Show A Results

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Judge: Roger Hassenpflug

Best in Show: Broken Pattern French Lop - Crystal Pushee

Reserve in Show: Solid Pattern Holland Lop - Christine Berry

Best of the Best Opposites: Solid Pattern French Lop - Crystal Pushee

Open Show B Results

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Judge: Jim Rowland

Best in Show: Chestnut Netherland Dwarf - Carolyn Rogers

Reserve in Show: Broken Pattern French Lop - Crystal Pushee

Best of the Best Opposites: Broken Pattern Holland Lop - Sharin Engler



Jim with Carolyn and her ND

Open C Show Results

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Judge: Valerie Uptagrafft

Best in Show: Chestnut Netherland Dwarf - Carolyn Rogers

Reserve in Show: Otter Rex - Lydia Hultholm

Best of the Best Opposites: Black Polish - Steve Stoyko



Breeder's Profiles

For a number of years now we have featured articles on breeder/member. It's a great way for us to get to know each other and it's also a great way for new members who may be considering getting into breeding to find out a bit more about what it's like.

It's not always easy to figure out what to say, so we've created a [Breeder Profile Page](#) on the website. It's an online form that you can fill out and submit, or, if you'd rather you can write it up on paper and mail it in the 'regular' way. I will try to include them in the newsletters as soon as possible, but occasionally we may have to hold one over for the next newsletter. This issue we have two!

Breeder's Profile: *Chris & Tony Berry/Ashley Attridge*

Your Name: Chris & Tony Berry/Ashley
ARabbitry: Bear Bunz Rabbitry
Calgary, Alberta

Email _____

How did you get into rabbits?

We had bunnies growing up, and while we were dating we bought a Holland Lop as a pet. We had Mr. Bunny for almost 8 years. After he passed we went to our first S.A.R.B.A Show and brought home another Holland Lop. It was unknown to us then that this little fluff ball was to be our future herd sire Baier's Lil' Fire Bear. We had Bear almost a year before we got our first doe Cutie Patootie's Princess Panda Bear. We have been breeding & showing Holland Lops now since early 2007 & Ashley (Thanks to Aunty) breeding Polish since Fall of 2007.

What is your first reason for having rabbits? pets

What is your second reason for having rabbits? hobby

What is your third reason for having rabbits? shows

How long have you had rabbits?

On and off since we were kids ;)

What breeds of rabbits have you raised and what are you presently raising?

We raise three breeds now with Holland Lops the majority of focus. We have a breeding pair of French Lops and Ashley has two Polish does and two Polish bucks.

What is (are) your favorite breed(s)?

All three breeds we raise are amazing :)

How big is your rabbitry?

We are small scale.

How many holes (cages) do you have?

We have at least 30 holes.

What type of caging do you have (all wire, wire/wood, other)?

Primarily wire stackers, some solid bottom cages for Mommas.

Where are your rabbits housed (in a shed, outdoors, etc.)?

They have a bunny room in basement.

What goals do you have or challenges do you face with your rabbits or rabbitry?

Finding suitable homes is a must.

Do you have a special story or experience about a rabbit or rabbit event you would like to share?

I have many too many to list I think.

What rabbit club(s) do you belong to? Have you been or are you on the executive? What executive position(s) did you hold?

A.R.B.A., S.A.R.B.A., E.A.R.S., W.R.C.C and MRF. Currently Vice-President of S.A.R.B.A past Secretary & Director. Southern Director for W.R.C.C and a Director for M.R.F

What advice would you give to others about raising rabbits?

Research your breed, research your lines and don't be afraid to ask questions!!



2010 SARBA Show by Piet van Genugten

The SARBA show was a great success in my opinion. Well organized, nicely set up, clean and tidy.

It would have been nice to have a greater number of rabbits entered (down from last year), however it was still a nice full day and everyone got to go home at a decent hour.

For me, this was the first time showing rabbits in Canada. I am from the Netherlands and things are done a bit different there compared to here. I may as well sum up some of the differences, so here they are.

In North America the rabbits are judged by comparison and even though the 100 point system is in place, judging is done by comparison with the 100 point system in mind as to how much emphasis to put on certain features on different breeds.

In Europe, the 100 point system is used and the writer (clerk) notes all comments on the judging card along with the number of points. The result will be a number like for example 90 points for the rabbit, compare it with a math test result in percentage. If the two top rabbits have the same score, they are judged once again and a winner is chosen. Of course there is always one a little better. The judges get 5 minutes to judge each rabbit and each animal is accurately weighed and measured (ears, length, etc) Usually the public is not allowed in during the judging period. Breeders and spectators come in the following day to check on their cages for the comment card that is attached to it. Followed by handing out the trophies to the winning breeders, this makes for a fun day also.

In both cases the best animal would always win, however the comment card in detail could help a breeder set new goals to improve his/her breeding stock more clearly. It will explain to the breeder how advanced he/she is with their breed. Sometimes the breeder will go home mad, but later after a closer look, will realize that the judges were right and will now work on fixing those faults.

Judges don't need to be nice, just honest.



Flemish Giant

For me as a breeder of large rabbits (Flemish Giants) I noticed some problems I need to deal with more so than breeders of smaller rabbits do.

The first thing and most important is the safety of both judge, handlers and the rabbits. Valerie was bit by my LT grey doe and it drew blood. Of course such a thing is not predicted and Valerie was very good about it.

There was a boy that liked my senior sandy doe and thought she was as friendly as she looked.

This is similar to petting an unknown dog. My rabbits are not pets even though they get enough attention, they are still brood animals left alone to be rabbits most of their lives. When the boy picked her up from the table and walked off with her I needed to quickly grab her from him. I explained that one kick or bite could hurt him very badly. Also, if she was dropped, a broken leg could result in termination of this healthy show animal.

I would lose her and her possible upcoming litter; she is also the only one I have left from that line. Pick up a 3.5 lbs Holland lop and then a 19.5 lbs Flemish, it's a whole different thing. It won't be the first time someone gets shipped to the first aid for stitches, and then who is to blame?

The judging coops are too small for my rabbits but I was surprised how well my doe kept when we locked her in. Maybe I should purchase a similar coop for myself to train my rabbits in. Just let them sit tight for a couple minutes at a time, so they can get used to it.

Something else for me to look into if I want to do more showing.

This concerned me, but it is nothing that can't be fixed. Better training on my behalf and also common sense among spectators would help.

There were nice animals at the show, on average I think the quality was very good. One thing I did notice was how many rabbits had nails that were way too long, that is simply neglect on the owners part and should be noted. This can actually cost you valuable points at a show.

"Judges don't need to be nice, just honest."



Southern Alberta Rabbit Breeders Association

Membership Application and Dues 2010

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

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

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

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.

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

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**

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

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

President:

Valdine Short

- Club Historian

Vice-President:

Chris Berry

Secretary:

Katrin Becker, [REDACTED]

- 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

Editor's Comments, *continued*

By the time you get this newsletter we will already have had our June meeting. Our next meeting is normally held in conjunction with the Millarville Fair but the fair seems to be on-again/off-again so we will meet on

September 18 in Chestermere instead.

I know it seems odd to think about hot days so soon after the snow, but summer is almost upon us, and as we get into the hot summer months, remember to keep your

bunnies cool. Make sure they have access to shade and fresh air. Try filling some pop bottles with water and freezing them, then putting them in the cages with your rabbits. Some of them really like it!

Breeder's Profile: *Sylvia & Shannon Moore*

My name is Syl Moore and I am a Director for SARBA. I did not really get into raising and showing of rabbits. Remembering when this all started, I seem to recall early mornings, long days and late nights. My daughter Shannon had decided she wanted to breed and show rabbits. Since she was 11 years old at that time, Mom became the designated driver, although Shannon was really good about feeding as well as spending a ton of time with the bunnies. She went through a few breeds, Fuzzy Lops, Netherland Dwarfs and Holland Lops before her decision to stay with the Holland Lops exclusively. I was there for some of the victories and also the defeats and maybe given

my temperament a little too vocal at times. Shannon has grown into an awesome young lady and now has her Animal Health Technology degree. Thankfully, she does not usually share my quick mercurial temperament.

I am also truly amazed at the number of tremendous, wonderful people that I can now call friend. So yes, although I certainly suffered from my poor knowledge and boredom at some shows, I truly came to enjoy the travel and friendships. So I would never want to go back and change the past. Breeding and showing a rabbit is a great way for your child to grow, learn, make friends and just enjoy life. It also has the added benefit of giving



GC SLR's Tritan

your child a way to positively focus on a pretty special hobby. I would encourage any parent to let your child have a chance at raising and breeding rabbits. It teaches them values like how to loose with grace and win with dignity. The added benefit for a parent is you get to spend some truly quality time with your son or daughter. Joining SARBA or another club can be a very rewarding experience.

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.

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