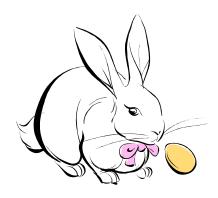
LRBA NEWSLETTER



MAY 2012



LOUISIANA RABBIT BREEDERS ASSN., INC.

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SWEEPSTAKES - OPEN - YOUTH

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aarabbitry@gmail.com

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

JULY 31, 2012

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http://www.louisianarba.net

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Business card ad ~ \$4.00 per year 1/4 page ad ~ \$4.00 per issue 1/2 page ad ~ \$6.00 per issue

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Ad copy & payment should be mailed by published deadline to:

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P.O. Box 314, Krotz Springs, La
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Sheila Spillers – South Louisiana Rabbit Breeders Assn.

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Lynn Hebert – member

Lori Neagle – member

Kevin LeBlanc – member



Calendar of Events

MAY 12, 2012

"Spring Fling" Rabbit Show, <u>Youth and</u>
<u>4-H</u> single show sponsored by CLRBA,
Tammy Lloid, Show Secretary,
tlloid@gmail.com

LSU AgCenter, Hwy 71 South in Alexandria, La. Show starts 9:00 a.m.

MAY 25, 2012

Memorial Day Show, Single Open/Single Youth, 601 West Drive, DeRidder Louisiana

Ariana St. Pierre, Youth Show Secretary

MAY 26, 2012

Memorial Day Show, Double Open/Double Youth plus Specialties in Mini Rex, Dutch and Holland Lop, 601 West Drive, DeRidder, Louisiana

Ariana St. Pierre, Youth Show Secretary

Judges: Wade Burkhalter, Stacy Easton, Lee Engel, Frank Farrow, Jamie Green, Johnny Haussener, Allen Mesick, Randy Shumaker, Jacinta Talbee

JUNE 30, 2012

Annual LRBA State Meeting and Show, Single Open/Single Youth Show, Camp Beauregard, Pineville, La.,

Monna Berryhill, Show Secretary

Judges: Carrol Hooks, Mary Jo Terry, Michael Franke

OCTOBER 6, 2012

SLRBA Show, Opelousas, La., Sheila Spillers, Show Secretary

OCTOBER 12 & 13, 2012

CLRBA Show, Alexandria, La., Monna Berryhill, Show Secretary

Judges: Adam McCabe, Lance Gendron, Frank Farrow, Cheryl Blackman, Robert Sorrels, and Don Mersiovsky

*Please visit <u>www.louisianarba.net</u> for catalogs and fliers.

From the Desk of the President:

There comes a time to turn the page, and move on. As many of you know, I have sold all my rabbits and equipment. This was not an easy decision with over 10 years in the rabbit hobby. My job, with increased responsibility and projects being approved at an alarming rate, has been eating away at my time and the rabbits were not getting the proper attention that they deserved. Those of you who know me well know that if I'm going to do something, I give it my fullest attention. With that being said, I will complete the rest of my term as president and any other obligations to

LRBA. To my many friends in the rabbit hobby, I wish you continued success and I will continue to visit and work shows as I have time. See you in DeRidder.

Regards,

Kevin LeBlanc, LRBA President

FROM THE SECRETARY & SWEEPSTAKES CHAIR:

What wonderful weather we have in the spring when Mother Nature decides to cooperate. I'm thankful that our bunny friends have made it through all these storms of late relatively unharmed. I hope everyone has nest boxes full of winners right now!! Can't wait to see everyone's new bunnies on the tables at Memorial Weekend Show. This show gets better with each passing year. We have an excellent string of judges and an even bigger facility. We will also have two vendors available for you to shop for much needed merchandise.

By the time this newsletter is sent out, the sweepstakes should be updated on the LRBA website. I know everyone is anxious to see where they stand. Please be patient as I am juggling many duties at the moment. My goal is to update the sweepstakes on a **quarterly** basis keeping with the same time as the newsletter.

A reminder to **CLUBS:** The annual state meeting is approaching quickly so please be sure to gather your members to discuss who you'd like to nominate this year for Open/Youth Breeder and Rookie of the Year and Hall of Fame. Make sure that your club will have someone attending to represent you.

At the state meeting the general membership will also discuss upcoming LRBA sponsored shows. If you know of a facility at which you would like to see a show hosted please bring the following information about it: square footage, price quote, who is required to clean up, deposit amount (if any), whether or not it is climate controlled, kitchen available, and any other pertinent information. Anyone can bring a building up for discussion!

The general membership also votes on any proposed changes to our Constitution and By Laws (CBLs). Attached to this newsletter you will find the proposed changes, if any have been submitted. Please read over them so you can be educated beforehand and have a reasonable idea of how you'd like to vote.

An election of officers will also be taking place. Consider what you might be able to do for our club by running for an office. We will also be looking for a sweepstakes chairperson to take over at the start of the new season (January 2013). Our club is run by volunteers and everyone should do their part to keep it running well. We have tons of new members and of course lots of seasoned members AND I would love to see all of you at the Annual State Meeting and show hosted by CLRBA.

Ariana St. Pierre

South Louisiana Netherland Dwarf Rabbit Club News:

The South Louisiana Netherland Dwarf Rabbit Club would like to wish everyone a happy spring and welcome all of its newest members including Chase Herman, Jamie St. Germaine, Cassidy Carter, Jessica Mast, Stone Manning, Lynn Langley, Ann Allen, Danny and Raelena Luquette, Shelly Melancon, Hannah LaPlace, Grant LaPlace, Angelle LaPlace and Patrick Choate. We are glad to have you all and we look forward to seeing you all at the shows.

During the month of April, two SLNDRC members, Dana Duhon and Jessica Mast, had the opportunity to travel to Montpelier, Ohio to attend the 2012 Dwarf Nationals. They were honored to accept a very special award for two SLNDRC members, Richard and Nola Vincent. We would like to recognize and congratulate them for this award from the ANDRC for their outstanding achievement. They received a plaque for 1st Place in District 6 in Quality Points during 2011. This is the SECOND straight year that they have received this special award. District 6 is comprised of Louisiana, Kentucky, Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi and Tennessee. Great job guys! We look forward to seeing your dwarfs back on the tables again soon!

In addition to the outstanding achievement of the Vincent's, many other youth represented our region well during the 2011 in ANDRC Quality Point Sweeps. Congratulations to Tabitha Laboyteaux (2nd Place), Larindy Guidry (3rd Place), Morgan Wainwright (5th Place), Stone Manning (6th Place), Courtney and Gavin Duhon and Ryan Hebert (7th Place). In Sweepstakes Points, again the youth of Louisiana dominated with Morgan Wainwright (1st), Richard and Nola Vincent (2nd), Courtney and Gavin Duhon and Ryan Hebert (3th Place), Tabitha Laboyteaux (4th), Stone Manning (5th), Larindy Guidry (6th), Lacey Trahan (9th), and Katherine Moss (11th). Congrats to all of you. Keep up the good work and best wishes during 2012.

In addition to these youth's accomplishments, two of our members ranked in the top 100 in the ANDRC

Final Quality Points Sweepstakes this past year. Congratulations to Mr. Lynn Langley for placing 33rd in the nation and to Dana and Ronnie Duhon who placed 56th. The competition is definitely heating up.

The SLNDRC is hosting a specialty show for Youth and Open at the Longview, Texas show on Friday, June 15, 2012. Points will count toward LRBA sweepstakes points and is sanctioned by ARBA. We look forward to seeing everyone there!!

Ronnie Duhon

RABBIT GROOMING IS IMPORTANT

If you were a judge and had two rabbits that were very close to meeting the breed standard, to the point you would have to flip a coin to pick a winner, but one had dirty feet and a dull top coat (dead fur not removed) which rabbit would you choose? You would probably make the comment, "We have two very nice rabbits here but I must pick rabbit 'A' because rabbit 'B' lacks finish and has a dead coat and soiled feet ". You would be very disappointed if you were the owner of rabbit 'B'. The reason your rabbit may not have won was because you did not take the time to groom it properly and by doing so you did not give it the best chance to win.

We recently (March 2012) had some Mini Rex breeders from England visit and attend Rabbit Festival in Iowa La. There were six of them, two were rabbit judges and they observed how we run our rabbit shows here in the US. There is a big difference in how the shows in England are run and judged.

One of the things that shocked them the most was how we did very little grooming of our rabbits before we put them on the judging table. These are wonderful people and gave some breeders some helpful advice and even demonstrated how to remove dead fur with a hacksaw blade. This inspired me to put this program together in an effort to improve the quality of stock we present to be judged. The fact that we don't groom well is one of two things:

- 1. We do not know how or what a difference it makes:
- 2. We are too lazy to do it.

So we are going to offer some helpful hints that we received from the English breeders and try to impress you with what a difference a well groomed rabbit makes on the judging table and hopefully improve your success at the shows.

The following is a list of grooming items that need to be addressed, prior to showing your rabbits:

- 1. Toe nails trimmed:
- 2. Removal of all urine stains:
- 3. Removal of dead fur.

Grooming rabbits for an upcoming show should start at least two weeks before the show, not ten minutes before judging.

1. Toe nails trimmed.

Toe nail clipping should be done on your whole herd at least once a month. It should be scheduled and the date circled on your calendar. If you follow this practice you won't have to worry about long toe nails at show time, but still check each show animal when you start your two week grooming program. Some people might be able to hold and trim toe nails without help, but I find it

easier to have one hold and another trim. Be careful not to cut into the quick as it will bleed. If this happens, dip a cotton swab in styptic powder, corn starch or baking powder, and dab it against the bleeding nail to stop the blood flow.

2. Remove all urine stains.

To remove urine stains on the body, use a dry shampoo such as Peter's Waterless Shampoo. You spray it on the stain and work it into the coat and use a paper towel to remove any stain residue. Keep doing this until it's completely gone. It may require more than one treatment. The Peter's spray will not harm your rabbit.

You may want to try the English cure for stained feet. Stained feet really show up on white rabbits. Put the stained foot in water deep enough to cover the stain, then in corn starch, (in England they call it corn flour). The rabbit will eat the corn starch but it will not hurt them. It may take more than one treatment to clean it up. This is another reason you should start grooming two weeks before the show.

3. Remove dead fur.

The non-removal of dead fur is one of the most common grooming errors we have by both youth and adult breeders. We really limit our rabbit's ability to win by not taking care of this.

There are several ways breeders try to remove dead fur. I will list all the ways I've heard about, putting the most successful way (in my opinion) first.

a. Hacksaw blade

Note: Always start by using a metal comb to loosen any dead fur, then use the hacksaw blade.

Start at the base of the tail and pull the blade toward the head. Do not apply too much pressure down toward the skin, just a steady pull through the fur. Keep doing this until you do not get any fur. Then I like to dampen my hands and pull them back and forth several times to make sure all the dead fur is gone. Do not forget to pull the blade through the skirt (bottom edge of the hindguarter). If you are at a show doing the wet hand method, make sure you do it far ahead of the judging to make sure you do not present a wet rabbit as the judge won't know what caused the rabbit to be wet and may disqualify it.

b. Wet hands only.

Wet your hands and work the fur frontto-back and back-to-front, this will get a lot of the dead fur, but I prefer the hacksaw first, rub it until dry.

c. Pumice stone.

You can buy these from a horse grooming supply store They work somewhat, but do not (in my opinion) get the deep dead fur like the hacksaw blade. Putting too much pressure on the stone could bruise your rabbit.

Note: There are times when a rabbit is in a deep molt, so bad that all the grooming in the world will not help. In this case, do not enter it; wait for another time to show it.

The following information about raising rabbits is our opinion and you know what they say about opinions, everyone has one. So, if you can use it, good; but if not, it's still good.

Most of the smaller breeds reach maturity between 5 and 6 months old,

larger breeds 7 to 10 months old, and will never be any better as show stock. There are exceptions but as a general rule this is true. For this reason we quit showing our stock at 6 months (unless it's the exception) and make them breeding stock if they are better than what we are using or sell them to other breeders (which we screen very hard. They must be serious breeders). Or, they go in the freezer and are sold as meat rabbits.

Most Mini Rex does and bucks are productive breeders for 3 to 4 years barring any unforeseen health problems. If a young buck or doe comes along that's better, the older ones will be replaced.

We believe in line breeding that is, father to daughter and son to mother. We do not mix colors (castor to castor). The only exception would be a red out of a castor to castor breeding might be used to improve the chestnut top color. This would be done one time, then it's back to line breeding color to color. We would never introduce a pure red into our castor blood line.

We think that broken casters should come from broken casters not from broken chins or broken otters, etc.

Sometimes, when you first start out, the stock you get will have other colors in their background; just start putting broken color to the same broken color. You won't be sorry staying color to color.

The color pattern on a broken is a matter of opinion. Our English friends prefer a color blanket that starts on the shoulders back, partway down on both sides and over the rump to the tail. In England, rabbits that are spotted are called Dalmatian. In both cases the patterns should be balanced.

Some breeders like to bring in an outside source from time to time to add vigor. This has a risk factor of bringing in some genetic faults that could cause you to go backwards and lose ground in improving your herd. Just be very careful what you introduce and know the breeder and the line you bring in.

We hope this helps you to improve your show results.

Ken and Monna Berryhill

P.S. We would like to thank our British Mini Rex Breeder friends for all their input and encouragement. They are a wonderful group of people and dear friends.

The following are suggestions of where to buy grooming supplies on line if you can't find them locally:

- Professional Groomer II comb #86475 \$ 8.49
 KV Pet 800-423-8211
- 2. Peter's waterless shampoo spray \$ 4.79 Doctors Foster and Smith 800-381-7179
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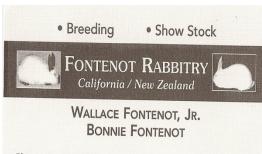
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MEMBERSHIP STATUS AND UPCOMING RENEWALS

Lapsed Memberships

Billy & Stacy Taylor, Dayton & Austin	11/11
Ethan Dupree (Y)	11/11
Anthony & Judy Duthu	11/11
Kimberly, Jeremy, George Dickerson, Kelby, Kyler & Kayla	12/11
Frank & Theresa Farrow	01/12
Greg Knox	01/12
Charles Pruitt	01/12
Dylan & Dawson McDowell (Y)	02/12
Shecky & Tammy Carriere & Tori	02/12
Paul Grezaffi	03/12
James Long	03/12
Melody Loupe	03/12
Richard & Nola Vincent (Y)	03/12
Monica Guidry & Larindy	03/12
Misti & Ron Richards, Elizabeth & Sarah	03/12
Cody Bergeron	03/12
Sheri Delahoussaye & Madison	03/12
Aaron Helms (Y)	04/12

UPCOMING RENEWALS

Brian & Angela Cavalier, Sara & Alexis Keith & Jan Comeaux, Katherine & Madeline William Garrett	05/12 05/12 05/12
Christy Moss, Katherine	05/12
Jason & Renee Stelly, Kodie & Mattie	05/12
Nancy Walker	05/12
Seth Babin (Y)	06/12
Joey Blanchard	06/12
Anna & Chanse Boehringer, Nicole & Nathan	06/12
Lynn & Sue Boudreaux, Faith E. Mason	06/12
James & Patricia Broom, Kameryn Normand, Khristian &	
Kaden Grossie	06/12
Sherry Burns, Jade (Y)	06/12
Danae Cowart (Y)	06/12
Ronnie & Dana Duhon, Ryan Hebert, Courtney Duhon &	
Gavin Duhon	06/12
Kyle Erwin	06/12
Nicole Guevara (Y)	06/12
Warren Guidry	06/12
Karen Guillory, David Jerry Guillory & Codey Deshotel	06/12
Christina Hensley, Abigail & Noah	06/12
Kenneth & Elaine Holland	06/12
Ken & Angelle Kraemer	06/12
David & Susan Krauskopf	06/12
Tiffany & Darin Lessigne, Darian & Joshua	06/12
Jimmy & Dawn Lormand, Adam & Sage Gillis	06/12
Tammy Loupe	06/12
Jerry Norris	06/12

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