

PRESENTING  
THE  
**BLANC de HOTOT**



AMERICAN RABBIT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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## OPEN LETTER TO THE ARBA STANDARDS COMMITTEE AND ARBA BOARD

In the following pages we, of DEAN - LEIGH ENTERPRISES, have attempted to offer you, as accurate a picture of the Hotot rabbit as possible, from it's earliest days in France, to the introduction to the American public.

We have also diligently undertaken to present a pure translation from French to English. In giving our recommended changes, we have done so solely to present the standard within the same format used by the ARBA.

A ROSE IS A ROSE IS A ROSE.....as the cliché goes.....but a rabbit is just not 'A RABBIT' as breeders will attest. We feel the same about the Hotot and have faith that it will become a beautiful, new addition to the many fine breeds we have, in America, today.

During the two years while in Saudi Arabia I was unable to really be associated with the industry except through letters, magazines and travel through several countries. Before I left, however, most of my fellow employees and associates were very well versed concerning the rabbit industry and, the Hotot especially. During this time, I was able to add additional members to the ARBA roster. Also, because of the Hotot, my parents and younger brother have been won into the industry and established with their first rabbits.

David Ingalls and I present to you, of the ARBA committee, before hand, the French Standard of the Hotot. We have included supplemental information for your interest and sincerely hope that by the time you have finished studying the enclosed, you will be anxious to see the breed, which will be shown at the 55th ARBA Convention and Show in Saginaw, Michigan, October 8 through 12, 1978.

I ask that you take this presentation folder with you to the convention and show. It has been sent to you for a sneak preview.

Sincerely,



Bob D. Whitman  
DEAN-LEIGH ENTERPRISES



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IN ALL LABOR THERE IS PROFIT (Proverbs 14:23).....

The fruition of the many hours of frustrating delays due to language barriers, the turn-around time involved in letter correspondence, the inability, at times, to get international telephone calls through from Saudi Arabia attributable to its lack of circuits because of its rapid growth, and myriad other entanglements, has resulted in the presentation of the Hotot rabbit before the American rabbit fanciers.

In having accomplished our goals, DEAN-LEIGH ENTERPRISES would like to offer a word of gratitude to several very special people that, lacking their support, time and labors, the dream of the Hotot in America would not have been fulfilled.

Without a translator, the chances were the entire project would have failed. An English Language Instructor for the Royal Saudi Air Force, Eddie Hodges came to our rescue. A natural linguist (fluent in five languages), Eddie volunteered close to 200 hours--from the first day in France when the Hotot was the rabbit decided upon to present to America--and thru to the present. He has patiently transcribed every piece of correspondence, all documents, and was interpreter for many of the telephone calls between France and Saudi Arabia. Eddie has been most instrumental throughout.

Having been in Saudi Arabia at the time, Bob was under a great handicap in several areas pertaining to the rabbits arrival in the States. Mrs. Margaret Henderson of Albuquerque New Mexico, came to the rescue more than once. She anxiously awaited months for one of the shipments from Southern France and continuously reported by letter and telephone the health and well-being of the Hotot in its new surroundings. She also carefully kept a daily record from the day of their arrival to the present so that we could establish an accurate and factual history.

Approximately during the time Mrs. Henderson was awaiting the air cargo addressed to her, Mrs. Russell W. Whitman was standing by in Mauriceville, Texas for a shipment from Northern France. She, also, has kept and photographically recorded every document, from the shipping crate's label to the veterinarian bill of health at entry, and a daily log of weight gains and the responses to new and different feed and water; a concise record as possible is the result.

Without the interest that has been shown by the two breeders--Mr. Fernand Eberli from the Northern sector, and Mrs. Sylvie Amen from the Southern part of France--and their special commitment of time and energy to see that America received the best their breed had to offer, the Blanc de Hotot would not, this day, be a reality.

Special thanks goes to Mr. Antonine Bartoloni, of France, as he was responsible for locating the reliable breeders and supplying information concerning this unique breed.

Appreciation for their humane and gentle care must go to AIR FRANCE personnel in seeing that our cargo arrived in as good health as possible from their long Trans-Atlantic flight.

There were many other people involved in the several roles necessary to bring the Hotot to center stage; though too numerous to mention, we would like to state that their efforts shall not be forgotten.

As the first words, via phone, from Mrs. Whitman expressed, "It's the most beautiful rabbit I've ever seen", and from Mrs. Henderson, "It's gorgeous--The eyes are so mystical", we too, of DEAN-LEIGH ENTERPRISES, trust your fancies may somewhat similarly be entertained.



Bob D. Whitman



David L. Ingalls

DEAN-LEIGH ENTERPRISES





Bob Whitman (left) and Eddie Hodges (right) during the many hours of translating to prepare the Hotot for it's appearance before the ARBA Standards Committee and Board



Rumors soon began to take form, with many of them being published, throughout France, in the trade journals. Bernhard however, contested them all as being simply just that--rumors. She further states the breed consisted absolutely of native French rabbits with no foreign breeds used and, that the Hotot originated from 'spotted rabbits'. This was all she would divulge. Those breeders who were interested did not know whether the so-called spotted rabbits were the common, run-of-the-mill type, or one of the standardized breeds.

The most widely accepted theory in the Hotot's ancestral background is the Géant Papillon Francais (Checkered Giant). Deny this theory, Bernhard did once again. Yet, it's the most likely of any and, too, would affirm the eye bands which were characteristic of the Papillon. Through careful breeding and strict culling, the spine, side, ear, butterfly and cheek markings were eliminated entirely. Some breeders, though, disagreed, as they felt the Papillon was crossed with the Géant de Flanders. There were other breeds, besides the Géant de Flanders, that may have been used, along with the Papillon to produce the Hotot; many candidates were available at the time.

One noted French rabbit fancier of the early twentieth century was Meslay. Mr. Meslay believed the theory of the Papillon. His assumption was based on the fact that the original Hotot rabbit had a grayish tint to the eye bands, which the Papillon also possessed. Conjecture, also on his part, was that the Russe (Russian/Himalayan) with blackish eye bands (prior to the 1930's) in France, and other neighboring European countries, may have had a part.

Though the real ancestral secret never leaked out, it did not stop the Hotot from becoming a popular breed, not only in France but, in the neighboring countries. Their rapid popularity grew mainly due to the fur qualities; the frosty white pelt was often used to imitate the ermine and white fox.

In 1921, at the Exposition Internationale d' Aviculture in Paris, Mrs. E. Bernhard, with a buck weighing 6 kilos (about 13½ pounds), placed a first, with a second in the fur exhibit. This rabbit sold for an all-time high of over 1800 Francs. The usual price for a quality specimen, even today, is from 100 to 200 Francs.

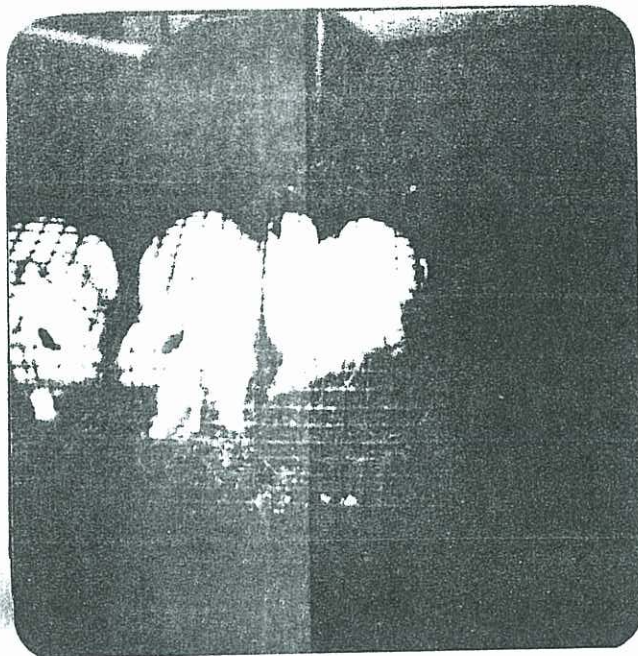
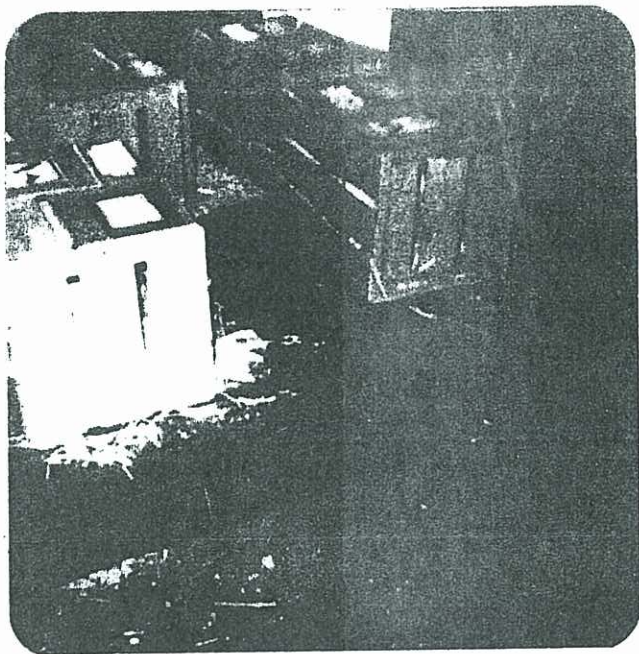
The breed was officially recognized by the Commission des Standards de Francais (Committee for Standards of France) on the 13th of October 1922.



The Hotot's first appearance in the United States came at 2:45 p.m. Sunday, June 25, 1978. This shipment consisting of two pairs from Saint Louis, France, via Paris, non-stop to Houston, Texas, were on AIR FRANCE Flight 315. On June 26, 1978, Mrs. Russell W. Whitman was allowed to receive the animals at 9:45 a.m., after their clearance by US Customs and Department of Agriculture officials; their final destination was Mauriceville, Texas.

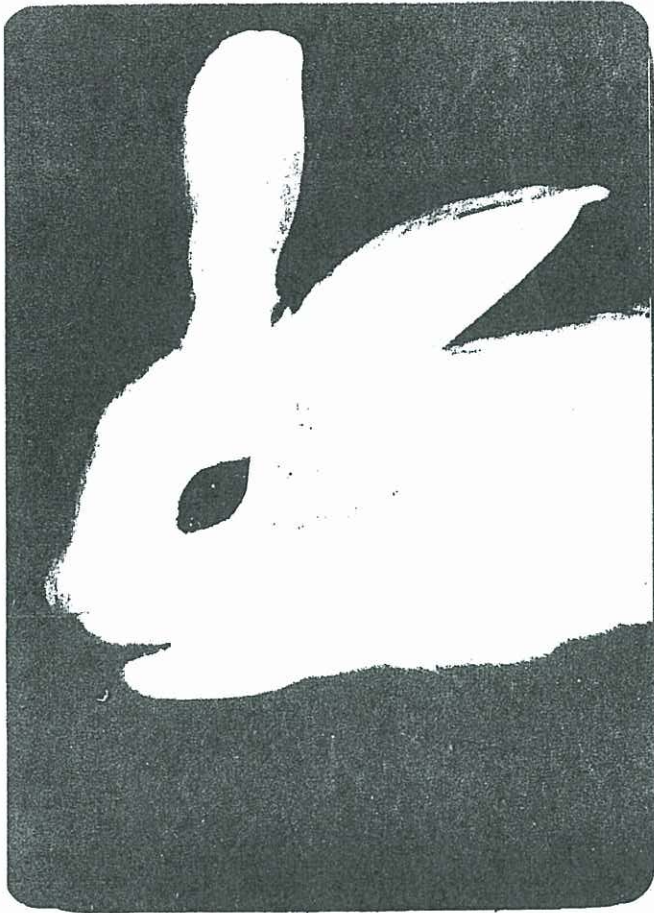
A second shipment from Castres, France arrived in Albuquerque, New Mexico on the 22nd of July 1978. Mrs. Margaret Henderson of Albuquerque received these animals after the proper clearance by officials at the airport.

Bob D. Whitman and David L. Ingalls, both at the time living in Saudi Arabia, were the original importers under the name of DEAN-LEIGH ENTERPRISES, registration number C-8 of the ARBA. These two shipments were the end results of 10 months of correspondence between Arabia and France.



At 2:45 P.M., Sunday June 25, 1978 the first Hotots arrived in the United States. Mrs. Russell Whitman received this shipment in Houston, Texas on the 26th of June.





Additional rabbits arrived in New Mexico to Mrs. Margaret Henderson of Albuquerque. The date was July 22, 1978.

## HISTORY OF THE HOTOT

Derived from a town geographically nestled in a lush, green valley of the Auge region of Normandy, very near the Port of Le Hauré in Northern France, an area known for its superior dairy products and apple cider, comes the name and the rabbit--Blanc de Hotot (White of Hotot).

E. Bernhard has been given total credit in originating the Blanc de Hotot. It has been recorded to being an established breed, with the desired characteristics, since 1912; however, through careful research, it could never be determined as to when she began the crosses which were to produce the Hotot.

Madam Bernhard's goal was to produce a large, white rabbit, of multi-purpose qualities for meat, fur and show. In doing so, she could easily have chosen one of the many white breeds of that time; however, she wished the rabbit to have black eyes. No one is certain whether Bernhard had in mind the black eye bands when she began her breeding program.

Prior to the twentieth century, the Géant de Flanders (Flemish Giant) was quite popular throughout Europe. A rather interesting and amazing fact, as recorded in magazines of the early part of this century, is that the white variety of the Géant de Flanders possessed black eyes. This description has also been recorded in various small stock journals in Belgium.

As with so many of our domesticated breeds of rabbits, the history is quite clouded. Either the breeds were already established when rabbit raising became a major aspect of agriculture or, those who are credited with various breed origins, have kept their crosses under lock and key, never to really be recorded by the various world rabbit associations. In this respect, Mrs. Bernhard was not a bit different.

After the Hotot's appearance, several theories evolved as to how the breed came into being.

From the start, the Géant de Flanders was given much credit to the Hotot's ancestral background. Upon introduction of her breed before the rabbit fanciers, the fur of the Hotot greatly resembled that of the Géant de Flanders, along with type and eye color. The question that puzzled all, however, were the eye bands; it was quite unlikely these were from the Géant de Flanders. By the mid-twenties, the Hotot had greatly evolved, and continued to do so, until the animal had no resemblance to the Géant de Flanders.



CONFEDERATION NATIONALE DE L'AVICULTURE FRANÇAISE



# STANDARDS OFFICIELS DES LAPINS DE RACE

Edités par l'Union des Juges d'Aviculture  
du Bas-Rhin, Haut-Rhin et de la Moselle

avec la précieuse collaboration

de la Société Centrale d'Aviculture de France

de la Fédération Française de Cuniculiculture

de la Fédération des Aviculteurs des Départements du Rhin  
et de la Moselle

des Unions des Aviculteurs du Bas-Rhin, Haut-Rhin  
et de la Moselle

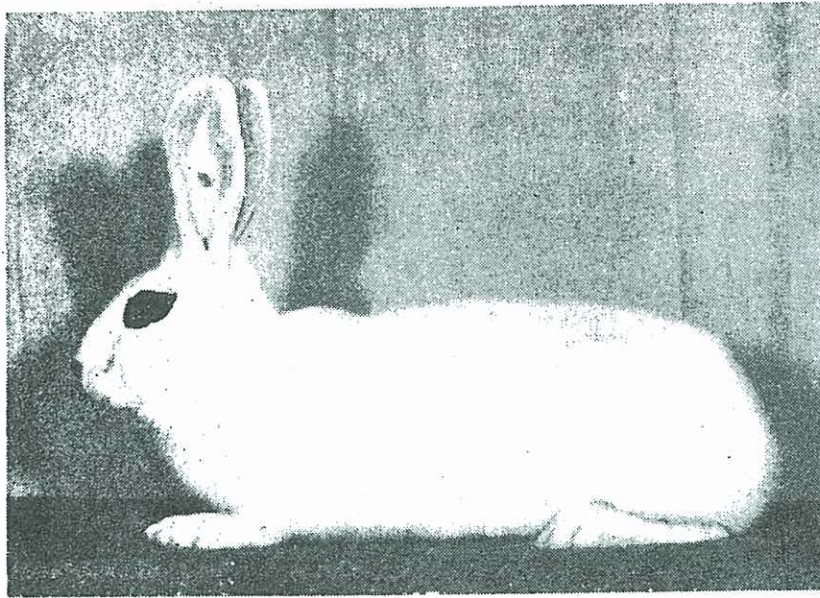
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PARIS-STRASBOURG

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IMPRIMERIES REUNIES, 5, PLACE CORBEAU - 67/STRASBOURG

# Blanc de Hotot



## A — GENERALITÉS

Pays d'origine : France — Créateur : Mme E. Bernhard.  
Ascendance : Lapins tachetés.  
Importance : Peu répandu.  
Poids : 3,500 minimum - 5 kg maximum -  
Idéal : 4 à 4,500 kg.

## Echelle des points :

Aspect général .....	30
Taille et poids .....	15
Tête, oeil et tour d'oeil .....	25
Oreilles .....	5
Fourrure .....	15
Couleur .....	10

100 points

## B — TYPE

L'aspect général du corps est assez trapu et arrondi. Cette conformation se manifeste dans la longueur du corps, comme dans sa largeur et sa hauteur (profondeur).



Cette constitution corporelle est la conséquence d'une bonne répartition des masses musculaires, dont le développement et la compacité sont toujours à rechercher pour obtenir un bon rendement en chair de l'ensemble de la carcasse, tout en donnant au sujet une impression bien équilibrée, de puissance uniformée.

La taille est proportionnée au poids du sujet, compte tenu de sa conformation assez trapue.

Forte et assez large chez le mâle, la tête est légèrement plus allongée et présente plus de finesse générale chez la femelle.

Les oreilles velues, bien serrées à la base, s'écartent légèrement au sommet et se terminent un peu en pointe. Leur longueur est proportionnée à la taille du sujet et mesure environ 12 à 13 cm.

Les yeux bien ouverts ont un iris de couleur brun noirâtre ; cette teinte étant absolument uniforme sur toute l'étendue de sa surface. Les paupières et les cils sont noirs. Une bande noire et bien régulière, d'une largeur de 2 à 3 mm au maximum, et donnant l'apparence d'une fine lunette, entoure chaque oeil.

Le fanon est nul chez le mâle ; chez la femelle, il ne doit jamais être trop développé ou double. Son aspect doit être régulier et bien arrondi.

L'avant-train se compose d'une nuque assez forte faisant suite à un cou court, d'une poitrine pleine annonçant une cage thoracique suffisamment ample, d'épaules bien attachées au corps et fermement musclées comme le sont les bras.

La ligne de dos légèrement bombée se termine dans une inclinaison plus prononcée par une croupe musclée, pleine et arrondie. Le rable est épais. Les régions fessières et des cuisses sont bien musclées.

Les pattes de devant de force moyenne sont bien droites, posant mais bien légèrement sur le sol. Les pattes de derrière sont assez fortes et bien d'aplomb.

#### **C — COULEUR**

La dépigmentation totale sur tout le corps, à l'exception de la zone oculaire sus-décrite, laisse apparaître une nuance blanc de neige sur l'ensemble de la fourrure.

Les ongles, du fait de leur dépigmentation, apparaissent blanc rosé.

#### **D — FOURRURE**

La fourrure est très fournie, souple, assez fine et bien lustrée.

Les poils de soutien assez nombreux et bien apparents déterminent le reflet givré caractéristique de la race.

Les poils de jarre proprement dits et de bourre assurent la densité de la fourrure.

## **E — DEFAUTS**

### **Défauts légers**

Défauts légers valables pour toutes les races (voir règl. gén.).  
Conformation arrondie et assez trapue insuffisamment prononcée.

Fourrure un peu légère ou un peu courte.

Poils de soutien pas assez apparents.

Tour des yeux légèrement irréguliers ou un peu large (3-4 mm).

### **Défauts entraînant la disqualification**

Défauts disqualificatifs valables pour toutes les races (voir règl. gén.).

Aspect du corps long et aminci. Type Géant.

Manque de fourrure.

Inapparence des poils de soutien.

Lunette incomplète ou trop large (5 à 6 mm). Paupières ou cils non noirs.

Tache aux yeux d'un bleu pâle (hétérochromie).

Toute tache de couleur dans la fourrure normalement dépigmentée.

Ongles noirs.

### **ECHELLE DES POIDS :**

3,500 à 3,750 kg . . . . 13 points

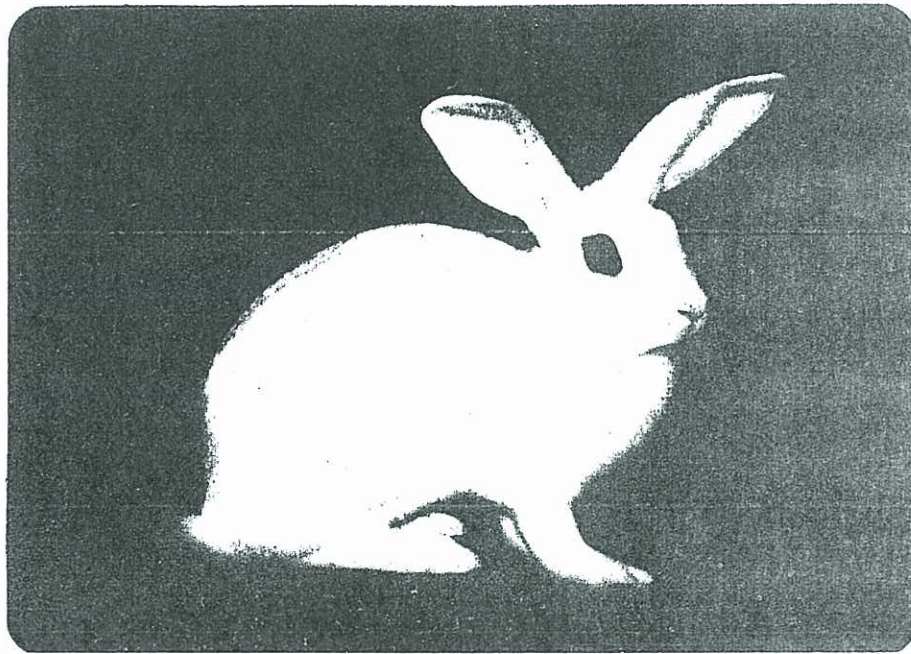
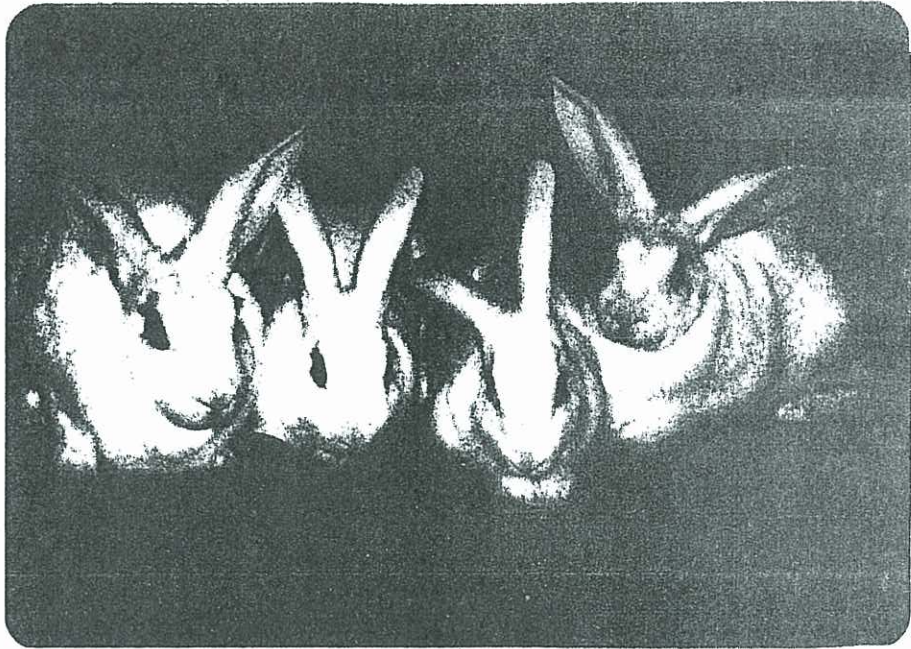
3,750 à 4,000 kg . . . . 14 points

4,000 à 4,500 kg . . . . 15 points

4,500 à 4,750 kg . . . . 14 points

4,750 à 5,000 kg . . . . 13 points





# RECOMMENDED CHANGES FROM THE FRENCH STANDARD TO AMERICAN

## FRENCH

### TYPE -

Aspect  
Height/Depth (Alternately used)  
Muscles  
No Dewlap

General Looks - 30 Points  
Size & Weight - 15 Points

Weight 3.5 kg (7 7/10 lbs)  
Ideal Weight 4 to 4.5 kgs

Registration Weights  
Not Mentioned In French Standard

### FUR -

(Guard Hairs) - Very Numerous  
Faults - A little too light  
(texture) guard hairs not  
visible enough  
Disqualifications - Lack of fur

### COLOR -

10 Points

### HEAD -

HEAD, EYE, EYE BANDS -  
Total Points 25

### FORE-PAWS / HIND-PAWS

Disqualifications - Black Toe  
Nails

### TAIL -

Not Mentioned In French Standard

### SHOW ROOM CLASSES -

Not Mentioned In French Standard

## AMERICAN

### TYPE -

Appearance  
Depth  
Muscling  
Usually, there is no dewlap  
in the male;  
Combined - 45 Points

As Beveren Standard Weights  
Bucks 9 lbs. (4.1 kg)  
Does 10 lbs. (4.5 kg)  
Registration Weights  
Bucks 8 to 10 lbs. (3.6 to 4.5 kg)  
Does 9 to 11 lbs. (4.1 to 5.0 kg)

### FUR -

Numerous  
Faults - Lack of guard hairs  
Disqualifications - Thin coat

### COLOR -

5 Points

### HEAD -

HEAD - 5 Points  
EYE - 2 Points  
EYE BANDS - 20 Points  
Disqualifications: Eye Bands  
Other Than Black

### FRONT FEET & LEGS HIND FEET & LEGS

Disqualifications - Any Other Color  
Toe Nails Other Than White or Flesh  
Colored

### TAIL -

Straight And Well Furred To Be In  
Proportion To The Rest Of The Body

### SHOW ROOM CLASSES -

Same As Those Listed For The Beveren



HOTOT  
(AMERICAN FORMAT)

**BODY TYPE** - The general appearance of the body should be that of well-rounded and thick-set, shown in the length of the body, as well as in the width and depth. This body type is due to a well balanced distribution of muscling. The development and compactness of which should be sought in order to have a good yield of firm flesh over entire body, nevertheless creating a well-balanced look of uniform strength. The size is in proportion to the weight of the animal, taking into account the rather thick-set conformation. Usually, there is no dewlap in the male; in the female it should never be too developed or double. It should be regular and well-rounded. The fore-quarters are made up of a short neck, followed by a rather strong nape, a full chest indicating a sufficiently ample rib cage, well-set shoulders which, as well as legs are firmly muscled. POINTS 45

**WEIGHT and CONDITION** - Ideal weight for seniors:

Bucks 9 lbs. (4.1 kg) Does 10 lbs. (4.5 kg) Registration weights  
Bucks 8 to 10 lbs. (3.6 - 4.5 kg) Does 9 to 11 lbs. (4.1 - 5.0kg)

**FAULTS** - Rounded and thick-set conformation insufficiently pronounced.

**DISQUALIFICATIONS** - Long and thin body type or giant type.

**FUR** - The fur to be very dense, supple and rather fine and very lustrous. The abundance of visible guard hairs causes the frosty sheen characteristic of the breed. The surface and undercoat assure the density of the fur. POINTS 15

**FAULTS** - Fur being a little too light or too short. Guard hairs not visible enough.

**DISQUALIFICATIONS** - Lack of fur. Guard hairs not visible.

**COLOR** - The total lack of pigmentation over entire body, except for the eye bands, gives a snow white appearance to the entire coat. POINTS 5

DISQUALIFICATIONS - Any spot of color in fur normally without pigmentation.

HEAD - Strong and rather broad in the male, the head is slightly more elongated and presents generally more refinement in the female. POINTS 5

EARS - The ears are to be well furred and drawn in at the base, widening gradually to the top, ending in a slight point. The length is in proportion to the size of the body. Ears should measure  $4 \frac{3}{4}$  inches to  $5 \frac{1}{8}$  inches (12 - 13 cm). POINTS 5

EYES - To be bold, having a blackish-brown color, the shade being absolutely uniform over the entire area of the iris. POINTS 2

DISQUALIFICATIONS - Pale blue spot in the eye. Any other color other than blackish-brown.

FEET and LEGS - The front feet and legs are to be very straight and of a medium strength, reseting very lightly on the ground. The hind feet and legs are to be very strong. The hind legs are to be very upright. Toe nails to be white or flesh-colored.

POINTS 2

DISQUALIFICATIONS - Any other color toe nails except for white or flesh-colored.

TAIL - Straight and well furred to be in proportion to the rest of the body. POINTS 1

#### MARKINGS

EYE BANDS - A very thin lustrous deep black band, to be  $\frac{1}{16}$  to  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch (2 - 3 mm), looking like a tin eye-piece, surrounds each eye. The eyelids and eyelashes are to be black.

POINTS 20

FAULTS - Eye bands slightly irregular or somewhat wide, more than  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{3}{16}$  of an inch (3 - 4 mm).

DISQUALIFICATIONS - Eye bands incomplete or too wide, more than  $\frac{3}{16}$  of an inch (5 mm). Eye bands other than black in color



All general FAULTS, ELIMINATIONS and DISQUALIFICATIONS apply to this breed.

#### SHOW ROOM CLASSES

Senior Bucks - 8 months of age and over, over 8 pounds (3.6 kg) to 10 pounds (4.5 kg).

Senior Does - 8 months of age and over, over 9 pounds (4.1 kg) to 11 pounds (5.0 kg).

Intermediate Bucks - 6 to 8 months of age, not over 9 pounds (4.1 kg).

Intermediate Does - 6 to 8 months of age, not over 10 pounds (4.5 kg).

Junior Bucks - under 6 months of age, not over 8 pounds (3.6 kg)

Junior Does - under 6 months of age, not over 9 pounds (4.1 kg)

Pre-Junior Bucks and Does - The limit 3 months. Weight limit 5 pounds (2.3 kg).

#### SCHEDULE OF POINTS

TYPE.....	45		
FUR.....	15	EYES.....	2
COLOR.....	5	FEET and LEGS.....	2
HEAD.....	5	TAIL.....	1
EARS.....	5	MARKINGS.....	20
TOTAL POINTS.....	100		

TO: ARBA Standards Committee  
ARBA Executive Committee

SUBJECT: Hotot Breeders Within The ARBA

This is to verify the following individuals are breeders of the Hotot rabbit and are members in good standing of the American Rabbit Breeders Association, Inc.

Bob D. Whitman P-43

Bob D. Whitman - Texas

David L. Ingalls T-292

David L. Ingalls - Calif.

Russell W. Whitman T-298

Russell W. Whitman - Tex.

Margaret Henderson S-2276

Margaret Henderson - N.M.

Mrs. R. W. Whitman T-297

Mrs. R. W. Whitman - Tex.

Mary Clark 313280

Mary Clark - New Mexico

Scott W. Whitman Tx151

Scott W. Whitman - Texas