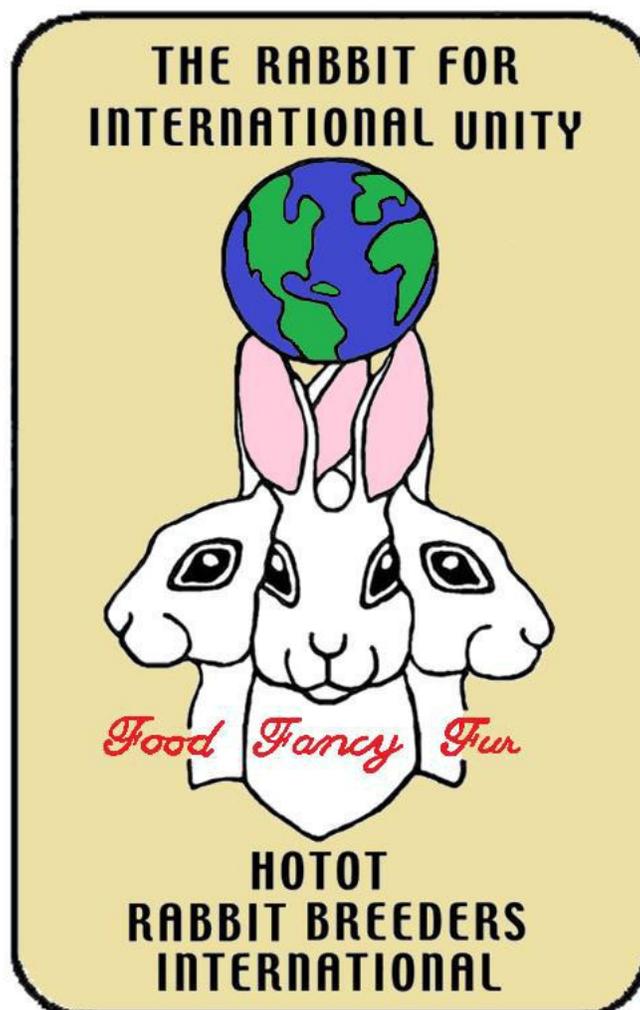


HRBI NEWSLETTER

APRIL-MAY-JUNE 2018



HRBI

Hotot Rabbit Breeders International was founded in 1979 to promote and encourage the breeding and improvement of the Blanc de Hotot.

Members promote the Blanc de Hotot through active club membership and are quick to point out the Blanc de Hotot advantages for food, fur and fancies.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

2018 HRBI Calendar..... 2

Newsletter Editor’s Foreword 3

President’s Report 4

Secretary-Treasurer’s Report 5

District 1 Director’s Report 8

District 2 Director’s Report 10

District 3 Director’s Report 11

District 7 Director’s Report 12

District 9 Director’s Report 14

HRBI National Shows 15

How Do You KNITT Your Words Together?
By JJ Veale..... 16

Shipping Rabbits Via Airlines for Shows or Transport
Alternatives
By Christina Hacking..... 19

HRBI Sanction/Sweepstakes Chair’s Report 21

Sanctioned Shows (Past)..... 22

Sweepstakes Standings Open..... 23

Sweepstakes Standings Youth 24

Sanctioned Shows (Future) 24

HRBI Meeting Minutes, 19 January 2018 25

2018 HRBI CALENDAR

January

1 Newly elected officers assume duties
1 Newsletter Published
15 Quarterly report of finances, membership, and sweepstakes due from Secretary/Treasurer, Committee Chairs

February

First weekend- Exec Committee meeting
10 Domestic Rabbits report to ARBA

March

15 Newsletter reports due from all officers and members
31 Secretary/Treasurer paid

April

1 Newsletter Published
10 Domestic Rabbits report to ARBA
15 Quarterly report of finances, membership, and sweepstakes due from Secretary/Treasurer, Committee Chairs

May

First weekend- Exec Committee meeting

June

10 Domestic Rabbits report to ARBA
15 Newsletter reports due from all officers and members
30 Secretary/Treasurer paid
30 Sweepstakes Year Ends

July

1 Newsletter Published
1 Sweepstakes Year Begins
1 National Show bids submitted (for 2 years in future)
15 Quarterly report of finances, membership, and sweepstakes due from

Secretary/Treasurer, Committee Chairs
31 E. Bernhard Memorial Member of the Year award nominations due

August

First weekend- Exec Committee meeting
1 All petitions for elected office due
10 Domestic Rabbits report to ARBA

September

* Election of Officers* (Completed by September 30)
15 Newsletter reports due from all officers and members
31 Secretary/Treasurer paid

October

1 Newsletter Published
ARBA National Convention- Annual Meeting of HRBI
10 Domestic Rabbits report to ARBA
15 Quarterly report of finances, membership, and sweepstakes due from Secretary/Treasurer, Committee Chairs

November

First weekend- Exec Committee meeting

December

10 Domestic Rabbits report to ARBA
15 Newsletter reports due from all officers and members
15 Annual Committee Report due from Committee Chairs to be published in January newsletter
31 Secretary/Treasurer paid Continual Secretary/Treasurer salary computed monthly Secretary/Treasurer processes memberships, sanctions, sweepstakes points

NEWSLETTER EDITOR'S FOREWORD

Diego Aguilar-Beauregard

Gatineau, Quebec, Canada

diegobeuregard@hotmail.com

The April newsletter is finally out! Koodos to everyone involved: I am very impressed by all the hard work and dedication people have put into their respective reports and articles. The newsletter is an essential part of the club and I am grateful that we can use it to keep the membership informed about HRBI's activities.

Since Christina Hacking wrote her article on shipping rabbits via airlines, United Airlines has decided to discontinue the PetSafe program until further notice due to cases of animals dying during transportation. This does not alter the absolute pertinence of her article: you can still use it as a starting point to prepare for the rather mysterious and stressful, yet incredibly efficient process of shipping rabbits through the air. Her pictures are golden too. When Ludivine and I first imported rabbits from Europe, we didn't know it was possible to fit several rabbits in a dog crate, so we ended up paying more than what was necessary by using individual cat crates. I certainly would have used Christina's experience to be more prepared!

I also wish to say a few words about JJ Veale's very wise article about respectful communication in general and on social media. Her insight is particularly relevant in the context of our small, but very competitive club. Due to our limited membership, we must rely even more on each other for the club to work and move forward. It does not mean that we have to agree all the time, but it does mean that disagreement should be handled with special consideration to others' ideas and opinions.

Next submissions are due for June 15th, 2018. Executive members and future contributors, please attach a picture of yourself along your submission for the next newsletter. This will allow members of the club to put a face on your name! Any photos of your rabbits and events are also welcome!

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Melissa Carlson
Palmyra, Wisconsin
artbun@yahoo.com

Hello from Wisconsin! Spring has sprung in Wisconsin! Well it gets warm and then cold again and nothings green yet but I'm starting to feel it and the rabbits are too. I've hopefully got a couple hotot does bred and need to work on more. If you don't start breeding now you don't have much to show in the fall.

The club has been very busy so far this year. I would like to welcome Ludivine Laperriere as our new secretary-treasurer and Diego Aguilar Beauregard as our new newsletter editor. They were both active in the club in the past and wanted to step up and help again. Remember Brian Bell is processing sanctions, so any sanction requests and show reports need to be sent to him and not Ludivine.

Brian Bell has taken the lead on getting the club incorporated. By the time you read this, the Articles for Incorporation should be filed in Pennsylvania. Not being incorporated has been causing an issue with the treasury. We don't currently have an ein# so the club cannot open a checking account. The hope is that we will have that taken care of sometime in April. That will make processing memberships and sanctions much easier. A PayPal account will be opened again on the website when the checking account has been taken care of.

We have also formed a Standards Committee. Bob Wilkinson is the chair and the rest of the committee is Paula Courtney, JJ Veale, Ludivine Laperriere and David Shriner. It may seem like we have plenty of time to work on changes but by the time we work through the submissions, club vote and ARBA approval of changes, it will go fast. Please let Bob know by emailing him at robert@wilkinson.org or messaging any member of the committee what ideas you have for clarifying or changing the standard. We can also discuss what changes need to be made on Facebook.

I hope everyone has plans to attend the Hotot National show in Amana Iowa on Sunday April 22. This is a chance to show your hotot 3 times in one day. Remember if you are bringing other rabbits to show, they are judging 4 class breeds on Saturday, 6 class on Sunday. I am planning to make the trip and hope to see many other breeders there. Let's make this a good show!

Melissa Carlson
HRBI President

SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT

Ludivine Laperrière

Washington, District of Columbia

hrbi.secretarytreasurer@gmail.com

Hello everyone,

I am pleased to be the new Secretary-Treasurer for the Hotot Rabbit Breeders Association. I decided to apply for that position because I want to offer my support to the Club, its membership, and like you, I would love to see the Blanc de Hotot thriving in North America. I truly appreciate the trust you place in me to fulfill the job.

Maybe I should also say a few words about myself as there have been a lot of changes since I stopped being involved in the Club business. I am a life member of HRBI and an ARBA member in good standing. A few years ago, I was the HRBI District 7 Director and an active contributor to the HRBI Newsletter. I used to raise Blanc de Hotot, Dwarf Hotot and a few Champagne d'Argent. Unfortunately, I don't raise rabbits at this time because I live in downtown Washington, DC, but I certainly plan to get back to the hobby and to the breed as soon as I can. Meanwhile, I continue to attend shows and to stay involved.

Outside the rabbit world, I study part time for an Animal Production certificate at Laval University (Quebec City). In my free time, I enjoy working out, reading, Chow Chows and everything that is made of fur.

Now let's get down to the nitty-gritty of the club:

1) Sweepstakes or show sanctions should continue to be sent to District Director 9 Brian Bell until further notice at brian.sbfarms@gmail.com

2) Following Melissa Deitrich's resignation, the Vice-President's seat is now vacant. District 4 Director position also remains vacant. If interested, please don't hesitate to express your interest to me. We have a new team for the Blanc de Hotot standard committee. Please contact these officials for anything related to our breed standard:

- ARBA Judge Paula Courtney, Texas
- Bob Wilkinson, Washington
- David Shriner, Indiana
- J. J. Story Veale, Arizona
- Ludivine Laperrière, District of Columbia

3) New membership members:

- Tyler Tedford from Iowa (Open 2 March 2018 - 2 March 2019)

- Collette S. Waters from Louisiana (Open 14 March 2018 - 14 March 2021)

We warmly welcome them!

4) Membership due to renew:

- Leslie Ardison – March
- Barbara Galkowski – March
- Marshall Galkowski – March
- Sarah Galkowski – March
- Konrad Overmier – March
- Kurt Overmier – March
- Kurt William Overmier – March
- Tamlyn Overmier – March
- JD (Thayer) Crites – April
- Victoria (Thayer) Crites - April

Note: there is no 'Family' membership available at this time. Only 'Open' (\$10 for 1 year or \$25 for 3 years), 'Youth' (\$5 for 1 year or \$12 for 3 years) or 'Couple' (14\$ for 1 year or \$35 for 3 years) as per our Bylaws. 5.

'Family' membership is not in the By-Laws and therefore, it should not be on the application form or use unless the By-Laws get are modified. What "Family" is would also need to be explained.

5) The club is currently in the process of opening a club bank account so please, understand that it can take some time before we are able to process your payment. We will do our best to notify you before processing your payment. In addition, the club website has a few issues that need to be worked on so it is better to do club business/membership enrollment by contacting the HRBI Secretary-treasurer via email.

6) Until further notice, the HRBI Newsletter will only be published via electronic mail. We are rather a small club so it is more cost efficient at this time.

HRBI Secretary-Treasurer
Ludivine Laperrière
28 K Street SE (PH31)
Washington, DC
20003

HRBI S/T email address: hrbi.secretarytreasurer@gmail.com

Updates on HRBI Secretary-Treasurer situation:

- 1) I received some checks from last Secretary-Treasurer Stacey Konency (thanks Stacey for your time and effort!). I cannot cash these checks since we don't have a club bank account yet. The club is awaiting to get the EIN which is required to open a club bank account. District Director 9 Brian Bell is actively working on the matter. We expect this to be done sometime in April. When we get it, we will also open a club PayPal account.
- 2) On 16 March 2018, I personally reimbursed JJ Story Veale for her claim for the expenses of \$171.27, dated from 16 May 2017, following the HRBI National, Specialty, and Rare breed Show held at the West Coast Classic in May 2017. The delay for her to be reimbursed for her expenses and efforts for the club was simply unacceptable.
- 3) The tentative balance is **\$2,281.78**, including checks that have not been cashed yet and excluding outstanding claims. When the EIN account is created and the situation is resolved, I will include a detailed account statement.

Potential points to discuss at next HRBI meeting (date to be determined):

- 1) HRBI Trophy and other awards: The Club Trophy has been shipped to last winner Samantha Sessamen. I know it has been discussed in the past when updating the C&BLs, but the club should establish clear directives on how to engrave the winner's name, ship the trophy and what is claimable to the club for reimbursement.
- 2) HRBI Logo: A new logo seems to have been created. It is pretty, however it should be voted by the club through a formal process.
- 3) From the last club minutes (January 2018): 'Secretary may pay normal operating expenses: shows, website, postage, etc. under \$250'. Since it is not in our By-Laws yet, I cannot action it.
- 4) Website: Who is responsible for the Website should be discussed. Having at least two people managing the club website and the HRBI Facebook page would be recommended to ensure redundancy.
- 5) CB&Ls: Maybe the matters discussed above reflect the fact that our C&BLs should be reviewed and potentially updated.

Please, do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, concerns or claims.

Cordially,

Ludivine Laperrière
HRBI Secretary-Treasurer

DISTRICT 1 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Aurora West

Mayerthorpe, Alberta, Canada

westwingsfarm@gmail.com

I would like to start off by introducing myself. My name is Aurora West. I was born and raised in Alberta, Canada about 2 hours west of Edmonton. I purchased my first "meat mutt" doe shortly after moving to my husband and I's small acreage in 2015. I started raising ducks the same year and discovered the Livestock Conservancy and quickly became passionate about raising rare breeds of small livestock. I began my search for Hotots shortly after but, upon learning that there were none in Canada and not knowing the importation procedures, I temporarily set that on the back burner. In 2017 I became aware that it was relatively simple to bring rabbits up from the US and began my search again! I am sure a few of you may recognize my name from messages you may have received during that time period. I want to thank each and every one of you for all the help and assistance you gave me! I purchased a buck in September and three does shortly afterwards which were flown up to me from Oregon. I now have 6 Hotots (2 of which should be kindling any day now) and I am planning a trip down to Washington in April to pick up a few more and hopefully attend the Eugene, OR show.

We do not have shows as numerous as you have down in the states, however its my goal to attend as many of the small local shows I can this year. I have already brought Hotots to two shows in 2018, one of which was my first show ever let alone with Hotots! There was significant interest shown and some disbelief as I was told numerous times that there have not been any Hotots in the province for 10 years! It was a great experience and I learned a lot, it was a double show and one of the judges was Autumn Dennistoun who gave me some tough but eye opening advice. There are two more local shows on the agenda before the end of summer and I will be working hard over the next while to promote the breed here. Please get in touch with me if you are willing to fly Hotots up to Canada for anyone who might be interested in starting with them.

We have one big local show coming up in Edmonton on July 27-29. It is being held in conjunction with K-Days. For those of you who are not familiar with what K-Days, it is a 10 day long "fair" of sorts but in very large proportions that has been held annually since 1879. There are amusement rides, live music, foods and displays from many different nationalities and much more! The rabbit community here is extremely excited for this as most if not all of our shows are Carrier Shows and this one will be a Coops show. I know it is a far trip for many but it would be great to see some other Hotots at the show! Free entry to K Days for exhibitors is one of the perks!

Other than my passion for the Hotot breed, I also raise ducks, sheep, and chickens. Presently I have American Blackbelly sheep, Saxony Ducks, Silver Grey Dorking and Rosecomb Rhode Island White chickens. This spring I will be adding Dutch Hookbill and

Aylesbury Ducks, Pilgrim and Pomeranian Geese, as well as a pair of Belgian Hares. Hoping to find a source for Holland White Turkeys as well but so far it has proven difficult. I also keep honeybees on a small scale at my acreage as well as my parents acreage. I am planning too start showing my poultry and I am also hoping to get involved with the local 4H group. It will be an extremely busy year and I look forward to every minute of it!

I am grateful to be in this Director position and will work hard to complete my duties to the best of my abilities. Thank you for your dedication to this breed, I only hope I can serve the breed and the club well going forward.

Aurora West
District 1 Director

DISTRICT 2 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Christina Hacking

Cedar City, Utah

bluespringsboers@gmail.com

We have a couple new members, which is exciting to get the breed expanding on the West Coast. I have to give tons of Kudos to the breeders out here for working extremely hard to introduce new people to the breed, and we desperately need more individuals working on improving this breed.

We had a great turn out for the Arizona State Convention. There were several breeders from CA and WA that made it out, and I know the judge had a lot of information to provide the breeders showing on how to help improve the breed more. It is for sure a labor of love that is taking time. A big plus was no DQ for spots, which is something a lot of us are struggling with especially fly bites.

There should be several breeders attending WCC in May, which will be good. It looks like Mandy Lott and the Pollocks for sure should be there plus maybe JJ. I am not sure if I will be attending in person or sending a couple via transport. I am hoping more will be able to make it because it's a great show.

Thanks,

Christina Hacking

District 2 Director

DISCTRICT 3 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Barb Semb

Whitehall, Wisconsin

sembrabbits@gmail.com

The Rabbit World – what a great hobby!

My family has been raising/showing rabbits for over 25 years. The opportunities this hobby has given my family is unbelievable.

Together as a family we have traveled the U.S. north to south and east to west. The many friends we have made is something that we will have forever. Attending breed nationals and ARBA conventions allows us see these people once or twice a year. The knowledge we have gained throughout the years is rewarding. Traveling the country and meeting new people while showing our rabbits is a winning experience itself. Of course winning on the show table is a great experience as well.

The hobby of raising/showing rabbits is a wonderful thing. We can not let the political technicalities and issues ruin it for us.

Hope your nest boxes are full of Hotots!

Barb Semb

District 3 Director

DISTRICT 7 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Samantha Sessamen

Crosby, Pennsylvania

sessamen.s@gmail.com

I am very excited having started as the new District 7 Director for HRBI in January. For those of you who don't know me, I started raising rabbits in 2002 with a blue Dutch named Lucky. I have raised a number of breeds since then and have recently acquired my Registrars License on Valentine's Day 2017! My current rabbitry allows me to have upwards of 50 rabbits, and I focus solely on quality over quantity in New Zealands and Blanc de Hotots. I got my start in Blanc de Hotots in 2016 thanks to some very helpful breeders across PA, IN, and WA in helping me obtain my foundation herd. I was fortunate to have my homebred doe, Sessamen's Boggart, win BOB at the ARBA Convention this past year in Indianapolis and was fortunate to present on this breed at the most recent PaSRBA Convention Judge's Conference.

D7 started off the year with a Blanc de Hotot sanction in Auburn, NY on January 6th. Unfortunately due to the crazy snow storm, I was unable to attend; however, congratulations are in order to Alexis Lichvarcik on winning BOB that day! Winter in the northeast leads to not many shows until around April, so I hope to see some more Blanc de Hotots on the tables as interest has been growing steadily in NY, CT, NH, and Canada. Mark your calendars for a Rare Breed Show in Auburn, NY on June 10, 2018 hosted by the Cayuga Lake R&CBA!

This fall I will be serving as your breed secretary at the 95th ARBA Convention in West Springfield, MA. I hope you all are breeding very soon to have nice sized 6/8's and juniors. We had a great turnout for last year's convention, so let's try to have even more representation for the #1 rare breed in 2018!

Now, I would like to take minute to talk about *animal husbandry*. The general definition of that term is "the science of breeding and caring for farm animals". Too often, I am approached by an individual who is wanting a rabbit to utilize in their own breeding herds and I often decline. I admit, years ago have sold rabbits quite often, but now maybe sell 5 per year, and that is due to the fact that I had animals end up in horrible situations that could've been prevented.

Rabbits require daily care and those wanting to positively promote this hobby should ensure that they are providing their animals with the utmost possible. i.e. You don't bring home your newborn child without setting up a proper and safe environment for them, and you don't leave them soiling in their diapers for days at a time. Why would you do the same for your animals? Take the time to feed, water, and clean daily! Personally, I check feed and water twice, distribute hay accordingly, wash water bottles,

spot clean trays, and sweep floors on a daily basis. Once a week I do a general health check of all animals, a deep scrubbing, sanitization and dusting of the entire rabbitry.

If someone were to drop by and inspect your barns this very minute, would you think they would find anything to cringe about?

Of course, if you happen to have any questions or want to reach out to me, I have provided my email address above or check out my rabbitry page at:
<https://baldeaglebunnies.weebly.com>.

I look forward to serving as your director and hope to meet you all in West Springfield this October!

Samantha Sessamen
District 7 Director

DISTRICT 9 DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Brian Bell

Jonestown, Pennsylvania

brian.sbfarms@gmail.com

Hello everyone,

I think that the club is making progress and moving in the right direction. We are in the process of putting together Articles of Incorporation to legitimize the club from a legal perspective and opening a new bank account in the club's name following the transition of club Secretary/Treasurers twice in the last three months.

The board is fully appointed and working to get business done for the club under Melissa Carlson's leadership. I would urge everyone to be patient and have some understanding as many of these initiatives will take some time and cannot always be done overnight. Sometimes it might be hard to hear that living in an instant society like we do but please realize the volunteers that are serving the club in a leadership capacity are working in its best interest and if we work together we will get it done.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at brian.sbfarms@gmail.com or by Facebook private message.

Best regards,

Brian Bell
District Director

HRBI NATIONAL SHOWS

2018 HRBI National Show

Cedar Rapids Rabbit Breeders Association will hold the HRBI National Show 2018 in Amana, Iowa on 21 April 2018. Thanks to the organizers and to those involved. Please do not hesitate to join us even if you have only a few animals to show. You can contact our President Melissa Carlson if you have any questions about the event.

2020 National Show Bids

Please remember that bids for the 2020 National Show are due **July 1st 2018**. Even if you don't have a lot of experience in the rabbit world, it is a great opportunity to learn and to contribute to the club!

Potential Location for Future HRBI National Shows

Hall of Fame Classic Rabbit Show presented by Portage County RCBA is interested in hosting a National and or Specialty show for our Breed Club. They are located in Canton, Ohio for this show. More information is available upon request, including contracts and pricing. Judging information will be available as hiring is completed. Here are the future dates of the show:

4/13/19 & 4/14/19 (sanctions obtained)
4/18/20 & 4/19/20 (too early to sanction yet)

Bonnie Saunier, Show Secretary
portagercba@gmail.com
330-323-2812---cell phone

Eric Saunier, Show Superintendant
bigesaunier@gmail.com
330-309-5318---cell phone

HOW DO YOU KNITT YOUR WORDS TOGETHER?

JJ Veale

Flagstaff, Arizona

madhatterrabbits@gmail.com

When is the last time you had a *really good conversation*?

If you're anything like me, you live for great conversations, the times when you feel like you really understand the person to whom you're talking, and you feel like the other person has truly heard you. There are very few things that can be as rewarding, invigorating, or thought provoking as truly excellent communication!

So then why does conversation come so hard?!

In my non-rabbit life, the one where I have a job and people see me on a daily basis not covered in fur, I am an educational administrator. We often talk about how to present messages so they can be heard, and how to create an atmosphere where people feel appreciated and valued, because in this context people are open to learning new ideas and encouraged to be creative. We all win when innovation is happening!

I was thinking about some of these tools when I logged into Facebook recently. Social media has become a major way people communicate with one another. Not only do we catch up on the simple life events, we also share big ideas about politics, philosophy, and hobbies. (Like RABBITS!) Statistics released in February 2018 state:

- There are over 2.13 BILLION users of Facebook worldwide,
- Five new profiles are created every second,
- Most people spent an average of 20 minutes on Facebook every time they log on
- 50% of 18-24 year olds go to Facebook when they wake up *

It's a no brainer to state that social media use is a huge influence on our thoughts and attitudes about people and events. Yet sometimes our social media communication is less than ideal. Maybe we pick a fight, slander others, or let our temper rise to the point that our hotly worded comment just **MUST** be posted... to our own detriment later!

How do we make sure that our contribution to the larger social dialogue is positive? The kind of positive influence that won't make us smack our hands to our heads in embarrassment when we see the "One Year Ago Today" posts?

Here's an idea: within my professional life we say that "Good communication **KNITTS** us together." **KNITT** stands for **K**ind, **N**ecessary, (with) **I**ntegrity, **T**ruE, **T**imely.

Let's unpack these ideas.

KIND. I love this quote by Ian MacLauren: *“Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always.”* In a nutshell, if your words are barbed and your mood is nasty, it may not be the best time to hit the comment button! Unkind words are like little land mines, waiting to blow up unsuspecting folks. We don’t need more crippled people limping around the social landscapes. Do your part to believe the best and doubt the worst... and keep your fingers still when in doubt.

NECESSARY. One of the terms that has gotten coverage lately is “echo chamber.” This is generally the idea that you read the same thing so many times you begin to believe it’s true, whether it really is or not. Before you post anything on social media ask yourself, “Is this Necessary?” Are you contributing to the conversation with your post, or are you simply echoing what others have said before you? Deitrich Bonhoeffer is a notable dissenter of the Hitler regime of Nazi Germany. He credited his ability to influence national debate to his father, a respected medical administrator, who refused to let Deitrich speak at the dinner table unless his contribution was relevant and expanded the conversation. It trained his mind! When Deitrich Bonhoeffer did begin to speak, people listened and it changed their lives. Consider whether your words are necessary and if they can contribute in a useful way.

INTEGRITY. How does your conversation uphold integrity? Integrity is the qualification of being honest. But even more interesting Integrity is related to the word *integer* (remember math class?), which is a WHOLE. Is your communication whole-hearted? Are there pieces missing or facts that would fill in the blank to your communication? When you present yourself honestly, and wholly, whether the communication flatters your idea or not, you act with integrity and you gain the trust of those around you. In the rabbit world, this might mean telling someone the bad parts of that rabbit you’d really like to sell, or refusing to falsify a pedigree. Omitting the truth could provide short-term benefits, but telling the whole story will build your integrity and create long-term success.

TRUE. If you don’t know the Truth about a situation and are going off of hearsay, you’re a gossip. Stop talking or sending that DM. Put the phone down, walk away from the computer. Repeat only what you know to be True and go back to point number one for the rest: Grace believes the best and doubts the worst. Practice being graceful... and truthful in your online communication!

TIMELY. In a digital world where a moment is like an eternity, timely communication on social media is a challenge! Set some standards for timely communication, like “I will respond to messages within 24 hours” or “If that post is more than a week old, I won’t resurrect it with a new comment.” Be careful about jumping on the bandwagon and stirring the pot – to follow the metaphor, usually the stirred pot doesn’t produce a meal anyone wants to eat!

By following a few steps to think through well-KNITT communication, I hope that you'll find yourself a part of many excellent conversations in the future! Whether they are in person or online, may all your conversations be useful and enjoyable!

* "Top 20 Facebook Statistics – Updates February 2018 – Zephoria"
(<https://zephoria.com/top-15-valuable-facebook-statistics/amp>)

JJ Veale
Domestic Rabbits Article Editor

SHIPPING RABBITS VIA AIRLINES FOR SHOWS OR TRANSPORT ALTERNATIVES

Christina Hacking

Cedar City, Utah

bluespringsboers@gmail.com

Several breeders use airlines as an option to get rabbits and themselves to shows across the country, and it is becoming a viable option since transport is not always available or reliable.

If you are not traveling on the same flight, most breeders I've spoken with are recommending United PetSafe. I used United PetSafe for my buck from Ohio.

Here are the steps needed when making your booking. Rabbits do not require a health certificate unless you are crossing out of the US, but you will want to verify this when making your booking. If you want to claim a value on the rabbits, then you would need a health certificate and a pre-travel health exam. This is taken from the United website:

“Upon making a booking for your pet, PetSafe will send you a PetSafe Customer Pre-travel information packet and a Customer Acknowledgement form. The packet is designed to inform customers on pre-travel planning, requirements and risks for pet travel. After you have reviewed the information in the packet, please complete and sign the Customer Acknowledgement Form. You must bring the form with you when you drop off your pet, or ensure that you have provided the person who may be dropping your pet off for you with the completed, signed form.

A completed and signed Customer Acknowledgement Form must be presented at the time your pet is dropped off for travel with PetSafe. The form summarizes the known risks of air travel for pets and the steps needed to prepare your pet for a safe journey. Copies of this form are available at every PetSafe drop-off location for customers who do not have access to a printer.

For more details or questions about PetSafe, visit united.com/petsafe or contact the experts at our PetSafe Service Center, who are available 24 hours a day, every day:

Email: petsafe@united.com

Phone: 1-800-575-3335 (toll-free in U.S.)”

Rates will vary depending on caging sizes and weights. I had one rabbit shipped from Ohio to Las Vegas in a double transport cage, and it was \$140. If you are shipping more and using the dog crate with multiple cages inside, your prices will be higher. You will

need two dishes attached on the inside for food and water. You can attach extra food on top. Puppy pads work best for the liner in the bottom of the transport cage.

I found this to be an awesome and easy way to get my buck home because it was fast and easy. He was door to door (including my three hour drive home from Vegas) in 12 hours. Ground transport would have taken days, and I haven't had the best of luck going this route. I wanted to share this option for others to consider when they are needing to bring in new blood or even attend shows on the other side of the country. I have attached photos of both the dog kennel option (not my photos and were found on the Internet) and just the transport cage options. The ARBA also has a quick guide on shipping via airlines as well that you can find on the ARBA website at https://www.arba.net/PDFs/airline_ref.pdf. I hope this helps everyone consider another option for traveling with their rabbits. It is a little more costly, but sometimes less time and less stress is money saved. Thanks,

Christina
District 2 Director
Blue Springs Rabbitry



HRBI SANCTION/SWEEPSTAKES CHAIR'S REPORT

Brian Bell

Jonestown, Pennsylvania
brian.sbfarms@gmail.com

Hello everyone,

I took over the sanctions and sweepstakes at the end of 2017 to help the club get this area back on track in this area. Unfortunately, the records that were passed to me are sparse so I need some help from the club. Over the past months I have been able to piece together quite a bit of information and below you will find a list of the shows that have been sanctioned during the current sweepstakes year, including those that that I do not have show reports for. You will also find the current sweepstakes points standings excluding shows for which the report is missing. If you know of a show where Blanc de Hotot was sanctioned and not listed please let me know. I will be trying to get in contact with the Show Secretaries regarding the missing show reports over the coming weeks.

According to the HRBI CBLs, the sanction year runs from July 1 – June 30. Points are awarded as follows according to the CBLs:

- Class Points
 - 6 points times number in the class for 1st place
 - 4 points times number in the class for 2nd place
 - 3 points times number in the class for 3rd place
 - 2. points times number in the class for 4th place
 - 1 points times number in the class for 5th place
 - NOTE: pre-junior classes do not count

- Specials Points
 - BOB 1 point times number in breed (pre-juniors excluded)
 - BOS 0.5 point times number in breed (pre-juniors excluded)
 - BIS or RIS 0.5 point times number of rabbits in the show

If you are attending a show, please help get the word out to the club that all future sanction requests and sweepstakes reports should be directed to my attention at:

Brian Bell
971 N. Lancaster St
Jonestown, PA 17038
brian.sbfarms@gmail.com

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at brian.sbfarms@gmail.com or by Facebook private message.

Best regards,
Brian Bell

SANCTIONED SHOWS (PAST)

Show Date/Location	Club Name	Show Contact	Missing Report
19-Aug-17 - Indianapolis, IN - Indiana State Fair Show A	Indiana State Fair	Jean Thomas	
19-Aug-17 - Indianapolis, IN - Indiana State Fair Show B	Indiana State Fair	Jean Thomas	
03-Oct-17 - Indianapolis, IN - ARBA CONV Open	Hoosier Rabbit and Cavy Shows	Carl Brody	
03-Oct-17 - Indianapolis, IN - ARBA CONV Youth	Hoosier Rabbit and Cavy Shows	Carl Brody	
14-Oct-17 - Lebanon PA - Open A	Lebanon Valley Rabbit Breeders Association	Bob Kolb	
14-Oct-17 - Lebanon PA - Open B	Lebanon Valley Rabbit Breeders Association	Bob Kolb	
15-Oct-17 - Lebanon PA - Open A	Mid-Atlantic Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association	Robyn Henry	
15-Oct-17 - Lebanon PA - Open B	Mid-Atlantic Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association	Robyn Henry	
08-Oct-17 - State College, PA - Central PA RBA	Central PA RBA	Lois Rawlings	X
08-Oct-17 - State College, PA - Tri-County Rabbit Club of PA	Tri-County Rabbit Club of PA	Lois Rawlings	X
09-Dec-17 - Harrisburg, PA - Open A	Mid-Atlantic Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association	Tori Whitehaus	
09-Dec-17 - Harrisburg, PA - Open B	Mid-Atlantic Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association	Tori Whitehaus	
31-Dec-17 - Lafayette, IN - Golden Praire Rabbit Breeder's Association	Golden Praire Rabbit Breeder's Association	Carl Brody	X
06-Jan-18 - Auburn, NY -	Rochester Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association	Suzzete Rundle	X
05-Jan-18 - Harrisburg, PA - Pennsylvania State Farm Show	Pennsylvania State Farm Show	Sue Toth	X
24-Feb-18 - Arthur, IL - Open A	Central Illinois RBA	Jane Meyer	X
24-Feb-18 - Arthur, IL - Open B	Central Illinois RBA	Jane Meyer	X

Show Date/Location	Club Name	Show Contact	Missing Report
17-Feb-18 - Kingman, AZ - AZ Rabbit Cavy Breeders Association	AZ Rabbit Cavy Breeders Association	Vanessa	X
03-Feb-18 - Lebanon, PA - Eastern Blanc De Hotot Fanciers PaSRBA Specialty	Eastern Blanc De Hotot Fanciers	Melissa Deitrich	
03-Feb-18 - Lebanon, PA - PaSRBA Saturday	Pennsylvania State Rabbit Breeder's Association	Lori Jo Whitehaus	
03-Feb-18 - Lebanon, PA - PaSRBA Saturday	Pennsylvania State Rabbit Breeder's Association	Robert Kolb	
04-Feb-18 - Lebanon, PA - Eastern Blanc De Hotot Fanciers PaSRBA Specialty	Eastern Blanc De Hotot Fanciers	Melissa Deitrich	
04-Feb-18 - Lebanon, PA - PaSRBA Sunday	Pennsylvania State Rabbit Breeder's Association	Lori Jo Whitehaus	
04-Feb-18 - Lebanon, PA - PaSRBA Sunday	Pennsylvania State Rabbit Breeder's Association	Robert Kolb	
17-Feb-18 - Shreveport, LA - Rare All Breed Show	Coreners of the South Rabbit Club	Collette S. Waters	X

SWEEPSTAKES STANDINGS OPEN

Name	Placing Points	Specials Points	Total Points
Sessamen, Samantha	158	50	208
Cole, Rick	174	27	201
Chris/Melissa Carlson, Carlson	136	0	136
Lichvarcik, Alexis	74	20	94
Wonders, Brice	80	14	94
Grange, Stacie	72	0	72
Renk, Kristen	57	0	57
Steley-Jones, Laurie	54	0	54
Roy/Barb Semb/Semb	6	16	22
Frances/Victoria Thayer/Crites	22	0	22
Lott, Mandy	18	0	18
Lichvarcik, Rayana	12	5	17

SWEEPSTAKES STANDINGS YOUTH

Name	Placing Points	Specials Points	Total Points
Stouffer, Bella	24	4	28
Frances/Victoria Thayer/Crites	23	0	23
Jones, Isabel	12	8	20
Jones, Trinity	12	0	12

SANCTIONED SHOWS (FUTURE)

Show Date/Location	Club Name	Show Contact
22-Apr-18 - Amanna, IA - Hotot Nationals Open	Cedar Rapids Rabbit Breeders Association	Deborah Caw
22-Apr-18 - Amanna, IA - Hotot Nationals Youth	Cedar Rapids Rabbit Breeders Association	Deborah Caw
22-Apr-18 - Amanna, IA - Open Show 1	Cedar Rapids Rabbit Breeders Association	Deborah Caw
22-Apr-18 - Amanna, IA - Open Show 2	Cedar Rapids Rabbit Breeders Association	Deborah Caw
22-Apr-18 - Amanna, IA - Youth Show 1	Cedar Rapids Rabbit Breeders Association	Deborah Caw
22-Apr-18 - Amanna, IA - Youth Show 2	Cedar Rapids Rabbit Breeders Association	Deborah Caw

HRBI MEETING MINUTES, 19 JANUARY 2018

The meeting was called to Order by Melissa Carlson at 6:04pm PDT

In Attendance: Brian Bell, Barb Blankenship, Melissa Carlson, Melissa Deitrich, Babs Galkowski, Christina Hacking, Stacey Konency, Barb Semb, Samantha Sessamen

Absent: Tamlyn Overmier, Laurie Staley-Jones, Kim Sugden

Approval of Previous Minutes: None to approve

Old Business:

1) Communication

How often President and Vice President touch base with Board:

- At least one time per month
- 24 hour turn around with communication requests
- President gives Vice President permission to act on her behalf when President cannot be reached
- HRBI Facebook Executive group will be for main business
- Contact info of full board will be added to file Section by Secretary

2) Commitment of Board to Club/Membership

- Secretary to post calendar reminders on HRBI FB Executive group
- Newsletter deadlines are Jan. 1st, April 1st, July 1st, and Oct. 1st
- Secretary to post club duties to file on HRBI FB Exec sight
 - o Motion made by Melissa Deitrich to move that this meeting counts as February Executive Committee meeting; seconded; approved.

3) Status of Incorporation/Bank Account/CB&L's

- Club needs to create/submit State level Articles of Incorporation and then IRS Federal 501(c)5
- Discussion of hiring Lisa Long to consult on creation of incorporation and 501(c)5
 - o Cost for accounting would be between \$100-\$200
 - o Cost for lawyer consultation would be approximately \$600
 - o Total accounting and lawyer fees would be less than \$1000
 - Motion made by Stacey Konency to hire accountant and lawyer for 501(c)5; seconded; approved.

- HRBI will be able to use cheaper IRS 1023 EZ form for 501(c)5
- The Articles of Incorporation will conform to State and Federal requirements
- Sweepstakes Chair will be lead on coordinating with Lisa Long and the submission of State/Federal level documentation
 - o Motion for Sweepstakes Secretary to be State Agent and to file in Pennsylvania; so moved; seconded; approved.
- Capital One Spark Business for HRBI checking account once club has EIN
 - o Motion by Brian Bell to allow Secretary to use Capital One; seconded; approved

4) Dissolution of Club

- Nothing to dissolve
- Don't need LLC or INC in name
- International in name is fine
- Create and use HRBI Policy Manual
 - o Policies and procedures for communication, elections, committees, board duties, conflict resolution, etc.
- Club will first clean up CB&L's, then make changes to them as needed through proper procedures

New business:

1) Unpaid Expenditures

- JJ Story-Veale owed \$171.27 from May 2016
- Secretary may pay normal operating expenses: shows, website, postage, etc. under \$250
 - o Motion by Brian Bell to approve adding to CB&L's expenditures payable up to \$250 by Secretary without prior Executive Committee approval; seconded; approved
- Webmaster due 2016 and 2017 website server fees
 - o Motion by Barb Semb to pay Webmaster for 2016 and 2017 fees; seconded; approved

2) Membership dues payable Jan. 1st through Dec. 31st

- During transition to new annual membership renewal, charge full price for renewal, no proration – e.g. member due to renew in July will pay full year renewal that expires Dec. 31st, 2018
- Secretary send Board new member(s) info to share in welcoming incoming members

3) Secretary's proposed resignation

- Secretary withdrew resignation

4) Paying for Hotot National and ARBA National Shows

- National Awards: how to pay, fees, how much, etc.
 - o Typically hosting club pays for expenses
 - o Put in Policy Manual
 - Vice President will put together for HRBI Policy Manual
 - o Adding a consistent small subsidy for both shows

Motion by Brian Bell to adjourn; seconded, approved – Time 7:44pm PDT