

Specialty Club Reports

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Syracuse convention! Please help with this upcoming event.

Recently, I wrote to Mr. Fred Nellis, the secretary of the National Himalayan Rabbit Club of England. He sent a very nice reply to my letter, along with an article he has written on the Blue Himalayan.

Mr. Nellis became secretary of the NHRC in 1977, but has raised Himmies since 1952. Mr. Nellis states that their club was founded about 1890. Some of the past history remains unclear, as all records were lost in 1960. In 1929 they had about thirty members, in 1977 they had 126 members, and today they have 172 members with about 25% being youth.

There was correspondence between AHRA & NHRC in the '60s, but contact has been lost over the years. He has been told that some European countries have a good number of Himmie entries. A friend of his has exported Himmies to Bangkok. Another friend judges Himmies in South Africa and says that entries there are not large, but the quality is high. An Australian visitor had asked Mr. Nellis to contact the secretary of the Australian Himmie Club. So, you see, Himalayans are world wide.

The Blue Himmie in the U.K. was being experimented with even before 1940. Blue Rex, Blue English, and Blue Dutch were used to establish the required color of light medium blue. But it was not until a pair of Blue Himmies was imported into the continent from Belgium that their blues really improved. The Blue has had its problems, one being that many did not have the true Himmie shape and fine bone. This was overcome by mating back to Black, but this crossing of color would produce offspring with very brindled markings. But, when these offspring were bred back to a true Blue, the Blue color did seem to come through in most cases. Continued matings of these for a couple of generations produced Blue in all cases.

Mr. Nellis says that all Himmie Breeders in the U.K. will agree that their stock has had Black introduced at times. It is also true that when the Brindled marked ones were bred to Blacks, after a few generations, decent Black stock came out of it.

It is not surprising to find that after six generations of Black/Black mating, they find a doe that will produce 50% Blues in a litter of a Black/Black mating. More than one breeder has established good Blue stock from such matings. Also, it has been known for winners in both colors to be born in the same litter.

Mr. Nellis states that there are breeders today who tell him they are mating Black and Blue together and producing good stock in both colors. Mr. Nellis says that this is entirely foreign to what we have been taught. He wonders if it is possible that by now they have reached the stage where the Himmies can be like the Dutch and English, and the colors can be mixed safely. He does advise extreme caution, but he says at least it is food for thought. BUT, remember they have been developing their Blues since before the 1940s.

Mr. Nellis would love to correspond with anyone interested in Himalayans, anywhere in the world. The address is, West End, Brompton by Sawdon, Scarborough, N. Yorkshire, YO139D0, England. It costs thirty-one cents for the airmail.

Any breeders out there who are trying for Blue Himmies, please be careful! I know that in the U.S. the Blue Dutch and Blue Dwarf have been used. This, of course, ruins the type on the offspring. Do not sell your excess of the litters, as we do not want to ruin the Himmies we already have. It will take many, many generations to get the type back. Mr. Nellis did stress they took a great number of years, and that it was not until the Blue pair was imported in, that their Blues started improving.

I do know that in the U.S. some breeders are getting Blues from Black/Black matings. I have heard that Blue stock was imported into the U.S. at one time. But no one seems to want to come forward and give me that information. Please write me if you can be of help. Thank you in advance! My address is 6103 Jefferson Pike, Frederick, MD 21701.

Hotot Rabbit Breeders International News

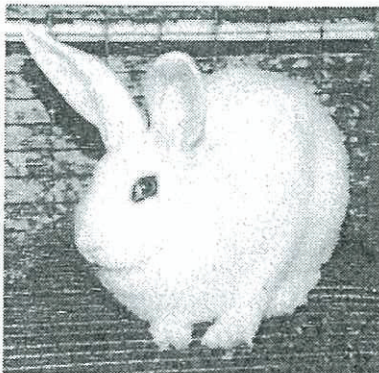
By Bob Whitman, Secretary

Election ballots are in with Margaret Henderson of New Mexico taking the gavel as president. Margaret has served as the vice-president the past two years and has been most instrumental in seeing the HRBI progress. We can feel assured the club will continue to prosper as the Hotot breed spreads in popularity.

Walt Hawkins of California steps in as vice-president with board members being: Victoria Palch, Mass.; Dan Brink, Michigan; Warren Loose, Texas; Loren Wilkins, Iowa; Doris Liebnow, South Dakota; Leonora Marshall, Idaho; and Bernadine Hawkins, California. I feel we have a fine slate of officers for the coming year, all truly interested in promoting this most unique breed.

Membership in the HRBI now encompasses thirteen states, as well as Canada and Scotland. California leads in members with Texas placing second.

I would like to take this moment to congrat-



America's first Grand Champion Hotot. Bred and owned by Walt and Bernadine Hawkins.

ulate both Walt and Bernadine Hawkins of Salinas, California for an American first. These two individuals have the distinct honor of raising the first Grand Champion Hotot.

Our Guide Book has entered its production stage now with the HRBI currently seeking breeders, clubs, judges, registrars along with feed and equipment companies to support this venture through advertising. Ad rates have been set at: inside front or back cover, \$75.00; full page, \$50.00; half page, \$30.00; quarter page, \$20.00; with breeder, judges and registrar listings selling for \$10.00. Photos that require halftone screens will be an additional \$10.00 per ad. Guide Book size has been set at 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 inches. Proofs will be sent to advertiser for signature approval prior to printing.

From all indications it will be a good spring show season for the Hotots with breeders writing in and reporting the nest boxes are filled. We, too, are looking forward to a good turnout of animals at the 1981 Convention Show in New York.

Warren Loose of Texas has accepted the position of breed chairman with Victoria Palch of Mass. busy collection specials.

Membership in the HRBI is \$7.00, Adult; \$10.00 husband/wife; \$3.50, youth; Open Sanction, \$5.00; or \$7.50 for both Open and Youth.

If interested in knowing more about the Hotot rabbit and its sponsoring organization, we welcome your correspondence. Write Bob Whitman, Secretary, 2355 Rusk, Beaumont, Texas 77702 or phone 713/835-0644. See you at the spring shows.

American Chinchilla Rabbit Breeders Association

By Carol A. Storms

By the time you're reading this, it will be March already, and in the thick of the show season for spring. April will bring us two big All-American Chinchilla shows — the 4th of April in Hutchinson, Kansas, and the 25th in Goshen, Indiana.

A little birdie by the name of Jim tells me that we have ACRBA members on the East and West coasts who have mentioned they'd like to have All-American Chinchilla shows also. So you just may be in for a treat in those areas a bit later in the year as well.

Our new edition of the ACRBA Guide Book is slotted for mail-out in March; if you're an ACRBA member, you should have it by now or at least any day now. Steve Roush, our G.B. editor, guarantees it to be one of the most informative and helpful Guides that the club has ever had!

Another feature coming your way is the March issue of 'Rabbits' magazine, an American Chinchilla Special! Editor Sue Pfrang has gathered articles and photos from various Am. Chin. breeders. It should be a real dandy!

The ACRBA Officers and Board of Directors have recently given approval for the ap-

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