

Specialty Club Report

(Continued from Page 43)

Hotot Rabbit Breeders International

By C. Murphy Street, Secretary-Treasurer

Wish somebody could suggest a way to educate folks on the fact that the Hotot and the Dwarf Hotot are two different breeds of rabbits. In some parts of the country, the Dwarf Hotot is being referred to simply as "Hotot", which has only served to cause confusion.

One result has been that our club continues to receive sanction requests from show secretaries who really want a sanction for Dwarf Hotots, but apparently don't know that they should be directed to the American Dwarf Hotot Rabbit Club, c/o Marylouise Cowan, Secretary/Treasurer, P.O. Box 54, Newagen, Maine 04562.

The Dwarf Hotot breed and club have outpaced HRBI in rate of growth, and unfortunately the confusion over the Dwarf Hotot and the standard Hotot breeds seems to be growing.

Don't get me wrong. I like Dwarf Hotots. I own some, and have been a member of ADHRC since 1984. Other breeders who belong to our club also work with Dwarf Hotots.

When folks write to me about Dwarf Hotots, I'm happy to pass along what information I can, but it concerns me that this confusion exists and is growing. Suggestions, anyone?

Maybe we need to return to the name our breed started with: Blanc de Hotot. Like our rabbit, the name has a lot of class!

Add Maryland and Colorado to the list of states where Hotots are now being raised. New members in those states join breeders in about ten other states scattered around the country who have been working with our breed.

It has been a slow process, but gradually, more rabbit breeders are becoming acquainted with our medium size white rabbit with the black eye bands. Next year will mark the tenth anniversary of their arrival in the United States.

Silver Martin Rabbit Club

By Christie Bradfield, Publicity

By the time this issue of *Domestic Rabbits* hits your mailboxes, the 1987 National Silver Marten Show will be history. We'd like to personally thank all of you who made the show this year, especially those hardy souls who stayed around for the All-Night Show as well.

Dean Daglow, Dick Weaver, and the Cal-Bra-Hill Rabbit Club deserve a big Marten pat on the back for all their hard efforts in putting this show together. Now it's on to Portland in October, and be forewarned — Ray Stacy, the Brewers, Laurel Bonds, the Webbs, and the rest of the West Coast Marten contingent are going to provide some pretty tough competition.

And if, like us, you're already making plans to attend the 1988 ARBA Convention in Madison, Wisconsin, be prepared for both a good-sized showing of Martens and some of the stiffest competition you'll see in a long time.

The good folks from J&J Rabbitry, Scott and Harlow Jones, have been winning everything in sight there so far this year, with three BOB's, a couple of BOS's, two Best Four Class winners and a Best in Show — with three different Black Silver Martens.

Maybe you don't normally associate Silver Martens and Wisconsin, but there are no less than 12 SMRC members there, all eagerly waiting for you in 1988.

If you've been perusing your upcoming rabbit show listings lately, you have noticed that virtually every show listed is a county or state fair. If you haven't taken part in one of these before, you might want to give it a shot this year. We got our first exposure to Silver Martens at our county fair, and have been showing Martens at two different fairs for the past two years.

It takes a lot more work than your normal one-day show — in order to do a really good job, you need to check on your stock on a regular basis, have business cards ready to hand out, and be prepared to talk about your rabbits to a large number of curious visitors.

But having people waiting in line, money in

hand, to buy rabbits from you on the closing day of the fair is really nice. You also have the opportunity to pass on your knowledge of the rabbit industry to what is usually a very appreciative group of hard-working youth breeders.

Speaking of hard-working youth breeders, we have the makings of a Master Marten Breeder here in Michigan in our own Chad Burt. In addition to winning 7 BOB's, 7 BOS's, two Best Four Class awards, and two Best in Shows so far this year with both his Silver Martens and his Florida Whites, Chad was recently selected as Michigan's Rabbit King and is also the Michigan State Youth RBA Vice-President. Chad is currently leading in the SMRC Youth Sweepstakes points competition with over 3,000 points and should be well out in front in Quality Points as well.

I overheard a judge remark about a recent show that the youth Silver Martens could have beaten the open class Martens.

This is not only a tribute to the efforts of folks like Chad Burt and our other fine youth breeders, but to the open class breeders who cared enough to provide these kids with some first-class breeding stock to start with.

Until next time, thanks for your news — it's great to hear from you.

National Silver Fox Rabbit Club

By Mary Bethell, Secretary

This is the time of year when the ARBA and a lot of specialty clubs, including this one, are having elections. I urge everyone to cast a ballot for the candidate of your choice, keeping in mind that past performance is a good indication of what you can expect in the future.

Your nest boxes should be put away and the choicest bunnies saved for the coming fall shows and, of course, the National Convention and Show in Portland. The West Coast breeders have been challenged by our members in the East to beat the 68 that were shown last year in Ohio.

There is some good news I'd like to pass on to you and ask for some input, if you care to help. Don Mathews, ARBA Judge from Newcastle, CA, will be giving a presentation on the Silver Fox at the Convention Judges' Conference.

He can use some suggestions from us regarding the improvement of the judging. What do you encounter at the judging table that is a problem? Let me know, and I will pass it on or write to Don Mathews.

As of today there are 12 more shows that will be sending in reports to gather those sweepstakes points. Jody Wilson continues to lead in overall points and in the Blues, while Darrell and Patsy Butcher have taken over the lead in Fur and the Blacks.

For membership information, write Mary Bethell, Secretary, 5081 Buck Road, Shingle Springs, CA 95682. Remember, we have the versatile rabbit: food, fur, fun, fancy.

Domestic Rabbits / July-August, 1987

**VOTE FOR
CARROL G. HOOKS**

District 4 Director

Your Support Will Be Appreciated

Thank You