

HOTOT RABBIT BREEDERS INT'L

Newsletter Issue

April 2017

In this Newsletter . . . HOTOT SPRING NUMBERS



April Breeding, Brings May Hotots



SPRING by the Numbers from a Few Members: 101 and Counting

Barb Blankenship 36 Hotots, Samantha Sessamen 7 Hotots and just registered 2 and plans to register 3 more, Anna Timmerman 18 Hotots and plans to register 7, Clarke family 3 Hotots, Corely Welch 1 Hotot, Ella and Stacey Konency 11 and hope to register 2, Babs Galkowski 5 Hotots, Christina Hacking "I really can't say how many Hotot are in the rabbitry. (TOO MANY!!!) lol" - Blue Springs: Registered 3 so far this year, and hoping to register 4 at WCC if they make Senior weight. I have two GC eligible does and several more does that have legs that just need one more from Int/Senior class, Collette Waters 5 does, 3 bucks and a litter in the nest box, JJ Veale – "We have about 12 producing does and 4 active bucks - Hoping to register about 6 this year - then there are the babies... we have a lot right now!" **NUMBERS Cont'd on Page 5**

HRBI Vice President Report

by JJ Veale

March 29, 2017

Happy spring! I hope this note finds you with full nest boxes enjoying excellent weather!

As I write, we are knee-deep in planning for our 2017 HRBI National Show, will be held this year in conjunction with West Coast Classic in Reno, NV May 6 & 7. I hope that you are making plans to attend with your best Hotot! Our booth will be raffling off Blanc de Hotot during the national show in hopes we get to welcome some new breeders to the club!

A big thank you to the western breeders who will be supporting the National show: Christina Hacking, Stacey Konency, Barbara Blankenship, Ashleigh and Bella Stouffer, and Sandra Helmuth to name just a few! Without their support we wouldn't have the ability to make a great impression on the other exhibitors at West Coast Classic. Thank you!

A few questions sent me searching through the Constitution and Bylaws of the HRBI in March. This document, revised in 2015 through the blood, sweat, and tears of some amazing members, is a great resource for how our club operates. By reviewing it I was able to create an annual calendar, which will **Continued on Page 2**

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VP Report Cont'd

help all members know what to expect regarding terms of office, quarterly reports, and meetings!

When in doubt, refer to the C&BL – it's a great, useful document designed to serve our club well. The website at <http://www.hrbi.club> has a copy, as well as the HRBI Facebook group.

As always, I hope that we are all promoting our Hotot at shows, welcoming questions, and listening and learning from other breeders as we breed for the best representative of the breed possible!

District 5 Report

Hello from the Midwest! It's been a very exciting month for us! We have 2 moms pulling fur this morning and hopefully they're good mamas and babies make it! I have been waiting a long time for full nest boxes. Convention is coming soon and we are hoping to have some beautiful Blancs to show! Hope everyone is feeling spring coming and have babies as well. Have a blessed show season, Babs

**Let the Shows
Begin!**

**2017 BLANC DE HOTOT
NATIONALS
AND
WEST COAST CLASSIC 2017
MAY 5TH - 7TH
RENO, NEVADA
Reno-Sparks Convention Center**

Six Breed Nationals, Dozens of Specialty Shows, Triple All-Breed Open and Youth shows, Cavy shows, and a judging lineup of ARBA's most recognized faces. It's not just a show, it's an event!

All-Breed Entry Deadlines and Fees
Postmark: April 24, 2017 (mailed entries)
E-mail: April 26, 2017 (midnight)
Single Show: \$5 per animal
Two Shows: \$10 per animal
Three Show: \$13 per animal



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HOTOT RABBIT BREEDERS INTERNATIONAL
presents

Hotot National Show

(and specialty)

AT WEST COAST CLASSIC • RENO, NV • MAY 6, 2017

NATIONAL SHOW JUDGE:
PAULA COURTNEY
SPECIALTY SHOW JUDGE:
DAVID MOLL

ENTRIES
POSTMARKED: APRIL 24
Linda Bell, PO Box 292360, Phelan, CA 92329
EMAILED: APRIL 26
CRCSShowsecretary@yahoo.com
COOPING NEEDS:
APRIL 24
madhatterrabbits@gmail.com

NATIONAL ENTRY FEE
\$6/rabbit, \$2/fur
SPECIALTY FEE
\$5/rabbit, \$2/fur
COOPING FEE
\$3/rabbit

HOST HOTEL
Peppermill
\$99/night + tax

Questions? CONTACT JJ AT MADHATTERRABBITS@GMAIL.COM

***Note* Hotot Specialty is \$4.50, not \$5**



There is also a Rare Breed Show - See Next Page



HOTOT RABBIT BREEDERS INT'L

Rare Breed Show

presented by West Coast Classic

Saturday, May 6th, 2017 Reno NV

"Who says you can't win big playing the penny slots!"

West Coast Classic presents its first ever ARBA sanctioned show catering exclusively to the promotion and preservation of the rarest, lowest population and endangered breeds of rabbit.

With a special award for Best in Show and Reserve in Show, Best of Breed Awards and the opportunity to showcase your best to a multitude of potential new fanciers – this EVENT is not one to be missed!

We encourage entries from breeds on either Rare Breed List and also of ARBA's 49th and newest breed, the Argente Brun.

The Livestock Conservancy lists the following breeds and categorizes them as:

- Critical – American Chinchilla
- Threatened – American, Belgian Hare, Blanc de Hotot, Silver, Silver Fox
- Watch – Beveren, Giant Chinchilla, Lilac, Rhinelander
- Recovering – Crème d'Argent
- Study - Harlequin

In 2003 a group of dedicated breeders compiled a list using data from ARBA and have kept it updated, the current rankings (from most rare on up) are as follows

1. Blanc de Hotot
2. Giant Angora
3. Giant Chinchilla
4. American
5. Crème d'Argent
6. Beveren
7. American Sable
8. Belgian Hare
9. Satin Angora
10. Lilac
11. Silver
12. Cinnamon
13. Palomino
14. Standard Chinchilla
15. Harlequin
16. Rhinelander

Entry fees: \$3.50/rabbit - Open only
Payment must be sent with entry.
Make cheques payable to CRCS.
Entry Deadline: Mail in postmarked by 4/24/17
Email by midnight 4/26

Entries Sent to:
Western Rare Breeders United
c/o Linda Bell
PO Box 292360
Phelan, CA 92329
cresshowsecretary@yahoo.com

Questions? Contact Breed Rare Breed Chair:
Alan Rafferty
argentebrun@gmail.com
(209) 597-4003

HOTOT RABBIT BREEDERS INT'L

Show Marked Hotot: the Numbers Game and the Golden Ratio

By JJ Veale

"... show-marked Hotot are just a numbers game..."

This was the advice we received from a judge when we first began in Hotot. At the time, we were frustrated because we'd found fly-bites on the ears of a rabbit we had high hopes for registering and receiving a Grand Champion. The judge, who had himself been breeding marked rabbits for awhile, comforted us; "Breeding a marked breed is always tricky – getting show-marked Hotot are just a numbers game. Breed hard, cull hard, and watch your ratios improve."

To date, this has been some of the best advice we have received. Our litters vary in the number of show marked babies, but we have learned that if we want to be able to take 10 show marked animals to a show, we'd better have a minimum of six does bred to account for the sports.

What was really (nerdy) interesting to me was what happened when I saw the theme of numbers for this newsletter and Googled "numbers game and rabbits". It turns out that the Fibonacci Sequence was created using rabbits as the example!

For those of you who aren't familiar with the Fibonacci Sequence, this is a mathematical formula that is found all over nature – in the spirals of a seashell, in the flight of a butterfly, in the center of a plant, in bees... it's called the *golden ratio*.

The example Fibonacci used looks like this:

Fibonacci started with a pair of fictional and slightly unbelievable baby rabbits, a baby boy rabbit and a baby girl rabbit.



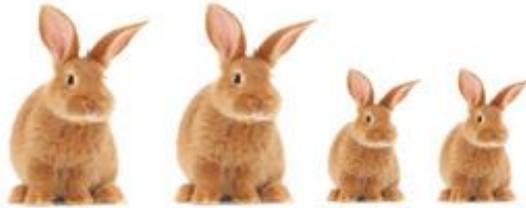
They were fully grown after one month



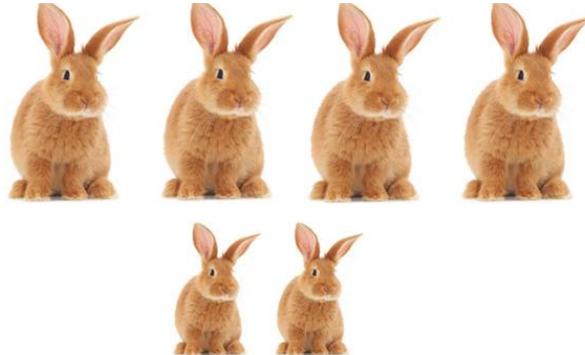
and did what rabbits do best, so that the next month two more baby rabbits (again a boy and a girl) were born.

Cont'd on Page 6

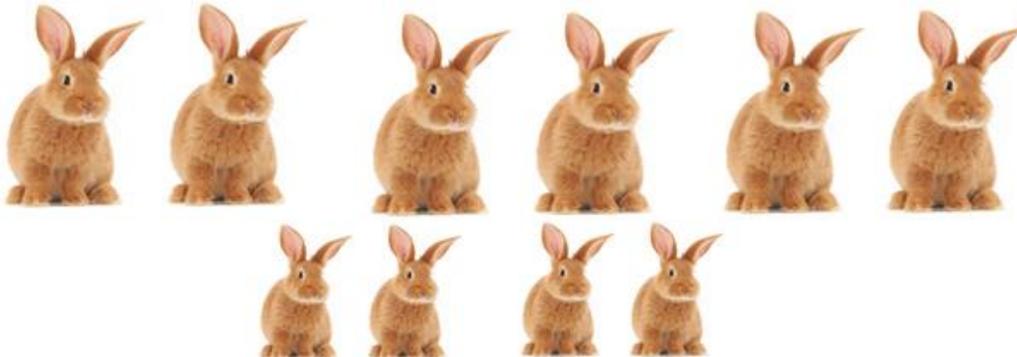
HOTOT RABBIT BREEDERS INT'L



The next month these babies were fully grown and the first pair had two more baby rabbits (again, handily a boy and a girl).



Ignoring problems of in-breeding, the next month the two adult pairs each have a pair of baby rabbits and the babies from last month mature.



Fibonacci asked how many rabbits a single pair can produce after a year with this highly unbelievable breeding process (rabbits never die, every month each adult pair produces a mixed pair of baby rabbits who mature the next month). He realized that the number of adult pairs in a given month is the total number of rabbits (both adults and babies) in the previous month. Writing A_n for the number of adult pairs in the n th month and R_n for the total number of pairs in the n th month, this gives

$$A_n = R_{n-1}.$$

Fibonacci also realized that the number of baby pairs in a given month is the number of adult pairs in the previous month. Writing B_n for the number of baby pairs in the n th month, this gives

$$B_n = A_{n-1} = R_{n-2}.$$

Cont'd on Page 7

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Therefore, the total number of pairs of rabbits (adult+baby) in a particular month is the sum of the total pairs of rabbits in the previous two months:

$$R_n = A_n + B_n = R_{n-1} + R_{n-2}.$$

Starting with one pair, the sequence we generate is exactly the sequence at the start of this article. And from that we can see that after twelve months there will be **144** pairs of rabbits.

Where does it go?

Real rabbits don't breed as Fibonacci hypothesized, but his sequence still appears frequently in nature, as it seems to capture some aspect of growth. You can find it, for example, in the turns of natural spirals, in plants, and in the family tree of bees.

(Source: <https://plus.maths.org/content/fibonacci-sequence-brief-introduction>)

Now granted, this is a little off topic, but I'd recommend you use the Blanc de Hotot "numbers game" as a starting spot to brush up on your maths! We can all use on-going educational opportunities, can't we?!

Regardless of whether you explore the Fibonacci Sequence, I do hope that your nest boxes are soon overflowing with show-marked Hotot that we see on the tables in the coming months!



Photo Courtesy of Asa Spade

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HRBI Membership Application

Membership Dues:

Open: \$10/Year Youth: \$5/Year Husband/Wife: \$14/Year

Family: \$14/year+ \$2 per Youth International: Add \$/Year

Please print out this form, *COMPLETE* all areas indicated, and mail with your Check or Money Order payable to:

HRBI
5988 South Mohawk
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Please keep this portion for your records - Payment via MO# or CK# _____ Date: _____

CUT HERE

HRBI APPLICANT INFORMATION

NEW

RENEWAL

Fill out the member information below completely. In the TYPE column, write in O for Open, Y for Youth, and F for Family.

Indicate F-A for adults, and F-Y for Youth family members!

FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	ARBA#	TYPE	FEE

MAILING INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____ Referred By?: _____

Website/Facebook URL: _____

Are you currently raising Blanc de Hotot? YES / NO How Many Jr/6-8/Sr's do you have? _____

DO YOU WISH TO RECEIVE: PAPER NEWSLETTERS or ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

ADD HRBI LOGO MERCHANDISE?

LONG SLEEVED TEES IN SIZES XL L M IN RUST ONLY

HRBI CLUB PATCH \$10	HRBI DRINK KOOZI \$8	HRBI LONG-SLEEVE TEE \$20	TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED
# _____	# _____ YELLOW/ORANGE	# _____ RUST SZ _____	\$ _____

Hotot Rabbit Breeders International, online at: www.hrbi.org

HOTOT RABBIT BREEDERS INT'L



**MAY ALL YOUR DOES HAVE
HAYSTACHES THIS SPRING.
BRING ON THE NUMBERS!**

***SPECIAL THANKS
TO
JJ VEALE***

FOR HER EXTRA
EFFORTS IN
PLANNING AND
COORDINATING
SHOW INFO
FOR
2017
HOTOT NATIONALS
AND
WEST COAST CLASSIC

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Webmaster - Babs Galkowski
babs@rocketrabbity.com

HOTOT RABBIT BREEDERS INT'L

A Final Word from Our President

Hello from Wisconsin!

We are in the wonderful season of sprinter now. I'm not sure if spring or winter is winning. It could be seventies one day and snow a day or two later. It's a hard season on rabbits. Any with respiratory issues tend to fail at this time of the year. I try to keep the temps stable in my barn. I don't like the large temperature fluctuations as that causes more stress so I don't open the barn up too much when the temps go up. It warms up more gradually that way.

I hope everyone is getting lots of babies for convention and other fall shows. The club is growing and new breeders are looking for stock. Please make sure that the animals you sell are healthy and you are clear on how showable they are. Some people are happy with breeding stock and some want show marked. Unfortunately we all know the show marked can become unshowable due to flybites. One of many challenges of the breed.

Hopefully there will be a good showing at the National show in Reno. I won't be attending this year due to distance and family issues. There should be more info in the newsletter and I've seen posts on Facebook. I hope everyone has a good time and many high quality Blanc de Hotot are shown.

The Board has many issues to deal with right now. First we will need to choose where Nationals will be held next spring. If any one has a last minute bids, they need to submit them by May 1st. JJ is also working on a guidebook for the club. We are tentatively planning on having it ready for convention in Indianapolis. If anyone has any issues they think the Board needs to deal with, let us know.

May your nestboxes be full and your does steady putting on the mascara.

Melissa Carlson

