

American Netherland Dwarf Rabbit Club

The GEM of the Fancy



Netherland Dwarf Standard Proposals 2009

As presented by the ANDRC Standard Committee

Proposal A: Showroom Classes & Weights

Current: Senior Bucks & Does 6 months of age and over, not over 2 ½ pounds, Ideal weight 2 pounds. Junior Bucks & Does under 6 months of age, not over 2 pounds, Minimum weight 1 pound.

Proposed Change: *Senior Bucks & Does 6 months of age and over, not over 2 ½ pounds. Junior Bucks & Does under 6 months of age, not over 2 pounds, Minimum weight 1 pound.*

Rationale: It was felt that the ideal weight in our current standard was a throw back to European judging method of weighing each animal and measuring body length etc. during the process of scoring each individual animal, Overall balance of all the components of an animal is most important no matter if it weights 1.5, 2, 2.8 or any weight within the required weights. It seems odd that our current ideal weight is the maximum weight for juniors. Are juniors supposed to stop growing? What message does this send? We understand that there will be those that will not support this as they feel that larger animals will have a advantage over the smaller animals but for the reasons mentioned here this is not true. The current ideal weight also conflicts with our desire to have a medium heavy bone animal that is a must in a fully matured senior Dwarf. Many other breeds in the ARBA have already removed the ideal weight from their standard for many of the same reasons.

Proposal B: General Type

Current: Body- points 35: The body is to be short and compact. The shoulders are to be deep and broad, with the shoulders being the same width as the hindquarters. The depth and width of the body shall balance. The topline is to show that the depth of the shoulders is carried through to a deep, well rounded, and well filled hindquarter. The legs are to be short in length and of medium to medium-heavy bone.

Faults- Narrow shoulders lacking depth or width equal to hindquarters is a severe fault. Fault animals with a long, rangy body type. Hindquarters that are pinched, undercut, or have protruding hips should be faulted. Animals lacking balance are undesirable. Fault animals with long limbs or fine bone.

Disqualifications from Competition – Dewlap

Judges should refrain from pushing the head down on Netherland Dwarfs. They should not be stretched out, nor should they be pushed together. Dwarfs should not be encouraged to pose erect on their forefeet or show daylight between the front and rear feet when viewed from the side. They must show good balance and conformation, which is very essential for good Dwarf type.

Proposed Change: *Body- points 35: The body is to be short and compact, and well rounded. The shoulders are to be deep and wide. The shoulders and hindquarters are to be of equal width, showing no taper. The depth and width of body shall balance. The topline is to show that the depth of the shoulders is carried through to a deep well rounded and well filled hindquarters. The legs are to be short in length and of medium to medium-heavy bone.*

Faults- Weak shoulders lacking depth or width equal to the hindquarters. Fault animals showing length of body, lacking balance and roundness. Fault for lack of overall balance and uniformity. Fault animals that are pinched, undercut, or have protruding hips or animals with long limbs or fine bone.

Disqualification from competition: *Dewlap*

Judges should refrain from pushing the head down on Netherland Dwarfs. They should not be stretched out, nor should they be pushed together. Dwarfs should not be encouraged to pose erect on their fore feet or show daylight between the front and rear feet when viewed from the side. Netherland Dwarfs will pose more properly when handled gently. They must show good balance and conformation, which is essential for good Dwarf type.

Reason for changes: Even with very little change here we thought the new and added wording is more clear and more descriptive for the General type section of the standard.

Proposal C: Balance

The Addition of a description of Netherland Dwarf balance to the Standard. To read as follows:

The term balance is used to describe the ideal pleasing harmonious arrangement between the head, ears, body type, color, fur, and condition to achieve an animal that represents the short cobby, round, medium to medium-heavy boned rabbit our standard describes without predominance of any single feature. A well balanced animal is preferred over one which may excel in one aspect but is inferior in another.

Reason for adding this section to the standard: The current standard does not describe or define what good Dwarf Balance should be. This will be a helpful addition to our standard.

Proposal D: Broken Variety

Current: Disqualifications from Competition- The complete absence of color on the nose, around either eye, or on either ear. Eye color other than called for. Excessive scattered white hairs in colored section. (No disqualification for white spot(s) in colored section.) Color less than 10% or more than 50%, in judge's opinion.

Change the current wording by adding: *Disqualify any animal with the absence of color pattern in the form of spot(s) or blanket form on either or both sides of the body.*

Rationale: It was agreed that the lack of pattern on either or both sides of the body needed to be changed to a disqualification instead of just a fault to help perfect the Broken variety now instead of waiting another five years when the ARBA standard will be updated. Addressing this problem in the variety now is important to perfect them. This change will improve the appearance of Broken animals that are being shown and help to create a better differential between animals that are at the 10% minimum color requirement.

Proposal E: Lynx Variety

Current: Eyes — Blue-gray.

Proposed Change: *Add to the eye section of the standard that the Lynx variety may also show a ruby red reflection from the pupil in proper light.*

Rationale: Animals in the Lynx variety have been sometimes faulted or disqualified for having a ruby red reflection from the pupil in proper light. The current standard allows a ruby red reflection in the Chocolate, Lilac, Shaded, and Marten varieties. Some Lynx animals may also have this reflection and should not be penalized for it.

Proposal F: Steel Variety

Current Standard: The surface color of the body is to be black with an even light brown ticking over the head, ears, chest, top and sides of body, legs, and feet. The under color is to be a dark slate-blue. The nape of the neck and around the nostrils is to be black or match the ticking color. The surface color of the belly is to be a grayish-black with lap spots permissible. The upper tail color is to be black with the surface color of the underside of the tail to match the belly color as close as possible. Eyes – Brown

Faults: Fault animals with absence of ticking on head, ears, legs, or loin.

Disqualification from Competition: Disqualify animals with obvious banded hair shaft on the back. A slight banding on the lower part of the body is permissible.

Proposed change: *The surface color of the body is to be black with an even golden ticking over the head, ears, chest, legs, feet, top and sides of the body. The under color is to be dark slate-blue. The nape of the neck and around the nostrils is to be black or match ticking color. The surface color of the belly is to be a grayish-black with lap spots permissible. The top of the tail is to be black with the surface color of the bottom of the tail matching the belly color as close as possible. Eyes – Brown.*

Faults: *Absence of ticking on the head, ears, legs, feet, chest, top and sides of body or extremely heavy ticking.*

Disqualification from Competition: *Disqualify animals with obvious ring color on upper body. A slight banding on the lower part of the body is permissible.*

Rationale: Very little change in the wording in this variety but it was agreed that this proposal would be a better description for judges. We had to stay within the ARBA guidelines in our description for Steel color. Both Black and Dark Chestnut Steels are acceptable with this proposal.