**Ownership and Transfer of Rabbits**

**What do the Rules say?**

The BRC and ANRCI have very similar rules regarding ownership and transfer of rabbits.

*25.0 OWNERSHIP OF EXHIBITS.*

*25.1 Every rabbit exhibited at a show must at the time of exhibition be registered in the records of their local Affiliated Club or ANRCI as the bona fide property of the exhibitor in whose name it is entered.*

*25.2 All Affiliated Clubs gaining ANRCI Show Support shall ensure that all rung exhibits shown at these shows are registered with their local Affiliated Club or ANRCI before exhibition. Failure to do this may result in loss of show support. Show Records will be subject to checking by ANRCI.*

*25.3 In the case of rabbits wearing a ring not issued in the first place to the exhibitor, the registration of a transfer (on an approved card bearing the signature of the purchaser or seller) must be registered in the records of the Council prior to the entry of the rabbit in a show or prior to the closing date for entries to the show, whichever is the earlier. It is the Sellers responsibility to ensure that Transfer Papers are lodged with their local Club or ANRCI Ring Registrar.*

The basic translation of this is that if you have bred the rabbit and bought rings in your Stud name the rabbit is automatically registered in your name. The Club that sold you the ring has it in their Ring Registrars database.

If you have bought a rabbit from another stud you need to transfer the ownership of the rabbit (by transferring the ring number) to your own stud. You then give the transfer form to your Club and they record that the ring number is now in your name.

**Please Note!** Transferring the ring into your stud name DOES NOT mean that you change the rabbits stud prefix to your own. You are just transferring the ring number to your stud name so that you are registered as the bona fide owner of that rabbit.

**Why do we need to transfer ownership?**

* Transferring a rabbit is a formal acknowledgement that the ownership of a rabbit has changed. It makes the buyer the bona fide owner of the rabbit and so able to claim all the points and awards won by that rabbit.
* If you do not transfer a rabbit any points that rabbit wins go towards the registered owner and not towards the person who is exhibiting the rabbit
* If you want to show in the owner bred class then the dam (mother) of the exhibit has to be the bona fide property of the exhibitor.
* To be able to trace ownership of a rabbit or to prove ownership of a rabbit if there is an ownership dispute.
* To be able to trace lost or stolen rabbits.

**Common myths about transferring a rabbit**

* Transferring the ring into your stud name DOES NOT mean that you change the rabbits stud prefix to your own. You are just transferring the ring number to your stud name so that you are registered as the bona fide owner of that rabbit. Even if a rabbit has 10 owners throughout its lifetime it always retains its breeders stud prefix and this is not changed when transferring a ring.
* No-one can ever refuse to transfer a rabbit to the new owner. If you have sold the rabbit to someone then they have the right to transfer the rabbit to their name.
* Refusing to sign a transfer card does not prevent the new owner from transferring the ring to their name. In fact refusing to transfer a rabbit could result in a censure from your local Club.

**What is the process?**

* **Local Clubs**

1. Need to provide a transfer form for their members to use and they need to encourage their members to transfer their rabbits. Most Clubs just charge a nominal fee ($1) to transfer and some Clubs allow free transfer between families (parent to child). Clubs can make their own decisions about these things – the important thing is that it is done
2. Need to police that people are transferring their rabbits. In some Clubs the Ring Registrar checks the booking in sheets before a show to ensure all rabbits entered are owned by the exhibitor.
3. The Club Ring Registrar needs to keep a record of all transfers so that if ownership is disputed in the future the Club has a valid record of transfer.

* **Club Members**

1. In some Clubs it is the seller’s responsibility to transfer a rabbit, in others it is the buyer – essentially it does not matter who does it so long as it is done.
2. If you are selling a rung rabbit, give the buyer a signed transfer form when you give them a rabbit. You cannot refuse to transfer a rabbit to a buyer. If you don’t want to transfer the rabbit don’t sell it!!!
3. If you are buying a rabbit, ask for a transfer form. If you can’t get one from the buyer, fill one in yourself and hand into your Club.
4. Remember a rabbits CC’s and Championship points move with the rabbit so the seller should give the buyer any CC’s the rabbit has won.
5. If a breeder borrows a doe to breed from her, the doe should be transferred while it breeds and then transferred back. This is because to enter in the Owner Bred classes in shows, the DOE must have belonged to the exhibitor when the babies were born.

**Looking to the future?**

ANRCI has a Ring Registrar who keeps records of all the rings sent to Clubs. Gradually as more Clubs become familiar with the ANRCI system, we hope that Club Ring Registrars will send regular returns to the ANRCI Ring Registrar so that there is one National database for all rabbits in Australia.

In States like NSW and Victoria where there are a number of Clubs it is very difficult to trace a ring thru multiple Clubs and exhibitors. A National Stud Registrar where all Clubs (not just affiliated ones) could send their ring sales and transfers would mean that transferring a ring would make much more sense as they would all be available on the one database.

Until there is a National system, so long as all Local Clubs are keeping good records of who they sell rings to and any transfers the ownership of a rabbit can still be traced. If these records are not kept it is almost impossible.