



# Rabbitopia

*The Australian National Rabbit Council Inc. Rabbit Magazine*



**Alicia's Wabbidashery H! VLTG3**  
**English Angora Best in Show in Tasmania**

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## Introducing the Steering Committee

Mark Page - WA - Chairperson -  
Public Liability Insurance -Rings  
Moderator

Jenny Buckingham - WA - Secre-  
tary - Constitution - Show Rules  
Moderator

Allan Harvey - NSW - Fundraising  
& Publicity - Welfare and Educa-  
tion Moderator

Irene King - NSW - Ring Register  
- Health Moderator

Christine Toyer - NSW - Ring  
Register - Training Moderator

Sally Turner - SA - Treasurer -  
Breed Standard Moderator

Janine Daniels - SA - Assist  
Treasurer

Debbie Pulford - Tas - Stud  
Register - Stud Prefixes

Pauline Taylor - NZ - Judging  
Panel and Training

Derek Medlock - BRC - Mentor &  
Consultant

John Self - BRC - Mentor &  
Consultant

## Exciting days ahead for ANRCI!!!

We set up the ANRCI Steering Committee in January to examine the feasibility of setting up a National Rabbit Council, to create a Constitution, become Incorporated and to run elections to set up the Australian National Rabbit Council Inc. And our job is nearly done!

We were planning to hold our elections in November, ready for the Inaugural Committee to begin on the 1 Jan 2012. However we have decided that it would be better to hold the elections earlier to give the incoming Committee more time to settle in before our launch in Jan 2012. All Steering Committee position will be declared vacant and all state rep positions are declared vacant.

As a consequence of this decision our elections will be held in about mid October. Our Constitution states nominations for Committee positions must be notified 4 weeks before any election. Depending on the number of nominations for each state, some states may need an election to vote for their state representatives. This means that nominations for State Representatives will close on the 17 September. Forms will be sent to all members and will be available online.

If elections are required they will be held on the 15 October via postal or email voting. Only the states that have more nominations than positions will need to have an election.

So please consider nominating to become your State Representative. You will need to be an individual member of ANRCI to nominate and you will also need to be a member of a recognised Australian Rabbit Club. It does not matter if you are very experienced or quite new to rabbits - so long as you are enthusiastic and support the idea of a National body. You will need to attend most of the meetings and be prepared to take on some sort of role. More information on this will be available very soon. If you have any questions regarding nominating please contact Mark or I - or your local Club Rep or Committee Member.

We have also completed the first draft of the Show Rules. These will be available for comment this week. Please read them and comment and the second draft will be available for amendment at the SGM later in the year.

Jenny Buckingham, Perth, Western Australia

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# *But we do go by BRC Rules....*

But we do go by BRC Rules..... If I had a dollar for every time I heard this said aloud in the Rabbit Fancy I....well I would have enough to build a very nice rabbit shed...or a trip to England to see Bradford!

This comment is usually said in response to a suggestion that perhaps Australia should run under Australian Show Rules instead of using the BRC show Rules. Often this is said because the person saying it truly believes that their Club is running under BRC Rules. Usually it is said because other people have told them that we run under BRC rules. And sometimes the person involved has not TRULY read the BRC Rules and critically examined what they say.

However, sadly, this comment is sometimes made by someone who has a reason to convince others that there is no need to develop a set of Australian Rules. Perhaps they are truly loyal to the BRC and believe that this is the only way to run properly and that it would be disloyal to have our own Rules. Perhaps they believe we are incapable of creating our own Rules. But perhaps, even more sadly, some people use the use of BRC Rules as a weapon to scare people and to push their own Agenda.

Perhaps they are afraid that if their members understood the Rules and the reasons behind them, they would want to create their own rules. They may be afraid that if other Exhibitors start to think for themselves then they may think of better ways of doing things than are covered by the BRC Rules. Where they have been used as a fear tactic, they may be afraid that they will lose their power and influence if there are other people that understand 'The Rules'! Some just resist change at all costs!

The BRC Rules have been around a long time and have served us well. Rabbits, as a Fancy, have not existed for very long in Australia. In fact, rabbits in Australia are still considered by many people – even the Government - as vermin! When the people originally setting up the Australian Rabbit Fancy were looking at creating the Show Rules for Australian Clubs, they naturally looked towards the BRC for guidance. Many of these early Fanciers were originally from England and so understood that system well.

Consequently many Australian Clubs run under the same Rules as the BRC or they changed them only slightly when the Clubs were created. For example, the WARCI Rules are very similar, with mostly only wording changes to the BRC Rules. About 15 years ago WARCI did go through its Show Rules and cut out a lot of redundant stuff that did not apply in Australia – but they were still very similar to the BRC. Most other Australian Clubs did something similar –their Show Rules are more or less versions of the BRC Rules.

The problem has arisen when Clubs are now so determined to be seen to run by BRC show Rules that they do not let any of the Rules change and grow with the Clubs in Australia's changing needs. All Rules need to be constantly examined, critically assessed, and changed if necessary. No rules can remain static for years – with no change at all – without the

Clubs attached to them also becoming redundant and stagnant. Over the years the BRC have changed their Rules to suit changes in the Fancy and it is only right that Australian Clubs do the same. The BRC do not demand or even expect that we run by the BRC Rules here –a fact shocking to many Australian Exhibitors. They recognize that conditions here are completely different than in England – so why can't we recognize this?

Ironically – when you examine the BRC show Rules you realise (very quickly) that even the Clubs that trumpet that 'you must run by BRC Rules' do not run by all the BRC Rules themselves! Surely if you are going to insist that Clubs run by the BRC Rules you must run under all the Rules – not pick and choose which ones you follow?

During the process of thinking about and developing the Rules for an Australian National Club I have needed to really carefully read and understand the BRC Rules. Even I was shocked about how many Rules we did not follow in Australia! I think there are three main categories of omissions. There are some relatively unimportant Rules that are redundant in Australia and so are not followed by the majority of Clubs. There are the BRC Rules that have never been set up in Australia, perhaps due to lack of knowledge, money or understanding, or due to them not applying to Australia. Most of these Rules are also relatively unimportant. Then there are the important Show Rules that are simply being ignored or done badly – and over time some have subtly changed so that they are now not the same as the BRC Rules.

There are many BRC Rules that are simply not followed in Australia. Many of these could just be deleted from any Australian version of Show Rules as they are simply redundant. These include mention of moving and entering rabbits by rail, allowing entry to BRC representatives, eligibility of European Standards etc.

There are also the rules relating to penning and bedding being provided and Prize money for shows. Almost all Clubs now have self penning and therefore even in this basic organizational matter are actually not following BRC Rules. And this particular Rule is actually one that has had the BRC considering changing its own Rules to allow. It is such an easy practical way of running smaller Shows that one of our National Judges, Eddie Hutchings, has tried to persuade the BRC to introduce the concept in England.

Prize money shows I think are rare in Australia. I know WARCI tried it out years ago for a couple of shows and it wasn't very successful – and was a lot of work. The BRC Rules also mention pen doors being the guillotine style, commission on rabbit sales, reports being sent to the Fur & Feather and ear labels in rabbits on the judging table (I think WARCI may be the only Club that still uses ear labels – but I could be wrong). It would be a very brave person that could argue that since these Rules are either not followed in Australia or are redundant, that they should still remain within our Show Rules. But if most Clubs are not following these Rules how can they insist they follow all of the BRC Rules?



# Continued ...

The next section of Rules not followed in Australia come under the category of – quite important but just never set up due to circumstance, ignorance or difficulty of implementation. These include the Investigation Committee, Junior Diplomas and Show Support.

The BRC use the Investigation Committee to investigate any transgressions done by the BRC Members. These transgressions can range from minor such as grooming a rabbit at a show to serious over preparation, to fraud. Members can be fined or suspended by the Investigation Committee. So the Investigation Committee Rules represents a huge section of BRC Show Rules that is ignored by all Clubs. An Investigation Committee is probably unnecessary as most Clubs, as part of their Incorporation Rules, must have a dispute resolving process, and so this sort of thing can be done at Club level already. WARCI did set up an Investigation Committee about 15 years ago but it was dissolved after about three years as it seemed to create more problems than it solved (and with such a small Club it was hard to find people that could go on the Committee). So this is another example where an Australian Club has ended up adapting the BRC Show Rules to Australian circumstances.

Another set of Rules are those related to Show Support. In England the BRC grants show support to all local Clubs – this really just means that the local shows are given accreditation by the BRC. They apply for show support, are granted it and the BRC provides the Clubs with the specified number and star status of CC's. Shows are graded on their importance and only a certain number of each star status shows can be granted to each Club in a year. In Australia, only states that had an Incorporated Club and affiliates have done this process. This includes WA and possibly Victoria.

In NSW many individual Clubs set up on their own and not under a governing body – making it impossible to do anything related to Show Support. Each of these clubs are creating their own CC's, and determining independently of each other how many stars they want to give out. There is no consistency across the clubs of Judge Qualifications, or the numbers of Stars to be awarded at a particular Show. And yet, many of these Clubs, and others across Australia think they run under BRC Rules, and do not follow this system – which I think is the main back bone of the rabbit Fancy in England – as it ensures consistency of judges, star status of shows and Championships.

Another major area that has been ignored by most Clubs in Australia is Junior Exhibitors. The BRC has many Rules relating to their Juniors – including not being able to exclude Juniors from entry, to Junior Diplomas and Junior Certificate of Merit shows. WARCI has offered Junior classes – both under 12 years and under 17 years for many years. They win their own rosettes and can win perpetual Trophies. The WARCI system is different from the BRC one but at least it caters for Junior Members in their Rules. Why don't other Clubs that claim they run under BRC Rules?

However there is a group of Rules that are extremely important – especially in Rabbit Exhibition - that have moved away from the BRC Rules. Sometimes this is just an oversight; sometimes it is due to loss of 'community knowledge' or lack of under-

standing of the Rules. As older members of the Rabbit Fancy leave the Fancy, their knowledge is lost and this can sometimes result in these subtle changes in the Rules. This is perhaps an excellent argument for the education of Committees – and members - about their own rules!

Perhaps the most important Rule not always followed by Australian Clubs is that a rabbit must be rung to be exhibited in the Breed classes. The BRC Rule is unambiguous – *'Every rabbit exhibited shall wear...a ring approved by the Association...'* The only exception is rabbits entered into pet or utility classes. This is a clear breach of a very important BRC Rule – upon which all the Challenge Certificates and Championship Systems are based – as without definite identification, how can you be sure it is the same rabbit being shown?

Linked to ringing rabbits is the transfer of ownership of a rabbit. This is another very important Rule that does not always happen in Australia. A recent discussion on Face book about transfers revealed that many members were not even aware that this should be happening. To receive any award in a show or a perpetual Trophy you are expected to be the bonafide owner of the exhibit. If you did not breed the rabbit and have not transferred it into your name, it still belongs (legally) to the previous owner.

Another interesting development in some Clubs is the gradual change of the awarding of Challenge Certificates. The BRC Rules state that *'... offered to exhibit in shows which have proved in open competition to be representative of the breeds recognized...'* and *'...the exhibit must in the opinion of the judge, to be worthy of Championship honours, without serious fault...'* and *'... Challenge Certificates are offered to all breeds and variety of colours for which one straight breed class is scheduled...'* The interpretation for this Rule has always been that the CC is awarded to the best rabbit of a particular breed or colour and that the rabbit was to be the best example of that class on the day. Some Clubs are now offering CC's for each age class within a breed or colour. This means it becomes the three best rabbits of that breed or colour! This devalues the award and is not the correct interpretation of that BRC

Rule. Other, perhaps less important, variations of the BRC Rules also exist – including weighing all breeds that have a weight disqualification before giving any award and stud prefixes of only one word.

Having read this far, are you still sure that your Club runs by all of the BRC Rules? I am quite confident that your answer would be No! So perhaps a revamp of the Rules we run by is becoming increasingly necessary! Anyone that argues against revisiting the Rules can only have another axe to grind.

The Australian National Rabbit Council currently has many people in a number of Clubs around Australia carefully examining the Rules that their Clubs are working with. Their objective is to create Show Rules that are fair, current, recognise the differences between the English Fancy and the Australian Fancy and will help the Australian Fancy to become a dynamic, growing entity.

## *Continued ...*

Some BRC Rules are clearly redundant and are not necessary for the Australian Fancy to include in their Rules. Some areas, such as an Investigation Committee, will have to be examined by future ANRCI Committees, and its inclusion decided by future members.

Other areas, where the Rules vary from Club to Club, will require careful consideration, discussion and compromise so that a uniform set of Rules can be created that can be used across Australia. Australian Fanciers will have to decide which Rules they feel must be included, which ones can be adapted to Australian conditions and which ones can be deleted entirely.

What is clear from our examination of the BRC Rules in relation to the Australian Rabbit Fancy is that the claim '...but we run by BRC Rules..' can no longer be used as the reason not to change, or allow change. It cannot be used as the reason to accept BRC Breeds only or even stranger accept ARBA breeds – but reject breeds that have been developed in Australia such as the Jersey Woolley – or the Plush Lop.

It certainly cannot continue to be used as the reason by individual people and Clubs to say “we will not even look at what ANRCI is offering, or I will not join ANRCI – as they will not run by BRC Rules”. You cannot seriously defend using only the BRC Rules if you do not run by them, and that means acknowledging all of them, not just the ones you want to use and ignore the others.

We have developed some very good systems for running shows in Australian conditions, like self penning which are widely adopted. And yet some people in key Club positions are not prepared to even consider allowing an Australia wide scheme for approving Australian developed Breeds. Many of

these same Clubs are often accepting animals for exhibition that are “recreated BRC breeds”, e.g. Thriantas or German Lops and therefore not related to BRC stock at all, as well as ARBA breeds. These have been created here by the same breeding techniques derided as ‘cross breeding’ when used to create Mini Satins or Plush Lops.

Australians are inventive, self reliant and free thinkers. Rabbit Exhibitors are used to working with limited breeds, and an even more limited Gene pool. We have proven that we can think of better ways of doing things (such as self penning), and there are many clever people out there that have recreated breeds – such as the Tans – when they were virtually extinct.

As such a progressive group, why do we continue to feel as though we must run by BRC Rules – and not develop our own Australian Rules? Why do we allow some people to dictate the way we develop in the future? With the explosion of the online community, there are so many new enthusiastic rabbit people out there that are demanding more from their Clubs.

They are also demanding a better way of doing things, and without past allegiances to the BRC, they understand the need to develop rules that suit our peculiar Australian conditions. What Australia needs are show Rules that recognize our unique situation but honour our BRC heritage. We need Rules that allow the Fancy to grow but keep the growth orderly and regulated and to the advantage of the Rabbit Fancy. We need fair Rules that people can work within and yet prevent unscrupulous people interpreting the Rules to their own advantage. Join with ANRCI to make this dream happen. Australian Show Rules for the Australian Rabbit Fancy!

By Jenny Buckingham

## *Presidents Blog*

Hi and welcome to all, this our second edition, wow what a big couple of months.

But the next few months are going to be very important in the future setup of ANRCI with the elections comes the responsibility of our new committee in the way that we move forward.

So as a challenge to all the members, get involved in how your national body runs and represent your fellow fanciers by becoming their voice as a person of the committee.

Already the ground work is being done by the sub-committees and they will continue in their roles, they may just have a different committee person in charge of there area.

By the time you get your newsletter we will have our insurance in place as some clubs have shown interest in the insurance and affiliation, we have moved this forward to help clubs get the benefits now as their own policies come up for renewal.

Also you don't have to wait for renewal, contact us and start now and be in front.

Mark Page

# Basic Stewarding Tips

By Christine Toyer

Stewards are a vital part of the success of the Show. And having good stewards can greatly help the atmosphere at a Show, the confidence of all of the Exhibitors, the safety of the animals.

Here are some basic tips to keep in mind apart from the article written earlier.

Be willing to have a go, having eager competent stewards standing by, eagerly waiting for a number they can go and find helps the flow of a Show immensely.

Handle the animal you have been assigned with kindness, gentleness and confidence. Rabbits sense this. They also sense tension, eg start with the attitude "I hate rexes" and they reward you accordingly with a kick to the ribs.

Learn to take the animals out of the Show cage correctly, if you are not sure how, get a demonstration, if you see someone struggling, then help them.

Generally one hand lifts between the front legs, the other scoops up the hindquarters. If it starts to kick, pull the animal gently towards your chest so it is safe. Pick up the pen number as well and walk directly to the judging table, don't be distracted along the way.

Keep an eye on and help new stewards and youngsters who may not be tall enough, or suitable to steward

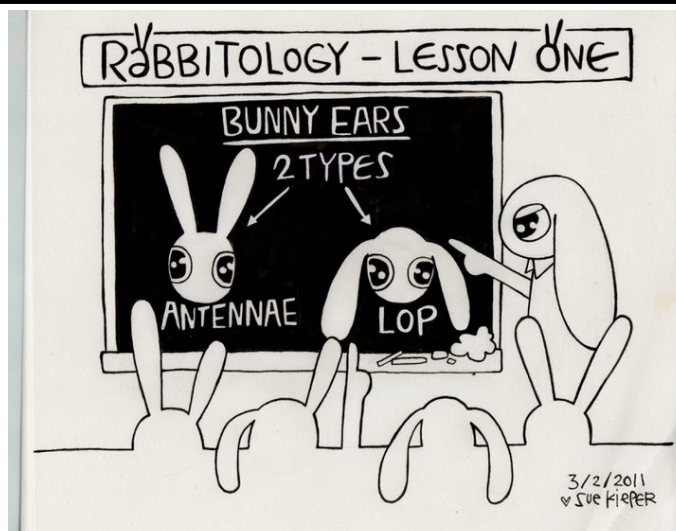
every breed. But don't discourage them for all time by being mean to them! They just want to learn, and help.

At a big show such as the Championship Show the public may ask to pat the animal you are holding. Nicely say this isn't possible until after it is judged. Or there may be a petting table you can direct them to. Again, don't be rude, we want people to be interested.

At the Judging table hold the animal just firmly enough to keep it safely in position on the table. Keep a hand to either side, but avoid pinning the animal to the table, or squeezing it half to death. Place the number clearly in front of the animal you are stewarding.

Keep control, that is, do not let it run away, fall off the table, mate another rabbit nearby, or bite anyone. But don't tightly grip the fur, especially in Rexes, or Long hair Breeds such as Swiss Fox, Cashmere or Angora which heats or tangles or flattens the owners careful grooming job.

While you shouldn't let an animal of any breed lie flat on the table, there is no need to continually prod and poke the poor rabbit to stand to attention the whole time. He will probably stand himself if he feels safe and is allowed to. The judge will be able to see his natural confirmation better this way.



# *As a New Exhibitor – what do I want from my rabbit Club?*

Before I explain what I feel “I wanted in my rabbit club”, let me introduce myself. My name is Nicole Young and I live in Halls Head which is located one hour south of Perth. I joined WARCI last year in December. I have 3 young kids and I wanted a hobby that I could teach them respect along with a few other things.

I was asked to write an article on things I would like from the club and this is when I found myself realizing how much WARCI has given me. And as far as what more did I want from my club....to be honest the club supported me whenever I needed help. I will admit though starting in the off show period made me make a few wrong decisions.

I would like the club I join to be full of knowledge, helpful, send me regular emails (news letters), be there if I was in major panic mode (scattered litters), talk to me when I'm stressed out (losing a rabbit is very heartbreaking), even to small things as being a friend and knowing that it doesn't matter how long or how much I know. I do have to say though being a part of the club I'm with (WARCI) I feel like I have not only found some very valued friendships, I class it as a second home. And I do believe its making me feel welcome and showing me things and making me do things even when I was scared, (sitting a rabbit at a show), that made me love my club so much.

I found joining WARCI in the non show time (due to heat) very difficult, as I brought a lot of non show quality rabbits. So my main thing I would have liked different would be that they take me around to people that exhibit regularly and show me their setup, and show stock. This would have helped me as I would know what rabbits I liked the most and what setup is the easiest. But most of important what a show quality rabbit should look like! I do think that this should be done prior to memberships being accepted though - well I should say I wouldn't of minded if this was done to me.

There are many new breeders that have made mistakes along the way, I am one of those, and it's nothing to be ashamed of, and it's seeking advice that fixes the problem. So there are a few new breeders, as well as some longer term breeders writing articles for us, putting together a book for new breeders. This will have things from where to start, to complications and basic genetics, along with many other useful things inside it. Hopefully this will be able to help people stop making common mistakes and being too afraid to ask that dumb question. Because realistically, no question is too dumb.

Apart from these issues and what we are trying to achieve, I do believe a lot needs to be done by new breeders - including me. We need to understand NO QUESTION IS TOO DUMB. So if you need advice or any help or maybe just a question answered, ask. But do make sure you ask a regular exhibitor and not just someone within a club, that doesn't do any showing or supporting of the club.

I don't want anyone to think that I am saying their club is wrong or that they are wrong. As everyone has and does things different. This is also a point to make. Not one person's advice is always the right one. But it is advice and I do believe use advice that you get but use it so it works for you. And also seek more than one lot of advice as the more advice you can get the better you will understand things and be able to find what works best for you.

But those of you that are starting and may feel you haven't got a supporting club, understand that I don't think any club would say they couldn't help if you have a question or needed help. Some people though I would imagine be thinking but I do want more, than ask, voice your opinion and seek some advice (but only from experience breeders that you know show regular).

But for those of you that are new breeders and feel as though you want more from your club, these are some things I would say I would want if I didn't have it in ours.

- a list of regular exhibitors names and numbers
  - somewhere for support when things go wrong
  - somewhere to get advice on stock
  - a support network where you can ring anyone that exhibits to get advice on retaining stock
  - a club that shows
  - a place to buy medications
  - a place to buy grooming supplies
  - a place to purchase carry cases
  - a place to buy water bottles and other supplies
- but the biggest thing - a club that welcomes you in as a friend even though you don't know much and haven't been in the club long!

Well I think I have spoken enough about this. Just one last thing new breeders don't forget to SPEAK UP AND ASK. Every club should help and guide new members the best they can and us new breeders don't be afraid to seek advice.

Nicole Young



# Creation of the German lop in Australia

In Australia there is evidence of the English Lop, French lop, Dwarf Lop, Mini Lop and their longhaired varieties being imported into the country, however for some unknown reason the German Lop was never imported. While this wasn't the main reason for their recreation it has impacted on the way they would be created. Unlike other rare varieties which have been lost and recreated due to the gene pool still floating around in other breeds, the genetics for the size and type necessary for the German Lop really never hit the shores of Australia. The main reason for the German Lops creation in Australia was mainly due to the issues in the size of Dwarf Lops, being majorly big and overweight.



In 2005 Bunnie Beauties Stud had a lovely Dwarf Lop Agouti Buck that hit 2.8kg, while this buck excelled on the table in his younger days as he aged and was shown he became overweight and was disqualified.

As time went on and he produced a lot of young it was observed that many would reach 2.6kg and therefore would be overweight and un-showable for a Dwarf Lop. Many of this buck's relatives' offspring also exceeded in weight. After extensive research and talking to a breeder and Judge Debra Archer it was decided to begin the creation of the German Lop in Australia in 2006, using Bunnie Beauties Bunnykins as the foundation buck of the program.

A Large Dwarf Lop doe over 2.7kg was selected from the same lines to be bred to this large Dwarf Lop Buck which had a few characteristics of a German Lop. This was Body type. Most of the young produced from the mating led to a few kittens reaching 2.6kg as adults, however previous young also from the same buck, but mothered by normal size Dwarf Lops hit the same weight as well.

A number of litters were produced with offspring not meeting weight, so the question which was raised, "was this the right direction to go in?" this made Bunnie Beauties reconsider the breeding program unless a suitable large lop over 3kg could be found.

The 2006 National Rabbit Show saw the breeding program of the creation of the German Lop back on track when a lop cross giant was found for sale, and with the support from another Judge and breeder it was decided to purchase this rabbit which in reality became the saviour of the breeding program.



This large chinchilla lop cross known as Julius was bred to a large chinchilla Dwarf Lop doe in 2007 who at the time



weighed 3.2kg, a litter of chinchillas and one REW was produced and Bunnie Beauties at the time didn't know what to do in relation to keeping the whole litter when there wasn't enough room to do so. The largest and best typed doe was kept, and her growth and develop-

ment was noted, known as Bunnie Beauties Sadie. At the time room issues again caused problems and with no other breeder willing to help the older stock had to be moved on, including Julius. By late 2008 Sadie was bred to her half brother an overweight Agouti Dwarf Lop, which produced an Outstanding litter of chinchillas and black otters, all were run on to again note their growth and development. The breeding program stopped for a year with the loss of Sadie to a hip problem and the overweight agouti buck to the heat. It was unknown where to go next, there were 5 rabbits from the litter in late 2008 sitting there waiting for some miracle.

A brother sister mating proved that longhair was in the line, and both these rabbits were moved onto pet homes. Therefore all which could be done to move the breed forward was to breed back to the Large Dwarf Lops.



June 2009 saw the birth of a litter of 3 from Bunnie Beauties Sally the 2008 bred chinchilla doe to her Great Grandfather the Dwarf Lop buck Bunnykins, very sadly Sally lost her life after haemorrhaging a day after the kittens were born. Not knowing what would happen if this litter was

lost they were immediately given to a Dwarf Lop doe who lost her babies that morning in the hope that she would raise these as her own. The loss of this litter would bring forth the end of the German Lop recreation program in Australia. During the months of July and September it was discussed a number of times with Georgette Rabbit Stud and Hops'n'Lops stud if with this one litter could the breed still be recreated. There was one Adult Chinchilla Buck Bunnie Beauties Sammy and his late sister Sally's litter of three, how could there be a future for the breed with no other support from the Australian Rabbit Fancy.

The biggest miracle and boost to keep the breeding program going came at the 2009 Australian National Rabbit Show, when John Self from the UK asked Bunnie Beauties personally if they knew who the breeder was who was trying to create the German Lop. Bunnie Beauties jumped at the chance to tell him that it was them and took the opportunity to ask for help and advice so the breeding program could go forward, he asked to see what they had and bring them to the second day of the Nationals.



# Continued



All that is remembered from that conversation was him saying when he saw the 1 year old Chinchilla buck Sammy and the young 8 week old Kitten doe Sarah, was that there was defiantly something to work with and that the breeding program

shouldn't be given up, the adult buck showed the qualities of a young German Lop in the UK. With this massive boost it was decided to breed this buck to any large Dwarf Lop doe just to start getting Kittens from him and start exposing him to shows and judges so they could see what so far was created from the breeding program.

There were some exceptional lops that day being Shown and the final line up saw the German Lop, Dwarf Lop and a Cashmere Lop competing for the Best Lop. The decision was announced straight away, after the rabbits were placed back into there pens, a member of the Fancy asked and Phil announced that Runner Up went to the Cashmere Lop and Best Lop went to the Chinchilla German Lop, many rabbit fanciers were in shock as well as Bunnie Beauties. This is know as one of Bunnie Beauties proudest moments as a Rabbit breeder and the creator of the German Lop in Australia. The next day saw the German Lop take Runner-up Best In Show, with this success came the acceptance necessary for the breed to have a more successful future.

The first achievement for the breed came at a double show in October 2009 when Sammy won his First Best Lop in Show under Debbie Sletten and a Runner up Best Lop in Show under Christine Toyer. Sammy had type, and excellent coat and colour at the time, he just needed to develop for another year to get the size and finish filling out.

The last show of the year proved to mark the second achievement for the breed with another Best Lop in Show, and the Ultimate Best In Show, judged by three judges. Sammy was proving to be a stunning rabbit. While judges still didn't know 100% what to look for in the breed, they saw a balanced rabbit in condition meeting the breed requirements in relation to their own personal interpretation of the standard.

The biggest question however was, what is the Roman Nose, Bunnie Beauties was asked a number of times and basically describe it as being like Sammy head shape as his differed from the Dwarf Lop and Mini Lop. Still to this day it is still not know 100% in Australia what the Roman nose is however analysis of photos of UK German Lops show different head shapes as well dependent on the breeder and colour.

As January 2010 came around, an announcement was made that Phil Batey from the UK would be judging that years Sydney Royal Easter Show, and it was necessary to breed some German Lop Kittens so Bunnie Beauties could receive Phil Batey's opinion.

Bunnie Beauties borrowed two large dwarf lop does from similar line of the original dwarf lops used from another rabbit breeder. This was for two main purposes to ensure that there was going to be offspring of Sammy just in case anything happened before the German Doe from 2009 was ready to breed, as well as having at least 8 week old kittens to show Phil the next generation of German Lops.

As April came so did the Sydney Royal Easter show, Only One German Lop was entered by Bunnie Beauties, as they still were the only Breeder. Bunnie Beauties Sammy was entered in, he was in excellent coat and condition and had developed more since John Self saw him in 2009. All Bunnie Beauties was hoping for was Phil Batey's approval. Judging started on the German Lop and at the time it was difficult to know what was commented about the rabbit, a steward had a quick look at the com-

ments and it said a few words "lovely rabbit.. a chinchilla, of superb colour".

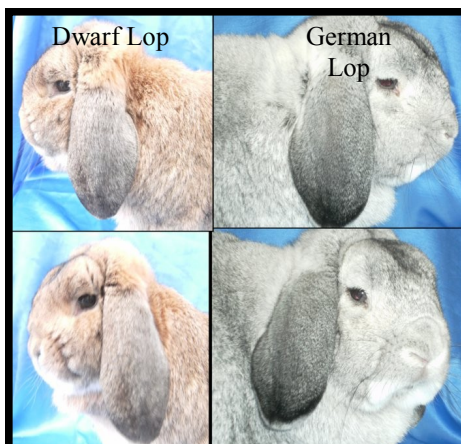
While there was currently only the one main Chinchilla buck being show for the first half of 2010 a number of Best Lops, Runner up Best in Show and One Best in Show was achieved by the Rabbit. The 2nd Half of the year came round with a new adult Black German Lop buck, Bunnie Beauties Samson, who



took out a number of Best Lops himself, and received a Runner up Best in Show as an 8 month old. Near the end of 2010 came Bunnie Beauties Sydney a Black German Doe who again did well for

the breed and in her short show career wining Best Kitten and Best Junior in Show. A German Lop sent to Victoria by Bunnie Beauties also took a number of Best Lops and even a Runner Up Best In Show under UK Judge Albert Aldred, showing the Fancy that they are a stunning breed of Lop, they have been shown under a number of Australian judges so they can be accepted Australia wide as a German Lop, Not an Overweight Dwarf Lop which they aren't.

As 2010 came to a close another 5 litters of German Lops were produced by Bunnie Beauties and finally a litters from the Agouti German Lop Doe from 2009. Bunnie Beauties was finally able to send stock to other breeders, there is now a new



German Lop stud in Western Australia, a Pair Down in Victoria and a Pair to another breeder in NSW all from Bunnie Beauties German Lops. Another NSW breeder is also attempting the breed but are starting with their own stock.

# Continued

The weight problems of the past have been tackled successfully, and if future problems occur there is a cross lop buck once again which will be used in the breeding program. But with bucks well over 3.5kg and does nearly up to that weight, Bunnie Beauties hopes that there will not be any problems in the next few years. It is now about the consistency of type and general size in litters, and watching the German lops growth.

2011 has already been successful for the German Lop with the first show with the RFS of NSW seeing Bunnie Beauties Sahara receiving Best Lop in Show, Best Kitten In Show and Runner Up Best in Show. The future of the German Lop is extremely bright and the breed will continue on in Australia and hopefully be one of the top Lop breeds like it is in the UK.

By Maria Catacouzinos (Bunnie Beauties)



*Bunnie Beauties Samson*



*Bunnie Beauties Sammy*

## The Five Freedoms (BRC)

### **Freedom from hunger and Thirst**

By providing fresh water and the right amount of food to keep them fit.

### **Freedom from Discomfort**

By making sure that rabbits have the right kind of environment including shelter and somewhere comfortable to rest.

### **Freedom from pain, injury and disease**

By preventing them from getting ill and by making sure animals are diagnosed and treated rapidly.

### **Freedom to behave normally**

By making sure rabbits have enough space and proper facilities.

### **Freedom from fear and stress**

By making sure their condition and treatment avoid mental suffering

# *Show Dates*

## **Western Australian Rabbit Council and Hills Rabbit Club**

27 & 28 August - Four Star Stock Shows - Jo Lacey (Vic)  
18 Sept WARCI - Jenny Buckingham  
18 Sept HRC - Christine Dean  
16 Oct WARCI - Jo Sutton  
16 Oct HRC - Allan Harvey (NSW)  
6 Nov - Information Day &  
Vaccination Day  
20 Nov - HRC - Ryan Page  
3 Dec - Osborne Park Ag Show - Four Star

## **Rabbit Fanciers Society of Western Australian**

4 September One Star—TBA  
22 October- Kelmscott Show Four Star - TBA  
19 November Swanview Show Four Star TBA  
11 December One Star Rosemary Shackles

## **Rabbit Fanciers Society of NSW**

18th Sept— Ryan Page (WA), and Rex Specialty Show Christine Toyer  
23rd Oct- Debra Archer, and Lop Specialty Show Allan Harvey  
20th November - NSW Champs Two Show Event  
Rebecca Wallbank (NSW) and Jo Lacey (Vic)

## **Rabbit Breeders Association of Tasmania**

10th September - Nanette Jenkins - 1 Star  
8th October - Launceston Show - 4 Star  
22nd October - Hobart Show - John Porritt - 4 Star  
26th November - Davenport Show - 2 Star  
10th December - Christmas Show

## **South Australian Rabbit Club**

September Royal Show 3rd and 4th  
Oct 30th  
Nov 20th



# *Show Results*

## **Rabbit Breeders Association of Tasmania**

### **Saturday 9th July 2011 - 3 star show - Allan Harvey (NSW)**

Best Pairs: Mountain View Tinkerbelle and Black Magic - Mini Lop - Black - Tracey Minehan

Best Owner Bred: Alicia's Wabbidashery H! VLTG3 - English Angora - Sooty Fawn - Alicia Balzan

Best Pet: Jades Tiny Temper - Mini Lop - Blue Otter - Kelly Peacey

Best Unrung: Angelaurora Malroy - Dwarf Lop - Black Otter - Renee Pulford

Best Juvenile Fancy: Pipkin Winston - Netherland Dwarf - Opal - Lauren Edser

Best Juvenile Lop: Jades Jedediah - Mini Lop - Sooty Fawn - Jessica Thomas

Best Juvenile Rex: Southern Roxie - Mini Rex - Marten Seal - Aaron Pursell

Best Juvenile In Show: Jades Jedediah - Mini Lop - Sooty Fawn - Jessica Thomas

Best Fancy: Alicia's Wabbidashery H! VLTG3 - English Angora - Sooty Fawn - Alicia Balzan

Best Lop: Jades Jedediah - Mini Lop - Sooty Fawn - Jessica Thomas

Best Fur: Camelot Shade Away - Smoke Pearl - Smoke Pearl - Sarah Van Steenis

Best Rex: Bolshi Stormdiva - Standard Rex - Blue - Debbie Pulford

Best Under 14: Alicia's Wabbidashery Supermassive Black Hole - English Angora - Smoke - Alicia Balzan

Best Under 5: Alicia's Wabbidashery H! VLTG3 - English Angora - Sooty Fawn - Alicia Balzan

Best Adult: Camelot Shade Away - Smoke Pearl - Smoke Pearl - Sarah Van Steenis

**Runner Up Best In Show: Alicia's Wabbidashery Supermassive Black Hole -  
English Angora - Smoke - Alicia Balzan**

**Best In Show: Alicia's Wabbidashery H! VLTG3 English Angora - Sooty Fawn - Alicia Balzan**

### **August 2011—Debbie Pulford (Tas)**

Best Owner Bred: Jades Jedediah - Mini Lop - Sooty Fawn - Jessica Thomas

Best Unrung: Jades Frankie - Mini Lop - Blue - Mary Smith

Best Juvenile Fancy: Powder Puff Chance - Netherland Dwarf - Red Eye White - Chloe Stepenson

Best Juvenile Lop: Jades Jedediah - Mini Lop - Sooty Fawn - Jessica Thomas

Best Juvenile In Show: Jades Jedediah - Mini Lop - Sooty Fawn - Jessica Thomas

Best Fancy: Boronia Park Idina - Netherland Dwarf - Black Fox - Brendan Ward

Best Lop: Jades Jedediah - Mini Lop - Sooty Fawn - Jessica Thomas

Best Fur: Dainty Titan - Satin - Ivory - Joan Eastley

Best Rex: King Coinin Mischa - Standard Rex - Squirrel - Mary Smith

Best Under 14: Alveston Black Caviar - Silver Fox - Black Fox - Joan Eastley

Best Under 5: Boronia Park Idina - Netherland Dwarf - Black Fox

Best Adult: Jades Jedediah - Mini Lop - Sooty Fawn - Jessica Thomas

**Runner Up Best In Show: Dainty Titan - Satin - Ivory - Joan Eastley  
Best In Show: Jades Jedediah - Mini Lop - Sooty Fawn - Jessica Thomas**

# Show Results

**Club: WARCI**

**Date: 24.07.11**

**Judge: Natasha Boston**

**Status: One Star Show**

	<b>Exhibitor</b>	<b>Breed</b>	<b>Ring No</b>
<b>Best Fancy</b>	Somerset	Angora	09E01979
<b>Best Lop</b>	Melissa Freemantle	Mini Lop	11K03869
<b>Best Fur</b>	Fluffy Friends	Satin	10E01772
<b>Best Rex</b>	Somerset	Rex	11E00145
<b>Best in Show U/14</b>	Melissa Freemantle	Mini Lop	11K03869
<b>Best in Show U/5</b>	Somerset	Rex	11E001415
<b>Best in Show Adult</b>	Somerset	Angora	09E01979
<b>Runner Up in Show</b>	Melissa Freemantle	Mini Lop	11K03869
<b>Best in Show</b>	Somerset	Rex	11E00145
<b>Best in Show OB</b>	Somerset	Rex	11E00145
<b>Best Junior U/12</b>	Bella's Bunnies	Netherland Dwarf	09X02655
<b>Best Junior U/12 OB</b>	Bella's Bunnies	Netherland Dwarf	10X03263

**Club: HRC**

**Date: 26 June 2011**

**Judge: Jenny Buckingham**

**Status: Two Star Show**

	<b>Exhibitor</b>	<b>Breed</b>	<b>Ring No</b>
<b>Best Fancy</b>	Somerset	Angora	09E01979
<b>Best Lop</b>	Ashrose	Dwarf Lop	10C02544
<b>Best Fur</b>	Fluffy Friends	Satin	10E01775
<b>Best Rex</b>	Somerset	Rex	11E00153
<b>Best in Show U/14</b>	Bella Bunnies	Swiss Fox	11E00128
<b>Best in Show U/5</b>	Bunnylicious	Mini Lop	11K02842
<b>Best in Show Adult</b>	Somerset	Rex	11E00153
<b>Runner Up in Show</b>	Ashrose	Dwarf Lop	10C02544
<b>Best in Show</b>	Somerset	Rex	11E00153
<b>Best in Show OB</b>	Somerset	Rex	11E00153
<b>Best Junior U/12</b>	Bella's Bunnies	Netherland Dwarf	09X02655
<b>Best Junior U/12 OB</b>	Butterfly Bunnies	Mini Lop	11K00306

# Show Results

<b>Club: HRC</b>		<b>Date: 24.07.11</b>	
<b>Judge: Chris Dean</b>		<b>Status: One Star Show</b>	
	<b>Exhibitor</b>	<b>Breed</b>	<b>Ring No</b>
<b>Best Fancy</b>	Nara	Polish	10A00871
<b>Best Lop</b>	Melissa Freemantle	Mini Lop	11K03869
<b>Best Fur</b>	Fluffy Friends	Satin	10E01772
<b>Best Rex</b>	Somerset	Rex	11E00145
<b>Best in Show U/14</b>	Ashrose	Tan	11B00350
<b>Best in Show U/5</b>	Somerset	Rex	11E00145
<b>Best in Show Adult</b>	Nara	Polish	10A00871
<b>Runner Up in Show</b>	Ashrose	Tan	11B00350
<b>Best in Show</b>	Nara	Polish	10A00871
<b>Best in Show OB</b>	Nara	Polish	10A00871
<b>Best Junior U/12</b>	Bella's Bunnies	Netherland Dwarf	09X02655
<b>Best Junior U/12 OB</b>	Bella's Bunnies	Netherland Dwarf	10X03263

<b>Club: WARCI</b>		<b>Date: 26 June 2011</b>	
<b>Judge: Ryan Page</b>		<b>Status: Probationary Show (3<sup>rd</sup>)</b>	
	<b>Exhibitor</b>	<b>Breed</b>	<b>Ring No</b>
<b>Best Fancy</b>	Somerset	Angora	09E01979
<b>Best Lop</b>	Runaway Rabbitry	Mini Lop	10K05391
<b>Best Fur</b>	Runaway Rabbitry	NZ White	10H00488
<b>Best Rex</b>	Somerset	Ermine Rex	10E03371
<b>Best in Show U/14</b>	Abbey Green	Mini Lop	11K01827
<b>Best in Show U/5</b>	Dreamchaser	Polish	11A00094
<b>Best in Show Adult</b>	Runaway Rabbitry	NZ White	10H00488
<b>Runner Up in Show</b>	Runaway Rabbitry	Mini Lop	10K05391
<b>Best in Show</b>	Runaway Rabbitry	NZ White	10H00488
<b>Best in Show OB</b>	Somerset	Ermine Rex	10E03371
<b>Best Junior U/12</b>	Butterfly Bunnies	Polish	11A00092
<b>Best Junior U/12 OB</b>	Butterfly Bunnies	Mini Lop	11K00306



# ***ANRCI FOR SALE***



**Bumper Stickers \$5**



**ANRCI Pens \$5**



**Wall Sticker \$2**



**Cloth Badge \$15**