



PAL NEWS

Winter Issue – February 2012

An Official Publication Of The Palomino Rabbit-Co Breeders Association

2011 ARBA National Convention & Show

BOB Open



Exhibited By:
Patty Montag & Kellie Jo Williams

BOB Youth



Exhibited By:
Katherine Wist

Also In This Issue:

- * 2012 PRCBA National Show
- * 2009-2010 Final Sweepstakes
- * 2011 ARBA Convention Complete Results
- * Conditioning Rabbits
- * Traveling With Rabbits

Palomino Co-Breeders Association Officers & Directors

<i>President</i>	<i>Vice-President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
Kathleen Utter P.O. Box 290665 Phelan, CA 92329-0665 760-949-0239 fcfutter@verizon.net	Jim Hunter 618 Russell St. Scott City, KS 97871 620-872-5469 jkhunter@wbsnet.org	Donyelle Schultz 3600 E. Jackson Munice, IN 47303 glpals4me@hotmail.com	Terri King 7010 Wood Rd. Cheyenne, WY 82009 307-635-9138 ctking1@bresnan.net

<i>District 1</i> <i>AK, ID, OR MT, WAY, WY</i> Clifford King 7010 Woods Rd. Cheyenne, WY 82009 307-635-9138 ctking1@bresnan.net	<i>District 2</i> <i>AZ, CA, HI, NV, UT, Mexico</i> William Utter P.O. Box 290665 Phelan, CA 92329-0665 760-949-0239 fcfutter@verizon.net	<i>District 3</i> <i>IA, MN, NE, ND, SD, WI</i> Thomas Lowin 305 N. Freeland Blunt, SD 605-962-6429 BigBen1111@hotmail.com
<i>District 4</i> <i>AR, CO, NM, OK, TX</i> Sharon Pellham Route 5 Box 511 Sand Springs, OK 74063 918-245-3442 pellhamshp@msn.com	<i>District 5</i> <i>IL, KS, MO</i> Beth Thurn 2170 100 th St. Everest, KS 66424 785-548-7221 babthurn@rainbowtel.net	<i>District 6</i> <i>AL, FL, GA, LA, MS, TN, Puerto Rico</i> Vacant
<i>District 7</i> <i>CT, ME, MA, NH, NY, RI, VT</i> <i>Quebec, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia</i> Shannon Whitney 17008 Cady Rd. Adams Center, NY 315-771-1468 whitney@gisco.net	<i>District 8</i> <i>IN, KY, MI, OH</i> <i>Manitoba, Ontario</i> Mike Raab 14543 Holt Rd. Milan, IN 47031 812-623-4788 mikejraab@yahoo.com	<i>District 9</i> <i>DE, MD, NJ, NC, PA, SC, VA</i> <i>Washington DC & All Other Foreign</i> Colleen Perchinski RR 1 Box 293 Montoursville, PA 17754 717-435-3125 cmrbunnies@aol.com
<i>Sweepstakes Chair</i> Carolyn Wright 180 Justin Davis Lane Smithville, TX 78957 512-237-4164 wcwright@myxol.net	<i>PRCBA Website</i> www.palominorabbit.com <i>ARBA Website</i> www.arba.net	<i>Pal News Editor</i> Patty Montag 9702 S 4210 Rd. Chelsea, OK 74016 918-805-2097 patty48132@live.com

<i>Webmaster</i> Melissa Becker palominobordercollie@yahoo.com	<i>Pal News Dates To Remember</i> Deadline for article submission is February 15, May 15, August 15, and November 15. Mailing will be the month following the deadline.
---	--

President's Report – Kathleen Utter

I wanted to congratulate all of the winners of the ARBA Convention in Indianapolis. There is a listing of the winners included in this edition of the Pal News. I am sure that everyone had a wonderful time showing their Palominos. As everyone I'm sure knows this Convention was the last Convention with Deb Morrison as Club Secretary. I am sure you all join me in thanking Deb for all her hard work for the Club and wish her the absolute best. She certainly deserves a break. Thank you Deb!!!! The Club was lucky to have Donyelle Schultz volunteer to step into the Secretary position. Donyelle will now be the point person for memberships and sanctions so please forward your questions to her at glpals4me@hotmail.com Also, if you have had an address change or updated an e-mail, please forward that information to Donyelle. Particularly as a new Secretary she had a lot of information to process and having your correct contact information will help her tremendously in keeping track of members.

I would also like to take this moment to thank Jeanne Vaille and Tom Sabrey for all of their hard work as District Directors for the Club. They have been invaluable in moving the Club forward and will certainly be missed. Thank you both. In their places Shannon Whitney is stepping into the District 7 position and Mike Raab is stepping into the District 8 position, thank you both for being willing to help the Club keep moving forward.

I have been very remiss in the duties of the Editor position and I am very happy to announce that Patty Montag from Oklahoma has volunteered to step into the role. I would like to say thank you to Patty and encourage all members to forward information and tidbits that might be of interest to the Club to Patty.

The club also has a website that is up and running www.palominorabbit.com As with everything this is a work in progress. If you have pictures or show results that you'd like to upload to the website or if you have any suggestions for improvement, please forward to the webmaster Melissa Becker at palominobordercollie@yahoo.com

The 2012 Palomino National will be held in Reno, NV April 20-22, 2012 an information flier is posted on the website. The National will be held in conjunction with the West Coast Classic double open/youth show. If you have any specific questions, please let me know fcfutter@verizon.net

The 2012 ARBA Convention will be in Wichita, Kansas and I am hoping for a good showing of Palominos. The Club is requesting assistance from members who would like to volunteer to decorate the booth, sit the booth and potentially raffle/opportunity draw donations. If anyone is interested, please let me or Donyelle know. The Club certainly appreciates any help they can get in this project.

I would also like to remind the membership that in 2012 the club will hold elections for President and Vice-President as well as the director positions for districts 1, 3, 5, 6, and 8. If you are interested in running, please let Donyelle know and she can send a nominating position. The nominating forms need to be turned into Donyelle by May 1st with ballots mailed to members on June 1st.

I also want to thank all of the membership in advance for their patience with the club. There has been quite a bit of change that has occurred and more that will be needed during the coming year. As with most organizations improvements can always be made. What we ask is that you forward your comments to the officers/directors of the club so we know what everyone is thinking. Change certainly can't occur if we don't know that it is wanted or needed.

Thank you and I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season and coming Spring.

Sincerely,
Kathleen

Secretary's Report – Donyelle Schultz

Greetings from Indiana Palomino breeders! I wanted to introduce myself as your new secretary. I am Donyelle Schultz and have been raising golden Palominos for the better part of 14 years. This was my first breed and has always been the love of our barn. If there is ever anything I can do to help out, please feel free to contact me at glpals4me@hotmail.com.

I want to first thank the Board of Directors for their vote of confidence appointing me into this position. Secondly, I want to thank Deb Morrison for all the years of hard work she has put into our club and for the countless emails back and forth helping me adjust to this new challenge. The club has always had a strong leadership with Deb, and I hope that I can continue to follow in that tradition.

I am very excited about the upcoming year. It will be a year of transition for me and the bunnies. We welcomed my fiancée Marcus Smith into our lives, whom I will marry this coming June. We are also in the process of trying to purchase a home, which we have been struggling to do since March 2011. Most women beg for large walk in closets, where as I am just asking for the barn of my dreams large enough to hold enough Palomino babies to build a small Midwestern Palomino empire! While this has been a massive adventure, it has come with an equal amount of challenges. Living without the simple luxuries of an office, desktop computer, or internet as well as trying to sort thru the totes of information that comes with this office has put me behind the 8-ball when it comes to learning the challenges of this job. Please be patient as everything smoothly comes together in 2012!

The PRCBA is excited to host their National Breed Show in Reno, Nevada April 20-22, 2012. All entries must be mailed to Kathleen Utter by April 9th. We look forward to a fantastic show with our Palomino sizzling in the desert! Contact Kathleen for more information about hotels, entry fees, and banquet details. We are also looking to put together a membership meeting during nationals to discuss the future interests of the club. If there are any topics you would like to see put on the itinerary, please let me or Kathleen know as soon as possible.

Again, I would like to thank everyone for their support and understanding as I take on this new challenge in my life. Marcus and I are both looking forward to meeting everyone at the West Coast Classic and ARBA Convention this year and being able to put faces and bunnies to the names.

Best Wishes,
Donyelle

2012 Elections

Officers:
President
Vice-President

District Directors:
District 1, District 3, District 5
District 6 & District 8

If you are interested in running for a position please contact Donyelle for a nomination form.

Deadline for submission is May 1st, 2012.

Ballots will be mailed to the membership on June 1st, 2012

Upcoming Convention Judges

2012-John Grimm

2013-David Cardinal

2014-Dr. Cliff Dick

2015-Randy Shumaker

District Reports...

District 2

I wanted to let everyone know that the 2012 Palomino National will be held in conjunction with the West Coast Classic show in Reno, NV April 20-22, 2012. If you should have any questions, please contact me at fcfutter@verizon.net It should be a good show, there has been quite a few new breeders in California and I hope to see some of the Pacific Northwest breeders show. If you should have anything to report, please forward to me.

Thank you,
William Utter

District 4

Not much going on around here yet. We have a double show next weekend, February 25, in Anderson, MO. There should be a lot of Palominos at this show. Patty Williams, a new breeder, wants to start a Palomino Club in this part of the country so we can have more specialty shows. Maybe this would be a good thing. Patty won the ARBA show last year with a Palomino doe I had sold her. This senior doe looked very good. Congratulations to Patty and her sister on their win. I won Best Opposite with a 6/8 buck which was actually a junior moved up in class because of weight. I am quite saddened to report that on February 13th I lost my Palomino doe L3T who was pictured in the last edition of the Domestic Rabbits. She had a tremendous win in Duncan, OK the end of November. This was probably the best golden Palomino I've ever had, or seen. She was everything you would ever want in color, type and disposition. She always wanted to have her head rubbed and liked attention. I went out that morning and noticed she hadn't cleaned up her pellets. I lifted her out of the cage and as I did she became wobbly and went limp and let out a whimper. The doe died of either mastitis or a heart attack right in my arms. L3T left behind a litter of 6 3-week old bunnies of her own, and one of her mother's. I have been spending much time with this outstanding litter, for I had bred her to her uncle ND1 which has won many BOBs. The babies are up to 4 weeks old today, the 18th, maybe they'll make it. There again, I don't believe I've ever had a litter of Golden that looked any better than these. Hopefully none of you have ever had an experience like this. L3T was only a year old and this was her first litter. One February 15th I lost my old buck CJ3 was born June 5, 2005. This buck was the father of LC9 my Palomino of the year buck some time back, and a great one. Also my J10 buck who was well known was this old buck's grandfather.

Till next time and God Bless,
Sharon Pellham

District 5

Greetings from the central part of the country. Hopefully, others have had better luck getting Palomino babies than we have. New Year's Eve brought us our first litter in several months and a small one at that. Some highlights of recent shows include Sharon Pelham getting Best of Breed at the Sunflower Club Show in Wichita, November 19. Katherine Wist won Best of Breed with a Lynx Senior Buck at National Convention in the Youth Show.

Sincerely,
Beth Thurn

District 7

I hope the winter is treating everyone well! I for one am pleased to be having one of the mildest winters I can remember. It sure helps when you have a number of animals! That said, I am pleased to be able to write a bit about some of my son's favorite rabbits. We have been so blessed to have had Sharon Pellham and Deb Morrison share some of their rabbits with us. We got our first golden from Sharon when my son was four. At that time he got in the cages with his rabbits. Apparently palominos have not been plentiful in our area in the most recent past. Prior to that palominos were quite prevalent I am told. There were 19 palominos at the most recent show in January. We are excited to see so many of these beautiful and pleasant animals around and hope to continue to see the increases in numbers and breeders in our area. Enjoy the upcoming warmer spring weather and good luck with your breeding!

Sincerely,
Shannon Whitney



A Special Thank You To Deb Morrison...

On behalf of all the members of the club I would like to thank Deb Morrison for all the hard work she has done in the role of secretary for the last several years.

In appreciation of her dedication she was presented with a gift from the club during the judging at the National Convention in Indianapolis this past October.

Thank you Deb!!!!!!!



Palomino Specialty Clubs...

Southern Palomino Rabbit Breeders Association

Carolyn Wright (Sec) * 180 Justin Davis Lane * Smithville, TX 78957 * 512-237-4164 * wcwright@myxol.net

Meet A Palomino...



Name: P&K's Faultline

Breeder: P.Montag/K. Williams/D. Williams

Sex: Doe

DOB:11-7-2011

At barely 3 ½ months old “Fault” took her first BOB the weekend of February 25th at the SWMHR Show A with 17 Palominos shown by 5 exhibitors earning her first leg. Her full sister from an earlier litter was BOB in Show B. Look for her and all her P&K Pal buddies at Nationals in Reno at the end of April!

2011 ARBA National Convention & Show

Open Breed Results

BOB: P. Montag/K. Williams (Gldn Sr. Doe #LD8)		BOS: S. Pellham (Gldn. Int. Buck #BL5)	
BOV Golden: P. Montag/K. Williams Sr. Doe # LD8	BOS Golden: S. Pellham Int. Buck #BL5	BOV Lynx: D. Holman Sr. Buck #PL1	BOSV Lynx: D. Holman Sr. Doe #0P3

Golden Class Placements		47 By 11 Exhibitors			Judge: Richard Steinberg	
	Senior Bucks	Senior Does	6/8 Bucks	6/8 Does	Junior Bucks	Junior Does
1	C. Armstrong #LB2	Montag/Williams #LD8	S. Pellham #BL5	S. Pellham #LR8	S. Estes #BRUTUS	Thornton/Thornton #PF2
2	Raab/Raab #A1	M. Raab/Raab #R217	S. Pellham #LR1	C. Armstrong #PGA4	C. Cedargreen #GA10	S. Pellham #BL8
3	Raab/Raab #R211	M. Robitaille #P18	D. Schultz #NEYO	Raab/Raab #MR1	D. Schultz #COBRA	M. Raab/Raab #A4
4	Montag/Williams #JC9		S. Estes #BUZZ	Raab/Raab #A3	S. Pellham #PT9	S. Pellham #PD8
5			Thornton/Thornton #AS3	S. Pellham #LT8	S. Pellham #JD3	Schultz/Smith #HOOD
6			J. Burt #GA1	S. Pellham #LR3	S. Pellham #JD8	D. Schultz #CALLA
7					Montag/Williams #JOE	S. Pellham #DL9
8					S. Pellham #JD4	S. Pellham #JD5
9					D. Schultz #UNEASY	Thornton/Thornton #GA13
10					Montag/Williams #REN	S. Pellham #BL9

Lynx Class Placements: 15 Rabbits By 5 Exhibitors Judged By Richard Steinberg

	Senior Bucks	Senior Does	6/8 Bucks	6/8 Does	Junior Bucks	Junior Does
1	D. Holman #PL1	D. Holman #OP3	E. Reichert #AO	E. Reichert #ASE	D. Morrison #DO3	D. Morrison #TH2
2	E. Reichert #A24	M. Wist/Wist #LY2H		D. Morrison #LP4	D. Morrison #LP3	E. Reichert S4A
3					P. Summerlot #EW2	M. Wist/Wist #JO11
4						D. Morrison #LP2
5						P. Summerlot #EW1

Letter From The Editor...

I would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to put together the Pal News for the membership of this great club. It is a privilege and an honor to be intrusted with this task.

Me and my family live in NE Oklahoma and we have raised Pals for a little over a year now, but I showed Pals as a youth in the late 90's. We want to help improve and promote this great breed as much as possible.

I would like to please ask all the membership for their support in helping to put together this newsletter. If you have any ideas or suggestions, or if you would like to submit an article please email me at patty48132@live.com or give me a call at 918-805-2097.

Sincerely,

Patty

2011 ARBA National Convention & Show

Youth Breed Results

BOB: Katherine Wist (Lynx Sr. Buck #BN7)		BOS: A. Mills (Gldn. Jr. Doe #3B)	
BOV Golden: T. Litts Int. Buck #PDA3	BOS Golden: A. Mills Jr. Doe #3B	BOV Lynx: K. Wist Sr. Buck #BN7	BOSV Lynx: S. Harris Int. Doe #CN2

Golden Class Placements: 7 Rabbits By 4 Exhibitors Judged By: Richard Steinberg

	Senior Bucks	Senior Does	6/8 Bucks	6/8 Does	Junior Bucks	Junior Does
1	Z. Brewer/Brewer #R189	Z. Brewer/Brewer #LAC	T. Litts #PAA3	B. Hale #MR2		A. Mills #3B
2	A. Mills #R86		B. Hale #A2			

Lynx Class Placements: 6 Rabbits By 3 Exhibitors Judged By: Richard Steinberg

	Senior Bucks	Senior Does	6/8 Bucks	6/8 Does	Junior Bucks	Junior Does
1	K. Wist #BN7	K. Wist #DK10	A. Ascher #MG1	S. Harris #CN2		K. Wist #KE11
2	S. Harris #OWT9					

2012 Palomino Rabbit Co-Breeders Association National Show...Reno, NV

Held in conjunction with the West Coast Classic

<http://www.westcoastclassicshow.com/>

Cooping will be available

Date: April 20-22, 2012
Location: Grand Sierra Hotel & Casino
Judge: TBD

Meeting & Banquet: TBD
Entry Fee: \$4.00
Entry Deadline: April 9, 2012

Show Secretary:

Kathleen Utter * P.O. Box 290665 Phelan, CA 92329 * 760-949-0239 * fcutter@verizon.net

(Please make entry fee checks payable to Kathleen Utter)

A Little History...



This picture is from the 1968 edition of A Practical Beginning To Successful Rabbit Raising published by the ARBA. This was considered an excellent specimen at the time. It is not noted as to whether it is a Lynx or Golden but It would be interesting to see how the color has changed in addition to body type.

2009-2010 Final Sweepstakes Standings

Open Sweeps

Youth Sweeps

	Name:	# Of Shows:	# Of Points:
1	Sharon Pellham	19	3033
2	Shannon Estes	11	2901
3	Deb Morrison	14	1978
4	Beth Thurn	6	937
5	Elizabeth Reichert	6	935
6	Kathleen Utter	7	798
7	Bill O'Haver	18	784
8	W & C Wright	6	694
9	Jeffery Lewis	4	640
10	J & C Hunter	3	548

	Name:	# Of Shows:	# Of Points:
1	Sarah Olson	22	2867
2	Aaron Pitts	3	482
3	Tim Werner	6	394
4	Zachary Goodwin	2	235
5	Cassie Pfiefer	2	228
6	Kathleen Wist	3	162
7	Ty Missey	2	144
8	Claire Pfiefter	2	134
9	W & C Woodard	3	120
10	Andrew Perkins	1	115

Open Fur

Youth Fur

	Name:	# Of Points:
1	Sharon Pellham	220
2	Deb Morrison	50
3	Mike Raab	6
4	Kathleen Utter	5

	Name:	# Of Points:
1	Tim Werner	20
2		
3		
4		

Congratulations To All The Winners!!!!!!!!!!!!

Open Palomino Of The Year				Youth Palomino Of The Year			
	Rabbit:	Exhibitor:	# Of Points:		Rabbit:	Exhibitor:	# Of Points:
1	# MICK Gldn Buck	Shannon Estes	191	1	# CC137 Gldn Doe	Cassie Pfiefer	38
2	# MN2 Lynx Doe	Deb Morrison	156	2	# 2P225 Gldn Buck	Zackary Goodwin	22
3	# WT6 Gldn Doe	Sharon Pellham	140	3			
4	# DB9 Gldn Doe	Sharon Pellham	104	4			
5	# NKM Gldn Doe	Shannon Estes		5			

Have you considered sponsoring a sanction in your area?

Due to the low numbers of Palominos being shown in some areas a lot of clubs do not sanction them.

The cost of a sanction is \$10 for Open and a Youth sanction is free with a paid Open.

Most clubs will sanction breeds at their next show if 10 or more are shown so keep that in mind as well.

Donyelle Shultz

3600 E. Jackson * Munice, IN 47303

Glpals4me@hotmail.com

Meet Our Membership...Clair & Marge Thornton (Open-NY)



My name is Marge Thornton....from NY state. I saw my first Palomino way back in the mid 1980s and thought that they were about the most Beautiful rabbit I had ever seen ! I was fortunate to be able to purchase some stock from Bonnie Burdick and that was the start of my little herd. In 1987 the Palomino National Show was in Mansfield, Ohio... close enough that I thought it would be nice to go there and see how the Pals I had stacked up against 'the Best'. I took a few Pals and some of my daughter's French Lops. The night I got there and was cooping the rabbits for the night... was also the very first time that I met the man who would become my husband ! He had traveled out there with one Palomino rabbit to show. Long story very short... I was blessed in winning BOB in that National show. Clair took BOS (I believe). The following day at t he all breed show... our placings were exactly reversed...he had

BOB and my doe BOS. Two months later, Clair and I got married. We would show when possible and enjoyed it. Due to what I call..." Every Day Real Life " .. we had to set aside our rabbitry doings and concentrate on working. Quite a few years passed. A couple of years ago I was able to retire and join Clair on our homestead. We got thinking about What sort of hobby would get us out around other people that we would enjoy doing...both of us came up with the idea of once again showing rabbits ! We went to a semi-local show to see what might catch our eyes... it came right back down to the Palomino rabbit. Trying to locate breeding stock turned out to be quite frustrating. I finally said that " If we were going to do this... we should do it Right". I managed to locate Sharon Pellham's number and called her. She graciously set us up with some extremely nice breeding stock in the Golden Palominos. We drove out there to get them... and back home ... all in 5 days. Fall of 2011 we decided that Indy was not really too far to go. We wanted to see how some of our home bred stock from various breeders, would do against the best in the nation. We brought two Pals. Our young buck went a bit 'off feed' but still placed 5th in his class. Our junior doe, Class Act ,took 1st out of 16. I was...and still am... so pleased ! We still enjoy having the rabbits. So much has changed in the years we were rabbit-less... not all of it for the better. I actually wonder how much longer we will be able to enjoy this hobby. Fingers crossed that it will be around for a long time.

Meet Our Membership...Katrina Hinojosa (Youth-TX)



My siblings and I got started with rabbits in the summer of 2011. We were looking for 4-H projects for our county livestock show. We looked at pictures of the various breeds on the ARBA website. We all wanted different breeds so that we wouldn't compete against each other. I liked the color of the golden Palomino, so I chose the Palomino breed. My Dad made lots of phone calls for me trying to find a breeder of golden Palominos that had babies ready to pick up. We found a breeder with a doe and my Dad went to pick it up while I was at school. He texted me a picture of her and with my teacher's permission I showed the picture to all of my friends. We wanted both a buck and a doe so that we could breed rabbits for future 4-H projects. We found another breeder in Oklahoma that had a buck, and I was able to go with my Dad to pick him up.

When we got him, I held him in my arms the whole drive home. I absolutely loved him! We showed them for the first time in the Llano Estacado RBA show. My rabbits were the only Palominos in the show. When I showed them again at the Randall County Junior Livestock Show, they were the only two Palomino rabbits once again. However, the judges at both shows said that they were very good rabbits. We have since picked up two more does and another buck from yet another breeder in Oklahoma. In the future, our family plans to breed all of our rabbits and get more people interested in Palominos.

Conditioning Show Rabbits..By Tex Thomas ARBA Judge

The definition of condition in the ARBA Standard calls for “The overall physical condition of a rabbit in relation to health, cleanliness, fur and grooming”. Many different aspects must be considered to obtain the level of condition which is so desirable in show winners.

The first consideration that we must make is in the area of hereditary. When purchasing your initial breeding stock, go to a reputable breeder who has been in the business for several years. Too many people want to get into show rabbits as cheaply as possible and still have a winner. The two do not go together very well. As around about the prices you can expect to pay in your chosen breed, and when you get an idea of that price, go to a good breeder and strike your deal. A breeder who has been around a number of years will probably have a stronger line of rabbits bred closer to the standard. I emphasize this so strongly because if you do not have the proper hereditary factors bred into your rabbits, you are wasting your time trying all other methods of conditioning. A show rabbit must contain the hereditary code to condition easily if you are going to be a winner on the show table. Good foundation stock will contain this trait.

Assuming that you now have good foundation stock, the area of concern is your breeding program. Very few breeders are going to sell you an instant winner without charging you an arm and a leg. If you are to win at showing rabbits, you are going to have to raise your winners. Here again hereditary factors enter into the picture. To produce an animal which will condition easily, breed together animals which carry this characteristic. If you have a rabbit which is constantly in a molt and the coat never seems to achieve a finished look, don't use this animal in your breeding program. It will only pass along the characteristic of being difficult to condition and amplify your problems down the road. All rabbits molt, but the process should only take a few months. What I am saying is beware of the animal who only has a finished coat one month of the year. Rabbits from such animals are usually the same way, hard to condition.

Try to use the natural characteristics of a rabbit to your advantage in getting your rabbit ready to show. By this I mean, stage your breeding around primary shows you plan to attend. Good show rabbits should reach a good junior prim at about 4 ½ months of age. Therefore, if you will plan your breedings so that your juniors are about 5 ½ months old at the time of a special show, you will find that they are easier to get in condition.

Once you have produced your litter of prospective show winners, the process of conditioning starts with culling and selection. Most breeders like to wean at between 8 and 10 weeks. At that time you should separate out the animals you are planning to show into separate pens. You will find that an animal matures better and the coat finishes faster if they are separate from any litter mates by 10 weeks of age. Animals which are allowed to run together longer than this have a tendency to chew fur on each other. When that happens, you will find it very difficult to get a good, prime, even junior coat on your show animals.

At this time the environmental factors start to take over from the hereditary factors. You should be certain that the rabbit has a good clean, constant supply of water at all times. An animal which is not getting adequate water will not eat properly, and will never finish to the desirable degree of flesh condition. A feed level appropriate to the breed of rabbit you are raising must be established. The worst thing you can do in conditioning a rabbit is overfeeding. It is always easier to add a few ounces to the animal than it is to try to reduce him a few ounces. Fat and flabby animals will not carry the required flesh condition of a show rabbit, and you will find that the fur is harder to get in condition and hold on these over fat rabbits. A rabbit should meet you at the door at feeding time and always be ready to eat. You should also not feed more pellets than the rabbit will clean up in 2 hours. Overfeeding is the biggest mistake new breeders and showmen make.

You will probably find that you will want to supplement the rabbits diet with some additional goodies to stimulate both appetite and growth. Oats and barley are renowned as good supplementary feeds for your rabbits, but remember that if you do feed supplements, cut back on the amount of pellets that the rabbit is getting. Beware feeding corn, except in the winter time. Corn has a tendency to build too much body fat unless the weather in your area is cold enough that the extra energy is burned off keeping warm.

I would not recommend that you supplement with green feeds to any large degree. This is especially true of lettuce or any other leafy vegetable that is high in moisture content. They will have a tendency to cause scours in rabbits. Keep any of these feeds to carrots or turnips, or some other high fiber and low water content plant.

As you reach a fur and flesh prime you desire on your rabbit, start to slowly cut back on the amount of feed you are giving. Once the rabbit finishes, it does not need as much feed to maintain its condition. Overfeeding at this point only shortens the time you will retain prime condition on your rabbit.

Rabbits must also be protected from the extremes of heat and cold. The nearer to a constant environment you are able to provide, the easier your conditioning process will become. Being highly susceptible to drafts, rabbits should be kept in protected areas. The basic rule is that if you are uncomfortable with the weather, so is your rabbit. Extremes of weather are going to cause the rabbit to be constantly molting. To finish fur, you need to try to have as consistent of an environment as you can provide.

Once hereditary and environmental factors of conditioning are met, you are ready to show your animal. It is important in transporting your prize animal to the show that you do not allow extremes of heat or cold to get to the rabbit. Two hours in 100 degree heat in the back of a pickup can destroy 6 months worth of conditioning instantly. Keep animals comfortable on the way to shows, just like you would if you were at home.

Before placing the animal on the table for judging, take a small amount of water and rub down the coat. Just dampen it enough to kill the static electricity and then work the fur back forth until the water has evaporated. This will give the fur a more natural life and fly back. Do not use anything besides water on your fur. Silicone based preparations such as horse showmen use are strictly prohibited and could result in your entire entry being disqualified from the showroom. An animal in its natural prime doesn't need a lot of supplements.

Animals don't hold their prime condition forever. Your great winner today may go into molt after the show and look awful 2 weeks later. It is important to show only animals which are well conditioned. Regardless of the quality of an animal, if its not in good condition, it is not going to win if it is up against outstanding competition. Conditioning is the whipped cream and cherry on the top in rabbit raising. By practicing good conditioning basics and showing only animals which are in prime condition, your days at rabbit shows will be filled with many well earned wins.

Know Your Palominos Quiz...

Take this quiz without looking in the Standard Of Perfection and see how you do.

And no peeking until your done!

1. What is the minimum weight for a junior?
2. What is the maximum weight for a senior?
3. What is the correct toenail color for a Lynx?
4. Name two DQ's for the breed.
5. Is smut on a Golden a DQ or a fault?
6. How many points are allocated for fur?
7. Can a younger animal be bumped up an age class?
8. What is the correct under color for a Lynx?
9. Are mismatched toenails permissible?
10. Are Palominos a 4-Class or 6-Class breed?

Traveling With Rabbits...

As everyone gets ready for the spring show season which will soon be in full swing its important to remember some key things when traveling with your rabbits. Months of hard work can be lost in just a short trip if rabbits aren't properly transported to and from shows.

The first thing you need to have are wire carriers with leak proof pans that are an appropriate size for your breed. You do not want to crowd your rabbits to the point they are unable to comfortably relax. Carriers can be bought from many different suppliers and come in a wide variety of types. I prefer carriers with a double wall with a space in between where I can put water bottles and hay. This also prevents chewing by neighbors. Now depending on your preference you will want to either line the bottom of your pans with either puppy pads or shavings of some type. Puppy pads are easy and convenient to just roll up and place in the garbage where as shavings can be quite messy.

Regardless of the length of the show it is always a good idea to make sure your rabbits have access to plenty of fresh water as well as feed, hay is also a good idea as many rabbits will eat hay at a show before they will eat pellets. It is always a good idea to bring your own water and feed as changes can be stressful. Travel size water bottles and crocks are easy to find and are a great investment that will help maintain the conditioning of your animals.

Now its time to pack everyone and everything up. It is always a good idea to place either a tarp or blanket under your carriers to protect your vehicle, but you want to make sure the rabbits can not get a hold of it and pull it into the carriers and chew on it. You want to make sure your rabbits can get adequate ventilation and are not placed directly in front of a heater vent in the winter. During the summer make sure they are not in direct sunlight, shade visors are inexpensive and can be put up and taken down quite easily. You will want to secure the carriers and equipment to prevent shifting or falling as this could seriously injury one of your rabbits. Carrier clamps are a great way to this, or you can use bungee cords.

Now that you are on the road it is important to remember that the shorter the trip the easier it is on the rabbits. It might be tempting to make stops along the way for sightseeing and such, but it is always a good idea to only stop as much as is needed. This is also where having a traveling partner can come in handy. During the summer it is never a good idea to leave rabbits unattended in a parked vehicle. If you travel with someone you can take turns that way the rabbits do not have a chance to over heat. If you travel alone have an extra key where you can leave your vehicle running and still lock the doors. During the winter this is not as big a problem as it is never likely to be too cold in the vehicle for the rabbits. If its a long trip try to stop at least every two to three hours to check on the rabbits and make sure nothing has shifted which may be blocking a carrier and to also check and make sure everyone is handling the trip okay.

If you have to stay in a hotel do not leave your rabbits in the car overnight if you do not have to. Most hotels are more than happy to allow you to take them in the room, but please take care to leave the room neat and tidy as you do not want to ruin it for the next person. If you do have to leave them overnight make sure you leave the windows partially down and the vehicle is parked where it will be shaded from the morning sun.

Now that you have arrived at your destination its important to make sure the same things apply. Make sure your rabbits are comfortable where you decide to setup. I like to check all my water bottles at this time to make sure they are still working properly and to generally look for anything that might have happened during the trip.

Hopefully you will have had a great show and a great day. But remember no matter how tired you are you still need to think of the safety of your rabbits on the way home, it might be tempting to take shortcuts but they are never worth it.

So as you get ready for your next show keep these things in mind as you pack up to go and have a great show season and safe travels.

Good Luck And Happy Showing In 2012!!!!!!!

Winners Spotlight

Open



Best In Show
Pellham's Jasmine
SCRBA 11-26-11
Owned by Sharon Pellham (OK)

Youth



Best Of Breed
Golden Sr. Doe
Rochester, NY January 2012
Owned By Seth Whitney-Wekar (NY)



Best In Show
Pellham's Severance Check
CRBA 4-30-11
Owned By P. Montag/K. Williams/D. Williams (OK)



Best Opp. Sex
Sr. Buck # BN7
2011 National Palomino Show
Owned By Katherine Wist (KS)



1st Place Jr Doe of 16
CM's Class Act
2011 ARBA Natl. Conv.
Owned By Clair & Marge Thornton (NY)



Best Of Breed
Sr. Doe #DK10
2011 Palomino National Show
Owned By Katherine Wist (KS)

"Be A Pal To The Pals"