

## What's Inside:

- We ready for a rabbit show
- Rabbit Housing
- Managing your future - kindling tips
- Classifieds



# Density Tidbits



## Are We Ready For A Rabbit how?

BY JACQUE DUMAS

### 1) GET READY

A rabbit show always requires planning ahead of time. For angoras, you will need a blower, a nail clipper, a grooming brush, scissors, a chair, a grooming table, and an apron. As a beginner, you can get by with a brush, nail clippers, and a chair. All the other items make grooming much easier.

You will also need a date of when the show is going to be held, where it is going to be, what time, whether it is a single or double show, whether it is ARBA Sanctioned, How to get there, and when to register for the show and who to register with. Information concerning the show can be found in your ARBA Domestic Rabbit Magazine, on the ARBA Website, or in the Angora News. They will list when and where the show is, and who the show secretary is. You can get all the other information from the show secretary. If the show is not ARBA Sanctioned, you will not qualify for legs to achieve a Grand Champion for your rabbit. 3 legs from at least 2 judges will achieve a Grand Champion. One of these legs must be as a senior.

*Continued.....Page 3*

# Advertise in The Mid-South Newsletter

Please send you're advertising information to:  
Kim Gay, Newsletter Editor  
PO Box 44  
Milner, Ga. 30257  
770-584-6356

[Wooliecreations@gmail.com](mailto:Wooliecreations@gmail.com)

### Deadlines for issues

- Winter - January 1 • Spring - April 1
- Summer - July 1 • Fall - September 1

Publication dates are approximately 2 weeks after deadline.

The following prices include internet advertising in price.

### Display Advertising For Four Issues

Full Page	\$50.00
Half Page	\$30.00
Quarter Page	\$20.00
Business Card	\$12.00

### Classified Ad Section For Four Issues

24 words \$5.00  
Additional words are .25 cents per word

### Photo Gallery

\$5.00 per Best In Show photo (one issue)  
Your caption limited to- rabbits name, color, jr ./ sr., show, date, owner and breeder  
(Photos will not be returned unless accompanied be a stamped, self-addressed return envelope.)

### Breeder's Directory

\$10.00 for four issues - List your - Name, Address, Phone Number, Email Address Angora Breed, Colors

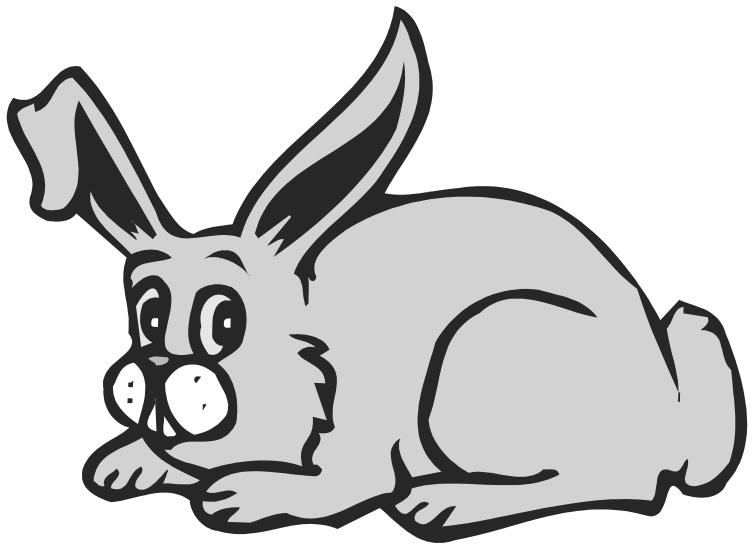
Internet advertising will be available soon. Please email [Wooliecreations@gmail.com](mailto:Wooliecreations@gmail.com) For info.

# Local Bunny News

Hi,

Please put in the newsletter that my buck, Praise Song Leonardo, won BOB French Angora at Lawrenceburg show and then took 2nd Reserve in Show in a competitive lineup. Several of his babies are ready to go along with another unrelated litter the same age, all born May 12th.

Thanks,  
[Brenda Morley](mailto:BrendaMorley@praisesongfarm.com)  
[Praisesongfarm.com](http://praisesongfarm.com)



## ARE WE READY FOR A RABBIT SHOW??

BY JACQUE DUMAS

Continued.....

Angoras are entered as white or colored, buck or doe, and junior or senior. They are weight limits on all four angora breeds, and minimum weight limits also. All of this information can be gotten from the ARBA Breed of Standards, which can be purchased from ARBA on line or from the magazine.

### 2) GET SET

The day before the show, please double check all your needs to make sure you are ready. You should have all the items in the 1st paragraph, plus you will need carrier cages with bottoms so that the rabbits can stay in them except for the time they are being shown. Usually you will need some feed and water with appropriate dishes also. Make sure you have newspaper, cat litter, pine shavings, or some appropriate material in the bottom of the carrier to help soak up the urine caught there. Make sure you have the appropriate entries written down by ear number, class, variety. Make sure you have your directions and time. Make sure you check your rabbits and that their nails have been clipped, there are no dq's, they have the appropriate legible tattoos, and they have been groomed – if possible.

### 3) GO

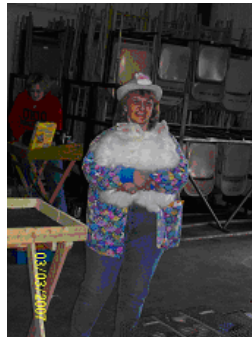
On the morning of the show, make sure you leave in time to be at the show at least one hour before it starts. This will give you ample time to find a place to put your bunnies, unload them, set up your chair and grooming table, find a place to blow your angoras – preferably outside, and pay for the registration fees. You will need to check their entries to your ear #s to make sure they all match and make any changes necessary.

Now it is time to wait for your class to be called. Be sure to listen or check the tables.

Please find pictures below of possible show situations. Each picture will have a description underneath or at the side. Enjoy!!! If you ever have any questions, please feel free to email me at [jdumastn@bellsouth.net](mailto:jdumastn@bellsouth.net), or just call me at 931-582-4191 or 931-622-0243. I will be glad to answer or help in any way I can.



You must take time to eat.....wool and all!!



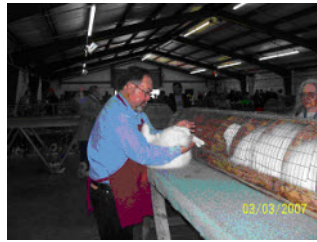
Carrying something requires 2 at one time!



Grooming is necessary to show well!



Visiting with friends makes it fun & educational



A judge checks ears, eyes, nose, sex, & nails.



Some bunny always tries to escape!!



Rabbits are placed on a table in coops.



Ear tattoos are checked when placing and wool is checked.



A good judge poses the animal in the correct position.



A judge checks wool and ears.



A writer must help the judge by writing placements.



Some children are all pooped out!



The end of the day packs up.



Show winners are very happy!!  
This is LF's Starlina, BOB & BIS  
Mid-South Angora Rabbit Society  
Show A, March 4, 2007  
Owner - Jacque Dumas  
Breeder - Toni Avery

**Rabbit Housing**

Susan Brown, D.V.M.

**Cage** - A metal cage may be used with a wire flooring of 14 gauge wire (1' x 1/2' square openings). A solid floored area is necessary to prevent sore hocks and to provide an area for resting. The size of the cage should be at least 24' x 24' x 18' high for the small and medium sized breeds and 36' x 36' x 24' high for the large breeds.

You can use a towel (unless you have a pet that likes to eat towels), or piece of carpeting or wood for the solid area. We have found that the 'synthetic fleece' cloth that is sold in fabric stores (in a variety of colors) works very nicely, as it is washable and if the pet chews on it, there are no long strands of fabric that can get caught in the digestive tract. Newspaper can be used under the wire. Do not use aquariums or solid walled cages because the lack of sufficient air circulation has been directly correlated with an increase in respiratory disease.

If you are going to have your bunny roaming the house either all or most of the time, make sure that you eliminate areas that your pet can get wedged in or escape from. Also watch out for electrical cords, which they like to chew on, carpeting, which they like to dig up and chew, and any toxic materials such as rodent poisons that your pet could get into. Get on your hands and knees and 'bunny-proof' your home.

**Litter Box** - Rabbits can be litter box trained relatively easily. Initially you need to keep your pet in a small area, either in a cage or a blocked off section of the room and place a litter box in the corner (try to pick the corner your pet has already used). Make sure the sides of the box are low enough so your pet can get in and out easily. It is helpful to put some of the droppings in the box. Some people have also found it helpful to put some hay in the box to encourage defecation in the box (they usually pass stool while they are eating). You can reward your pet with one of the treat foods listed previously whenever he or she has used the box successfully. Do not punish your pet while in the litter box. Do not worry if your pet sits for extended periods in the litter box. Sitting in the box can be allowed as long as he is not soiling himself and the box is cleaned frequently.

Pelleted paper or other organic products make the best bedding. These products are non-toxic and digestible if eaten, easier to clean up than shavings or clay litter, control odor better and are compostable. Some examples are Cellu-Dri and Yesterday's News (which are paper products), Mountain Cat Kitty Litter or Harvest Litter (pelleted wheat grass products), and Gentle Touch (pelleted aspen shavings). We carry a number of these products here at the clinic.

**Temperature** - Rabbits should be kept in the COOLEST and least humid area of the house. Studies have shown that bunnies kept in warm, humid environments with poor air circulation, have a dramatic increase in the incidence of respiratory disease over those animals kept in cool, dry environments with good air circulation. Damp basements are one of the worst areas to keep your pet. If your rabbit must be kept in a basement, invest in a dehumidifier and a fan to keep out dampness and improve air circulation.

The optimum temperature range for a bunny is 60-70 degrees F. When the temperature gets into the mid 70's, one may see an increase in drooling, and nasal discharge. If temperatures reach the upper 80's and beyond, and especially if the humidity is high the potential for a fatal heat stroke is very real. On very hot days, when air conditioning is not available, it is helpful to leave a plastic milk jug filled with frozen water in the cage, for a portable 'air conditioner'. Please keep fresh, cool water available, as this will also help to keep the body temperature down. If your pet should actually experience a heat stress reaction, try holding an ice cube on the ear or gently wetting your pet down with cool (not cold) water. If the heat stroke is severe, veterinary attention will be necessary.

If your bunny is being kept outdoors in either warm or cold weather, make sure that part of the cage is sheltered from the wind and the sun. For the winter it is advisable to use straw bedding in the sheltered area for insulation and make sure that the water bowl is changed daily, as your pet can dehydrate rapidly if the water is frozen for more than a day.

Small Mammals Series, Dr. Susan A. Brown

Whether you breed for show stock, to sell, or for meat, proper care of your does and kits helps ensure your future success. The care you give both the does and kits at kindling may mean the difference between saving or losing litters, and therefore affects the profitability of your operation. Following an effective care regimen or routine prior to and at kindling is extremely important. The six points listed in this article make a great starting place for establishing such a routine.

**Proper Weight of Does** - Achieving a target weight appropriate for your breed is important for breeding and kindling. An underweight doe may have problems with conception, gestation, and milking ability. Too much weight complicates rebreeding and causes a decline in the conception rate. If the doe is too heavy, she may have difficulty with delivery. Don't be afraid to reduce feed intake by up to 20% to reduce or maintain the correct weight. In cold weather, feed may have to be increased as much as two to three times the normal amount to keep weight on the doe.

On the day of kindling, restrict feed intake to two to four ounces to allow the milk to come in slowly and prevent caked udders. Gradually increase feed 1/2 to .1 ounce daily for the next six to eight days until the doe is at full feed. The amount you increase will depend upon the litter size and milking ability. For does with large litters, it is common to feed up to 16 to 24 ounces per day.

**Nest Box Preparation** - Add the nest box to the cage at 28 days of gestation, so the doe can build her nest. To help prevent disease, wash and disinfect both the box and the cage floor. Fill the nest box 2/3 full of bedding (straw, shavings, dry grass, hay, etc.). During cold weather, a layer of insulation board at the bottom of the nest box will give extra protection. During hot weather (90 and above), use a bedding that prevents the bunnies from burrowing and remove some of the loose bedding and fur to allow better air circulation. Use caution in placement of cages near drafts or heat

## Managing Your Future - Kindling Tips

**Reduce Stress** - Keep the nervous does' cages in as quiet a place as possible. Avoid moving the does to strange cages and handling them. Keep dogs, rats, and other animals and strangers away. Avoid loud noises. Monitor drafts and heat sources, as well as ventilation. Watch for any sign of disease and act immediately.

**Keep Good Records** - Examine the nest after kindling. Remove any mortalities immediately. Record births and important kindling information – how many, doe and kits' condition, and mortalities. Continue your observations as the kits grow, recording the doe's milking ability and mothering ability, and the kits' activity levels and growth rates. If a doe loses or destroys litters twice, or lacks mothering ability, she should be culled!

**Control Litter Size** – A doe with too many bunnies to feed will lose condition and become stressed. All the bunnies will suffer more stress and can have reduced growth rates. Mortalities can occur. Most does have eight teats. Foster extra bunnies (usually more than eight) to other litters if possible. Rub them with fur from the foster mother's nest to ensure acceptance.



## Classified Adds

## Breeders Directory

### New Babies -

New babies in the barn and some ready to go. Holland Lops, French Angoras, all born on December 25th. The ones available now are 9 weeks old and some a little older. Call for pricing ... I also will build to suite condo units, call for pricing on units. 615-890-8463 days and 931-728-6044 nights .... Ask for Cheryl



### Need A Web Site -

Web sites designed at reasonable prices. Will build to suit your needs. References available. Contact Kim Gay 770-584-6356 or email at [customsignsdesigns@gmail.com](mailto:customsignsdesigns@gmail.com) [www.customsigns-designs.com](http://www.customsigns-designs.com)

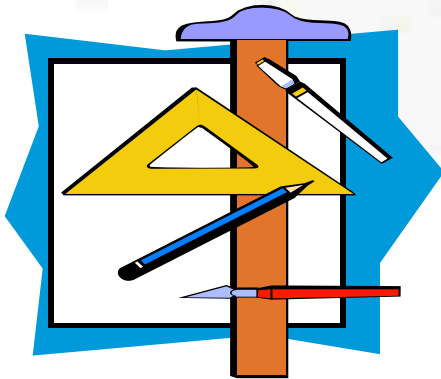
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24 words \$5.00  
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#### Breeder's Directory

\$10.00 for four issues - List your -  
 Name, Address, Phone Number, Email Address  
 Angora Breed, Colors





Links To Look AT -

Satin Angora and French Angora babies available now. Show quality and pet quality. Contact Kim Gay - 770-584-6356 [Catnip36@yahoo.com](mailto:Catnip36@yahoo.com)



# *Density Tidbits*

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Mid-South Angora Rabbit Society \* <http://www.geocities.com/midsouthangora/>

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