

Australian National Cavy Council

Standards Review Panel.

Report 2006

Ken Hart (Chairman)

Robert Brown

Karen Nichols

Peter Wright (Standards Book Co-ordinator)

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Introduction

It has again been a very busy year for the Standards Review Panel (SRP). Much of the time of the panel has been occupied with attempting to make progress on the proposed Sheba standard.

This year the Standards review panel put five proposals to the delegates. Four relate to the way the Standards Review Panel manage the new varieties and information about them. We believe these proposals will make the introduction of new varieties a more efficient and objective process. The other is a proposed change to the Tri Colour standard that will bring it into line with the Tortoise and White standard. Following a straw poll of some judges we sincerely believe that the proposed change only reflects what judges presently do anyway. In this regard it is purely a matter of common sense.

The major milestone for the year has been publishing the ANCC standards book as a free download through the ANCC website. This has been due largely to the good work of Peter Wright and the ANCC's web mistress, Pam Bardell.

Pink Eyed Cream.

The SRP was encouraged by the presentation of this breed at the 2005 National Show. There was good evidence that it segregates as its Dark Eyed counterpart, with the only difference being at the Eye colour locus. We are confident that this breed is in good hands and will make further progress over the coming years.

We have no recommendations for changes to the current guidelines, which are;

Guidelines for the Self Cream Pink Eyed

Feature	Description
Colour	Top colour to be lustrous and of even shade all over the head and body. Under colour to match top colour down to the skin giving an appearance free from flakiness. Hair on feet to match body colour.
Type	Broad roman nose with good width of muzzle rounded at the nostrils, short and cobby body with deep broad shoulders.
Coat	To be short and silky with a glossy sheen.
Ears	Rose petal shape set wide apart, large and drooping.
Eyes	Large and bold.
Presentation	(ie Condition cleanliness and grooming).

Should be a pale even colour, free from lemon or yellow tinge. Eyes pink. Ears pink/cream pads flesh pink.

Faults

As per Self standard.

Disqualifications

As per Self standard.

Ridgeback.

The SRP have had little feed back from breeders this year. The only change that we recommend pertains to the lie of the hair on the feet. This change is;

The hair on the feet should go against the lie of the coat, giving a rough appearance. This should include all four feet, but smooth front feet should not be severely penalised.

Sheba

Most of the panels work this year has been occupied by this breed. A considerable amount of work was done by the panel soon after last years meeting. A set of questions was drawn up pertaining to aspects of **the** standard, proposed by breeders, and accepted by this meeting last year. These questions were sent to the co-ordinator identified by the breeders. Unfortunately a reply was not received until April. When this reply was received it was accompanied with a request that the previous guidelines be abandoned and that a new set be adopted. The new guidelines are substantially different to those adopted last year. These need considerable discussion within the SRP before we are prepared to comment on them in full. They include reverting to aspects that were identified by the SRP as fundamental problems with the breed. They introduce an aspect that is considered a fault in all other breeds and introduce an aspect of genetic theory on coat length that is unknown in cavies. Regrettably we consider there is perhaps more work to do now than there was at this time last year.

Proposal 1

Entry fee for the Unstandardised section at the National Show.

We propose that there be no entry fee for the new varieties class at the National show.

Rationale: The SRP would prefer to see as many specimens of new varieties as possible so that we can determine the true progress of the breed. If only the best examples of a breed are present this may disguise the true stage of development.

This will also help the SRP to determine the level of interest in a new breed. This is an important aspect of a breeds development and long term viability.

Proposal 2

No judge and no awards at the National.

The SRP propose that there be no judge and no awards made in the new varieties class. There should instead be a formal review made by the members of the SRP. We would also encourage all judges and other interested people to attend to ask questions and provide comment.

Rationale: We believe that this would provide a far more comprehensive level of feedback to the breeders and give the breeders the opportunity to directly ask questions of the SRP about what they expect.

Having awards will discourage breeders from displaying the full spectrum of their breed and concentrate on preparing cavies for exhibition. It is an essential part of the assessment that the SRP are able to reliably determine the depth of quality.

Proposal 3

Change to Tri-colour standard.

The Standards Review Panel proposes that the Tri-colour standard be changed to match the Tortoise and White Standard.

Present Tri Colour Standard

Feature	Points	Description
Patches	45	clear & distinct
Size, Shape & Condition	20	
Colour	15	
Eyes	10	large & bold
Coat	10	
TOTAL POINTS	100	

Remarks

? Colours to be any three colours (except black, red & white together) and may include Agouti

? Colour pattern as for Tortoise & White

Faults & Disqualifications

As listed under *Faults & Disqualifications* at start of handbook

And breed specific faults

? Brindling & banding as for Tortoise & White

That we propose to be changed to:

Proposed Tri Colour Standard

Feature	Points	Description
Patches	50	to be clean cut, clear & distinct (25 points) equal distribution & uniform placing of patches (25 points)
Colour	20	
Size & Shape	15	
Coat & Condition	10	
Eyes & Ears	5	
TOTAL POINTS	100	

Remarks

? The colours to be any three Self or Agouti colours other than black, red & white, in square cut patches of equal size and placed alternately on each side of the cavy

? Each colour must be clear and distinct without being intermixed one with another

Faults

As listed under *Faults & Disqualifications* at start of handbook

And breed specific faults

? **Bands:** patches of colour going more than ½ way around the body

? **Belts:** a patch of colour around the body part way

? **Brindling:** different coloured hairs intermixed in the patches

? **Cavies** being short of any coloured patches on either side shall be penalised

Disqualifications

As listed under *Faults & Disqualifications* at start of handbook

Rationale: The SRP believe that Tortoise and Whites and Tri-colours should be regarded as different colours of the same breed, as are the various colours of Self, Ticked, Dutch etc. We believe it is therefore logical that the Standards for Tortoise and White and Tri-colours should be the same, as are the various colours of Self, Ticked, Dutch etc.

Proposal 4

Litter reporting forms.

The Standards Review Panel proposes that a form be adopted for the purposes of breeders developing new breeds to report progress in a standardised format.

Rationale: We believe that information on breeding results is either not forthcoming or that only selected results are being reported to the Standards Review Panel. To ensure that the panel get the information that is required we have developed a standardised form (Appendix 1) for breeders to report to the Standards review panel. These forms will allow the Panel to start a data base of reliable information. This will in turn enable a more informed decision making process.

Proposal 5

Reporting system for judges at local shows.

The Standards Review Panel proposes that a form be adopted for the purposes of judges reporting their views of new breeds. The form is intended to ensure that reports are in a standardised format that provides information that is useful to the Standards Review Panel.

Rationale: Judges play an important role in the development of new breeds. They have a wealth of experience and play an important hands-on role in assessing new breeds at cavy shows. It is therefore important that they provide feedback to the Standards Review Panel to assist in the assessment of the stage of development of new breeds.

Appendix 2 – Judges reporting form.

