

## Variation in Points for COAT



**Siberian: 50 points**



**Satin: 50 points**



**Deilenaar: 20 points**



**Perlfee: 20 points**



**Hustlander: 20 points**



**Blanc de Hotot: 15 points**

The *John Self* column

## "Coat & Type"

I have thought for quite a while that perhaps there is a case for a look at the points which are allocated in the Normal Fur standards. Not to change the way in which we want the rabbits to look and feel, but to try and make the words represent clearly our requirements.

There are thirty eight standards in the Normal Fur Section and this does not include the various colours within a breed. The quality of the coat or fur is generally agreed to be the most important aspect of these breeds followed very closely by type or shape.

It is therefore intriguing to see how the points awarded for coat vary from breed to breed. The average points awarded for coat over the 38 breeds is a fraction over 30, but the individual figure varies quite dramatically from 15 points for a Blanc de Hotot to 50 points for a Satin and Siberian.

It is interesting to note that there are a number of other breeds with only twenty points for coat – Deilenaar, Hulstlander, Perlfee and Sallander which were originally European imports and the Breed Standards Committee were instructed to follow the European Standard for these as well as the Blanc de Hotot.

However, the European "sections" are not the same as ours, and require a very different points structure in the individual standards, which is perhaps where the anomaly occurred.

The above makes the thought of judging normal fur duplicates a bit strange. Quite how we should come to terms with making a decision on coat when one breed has a potential award of 15 points and another with 50 I'm not quite sure.

The truth is I would guess is that the judges place the duplicates on coat quality as if they all have the same points allocated. Which is probably the way it should be, but if so I think the individual standards should say so.

With regards to type the factors are a little more complicated inasmuch unlike Standard Rex the shape and weight of individual breeds differ from one breed to another.

As an example at the top end a Californian has 55 points for type, the British Giant 50, followed by the Blanc de Hotot at 45 and the New Zealand at 40. Even so the overall average over all the 38 breeds is just under 30 points.

At the other end of the scale Foxes and Smoke Pearls have 15 points and Perlfee and Satin 20 points.

I can see the argument for the top end of the scale as they are large or giant rabbits, but I would have thought that maybe a minimum of 30 points for type would have more accurately described what everyone seeks to achieve for the others.

I hesitate to make comment about the Standard Rex varieties for obvious reasons, but in view of the intense debate regarding type and weight it does seem a touch odd that type is only 20 points, whereas I think quite rightly coat is 40, but 40 points for colour and markings? Is that really the way they are judged?



## Variation in Points for TYPE



**Californian: 55 points**



**British Giant: 50 points**



**New Zealand: 40 points**



**Silver Fox: 15 points**



**Smoke Pearl: 15 points**