



fancy rats, gerbils, hamsters,
ranch chinchillas etc.

MICE

MICE-ELLANY by Tony Cooke Are genetics really necessary?

I WAS interested by John Palin's article in the March 29 edition of FUR & FEATHER and by Roy Robinson's reply. I cannot entirely subscribe to the viewpoint that the practice of genetics in the Fancy is entirely irrelevant. It is possible to be 'number one' in the Fancy without any knowledge of genetics whatsoever, but any achievements would be 'in spite of' the absence of genetics.

Without some grasp of the principles the Fancy would be a much poorer hobby. For example, without the knowledge of how to propagate a recessive or combine it with others the rabbit Fancy would not possess the rex today. Neither would the mouse Fancy possess the Satin. So the Fancy has reaped enormous benefits from a little knowledge of this 'unnecessary' science.

And then again, what is 'the Fancy' all about? It's about relaxing and having fun. For some individuals the genetic pottering around is as much fun as the pure showing and for others showing is the be-all and end-all. Neither is absolutely right or absolutely wrong in pursuing their version of the hobby. Indeed, for a few fortunates there is the best of both worlds.

No, John, genetics is no more limiting than showing. You talked in your article about winning the Mendel Gold Cup and you infer that genetic knowledge alone cannot contribute to a person winning

this trophy. I suggest that while you are not entirely wrong there you are certainly not entirely right.

In my last article I talked about ambitions and referred specifically to an ambition to win the Mendel Gold Cup with a Dutch. There is just no way that this could be achieved by a 'pure' (non-genetic) fancier—not a snowball's chance in hell. Yet I WILL do it (eventually) if it takes me another 50 years in the Fancy. To borrow a phrase from another regular FUR & FEATHER contributor 'I want to win and I will'. And when I do it will be a little genetic knowledge which has helped me do it.

To close this topic I think a quotation from Percy Ashley is appropriate. I don't know the date as I only have an undated copy of an article by Percy entitled 'How To Breed Good Silver', but in it he says: 'I will remember the late Doctor Kerr MBCHB whenever we met at shows would say "Come on Ashley sit down and let us chat about how you have bred your black-eyed whites". I would say "Doctor, you know all the answers in genetics". He would reply "You, Ashley, have all the practical breeding answers". Many an interesting hour we spent discussing the pro's and con's of various breeds and I am certain we both derived untold benefit from it.'

That really says it all doesn't it?

Lancashire Hotch Potch

LOOKING BACK over 1978, it was not the happiest year of my life. First I fractured my leg in two places. My old Siamese cat, companion of seventeen years died. Brian was ill for months with whooping cough and acute bronchitis. To top it all my mice picked up a virus from some unknown source and commenced to hunch up and die in about two days, just as I was doing rather well at the shows.

I took a specimen to my veterinary surgeon and stopped showing and banned any visitors to my shed, while the results from the laboratories came back. They found it was a virus of 99% fatality. I lost 350 mice altogether and when I obtained a trio of stock about four months later I had them examined once more before I increased stock. They were proved clear, and I had a fresh start.

My friends in the Fancy, and even fanciers with whom I had had differences in the past offered mice in profusion which moved me deeply. I realised what a wealth of true friendship exists in our Fancy—sometimes its even a kind of love, which one does not realise until one is a recipient of the warm generosity extended to a fellow fancier. When I am feeding my mice I always think about the others who will be feeding theirs, and I am never lonely in my hobby.

I was given some of my improved, original stock and am now building up a good stud of many varieties.

I feed my mice on the best possible diet, with lots of Sunflower seed (which is their all-time favourite), a new brand of dog food which contains lots of calcium and is in the shape of small bones.

Cider vinegar, which is obtainable at health food shops (just a drop mixed in with the moist baked bread) is a wonderful conditioner recommended to me by a livestock producer who breeds commercial rabbits and milk producing cows. He said that since his stock had been having it in their food, the size and condition had improved beyond belief. I'm trying it now.

For 'reluctant bucks' a little hemp seed does the trick, for does, vitamin E (alpha tocopheryl) prevents abortion, increases fertility, and is an 'anti-ageing' vitamin, again obtained at health food stores.

I feed dandelion buds and clover flowers which the mice rip apart to get at the pollen and nectar. I never feed steam-baked bread unless it has been 'toasted' in the oven, as a few years back, when I had run out of my supply of oven baked bread, I fed for a fortnight on steam sliced type and found it caused enteritis, diarrhoea, bleeding, and the fading of mice. When Brian saw this happening he swore never to have any of that kind again!

You can always test whether bread is steam-baked or baked the old-fashioned way, by putting a small piece of each in a glass of water and leaving them for say five days, then squeezing out the surplus water. The steamed variety will look like cotton wool and smell terrible, and the baked variety when squeezed will crumble.

Another effect of steamed bread is that pregnant does swell up to bursting point as though they are filled with gas, and then just die. Maybe other fanciers have experienced these effects and will write about them.

I never use hay which is prepacked in plastic bags, because in changes of weather condensation occurs and makes the hay sour. The best hay is 'Clover Hay' but I haven't been able to buy any for about ten years. My father always used it and the mice ate every bit. It is nutritious and very economical.

A few days before a show, a few drops of cod liver oil, or linseed, mixed with the food gives the coat a lovely sheen, but it mustn't be overdone. Chop bones, bacon rind, chicken bones, mice relish, they pick the bones clean and it gives the mice something to gnaw during the day. I get bags of dog bones from the supermarkets—usually ten pence a bag—and hammer them into small pieces. The mice love the morsels.

Something must be done about show schedules

says G Harlow

RECENTLY I decided to check on how each section had fared at shows over a period. From the reports in FUR & FEATHER I listed each section at six shows—two championship shows, one annual cup show and three others. The shows listed are all based on 5p entry fee and the standard 30p, 20p, 10p prize money in breed and section challenges only.

At these shows Tans showed a loss at four and a profit at two. Marked lost at all six, Satins lost at three and made a profit at two (I could not find the results of the other show), AOV made a loss at all six. Sells made a profit at five of the shows and although I could not find the results of the Airedale show I was present and know that a good entry had been received.

Members cannot agree that entry fees should be raised but I believe that something will have to be done because if it were not for the big duplicate classes getting good entries the clubs would go bust. It is a great pity that clubs have to rely on making a profit from the

catering side and raffles—or even on donations—to make the shows pay. And remember that you still have to take into account the supply of prize cards, judging slips, pen labels and other hidden extras. It is no wonder that clubs are running on very tight budgets.

There are two ways of alleviating the situation. Either entry fees must go up in the straight classes (thus upsetting a lot of exhibitors) or we must make the schedules smaller by putting more varieties in the one class. In my opinion unless something on these lines is done we won't have a mouse Fancy in a few years' time.

I have heard exhibitors say that they won't enter at a show unless there is a class scheduled for their breed or variety on its own. In reply to this I say that a win in a class with a lot of entries carries more prestige than a win in a class which has attracted only two or three. Besides the win from a large entry is eligible towards a championship claim.

AIREDALE, FEBRUARY 10 1979

	Entry	Entry fees	Prize money	Loss	Profit
TAN	108	540p	580p	40p	—
MARKED	83	415p	470p	55p	—
SATIN	64	320p	360p	40p	—
AOV	78	390p	450p	60p	—
SELF	Results not published				

CALDER VALLEY, NOVEMBER 25 1978

	Entry	Entry fees	Prize money	Loss	Profit
TAN	95	485p	540p	75p	—
MARKED	55	275p	470p	195p	—
SATIN	57	285p	180p	—	105p
AOV	65	320p	480p	140p	—
SELF	143	715p	600p	—	115p

MANCHESTER MOUSE CLUB, NOVEMBER 11 1978

	Entry	Entry fees	Prize money	Loss	Profit
TAN	42	210p	560p	350p	—
MARKED	20	100p	320p	220p	—
AOV	47	235p	510p	275p	—
SELF	157	785p	830p	45p	—
SATIN	Results not published				

BRADFORD CHAMPIONSHIP 1979

	Entry	Entry fees	Prize money	Loss	Profit
TAN	188	940p	540p	—	400p
MARKED	86	430p	480p	50p	—
SATIN	74	370p	360p	—	10p
AOV	98	490p	600p	110p	—
SELF	276	1380p	720p	—	660p

LONDON CHAMPIONSHIP 1978

	Entry	Entry fees	Prize money	Loss	Profit
TAN	131	655p	600p	—	55p
MARKED	59	295p	440p	145p	—
SATIN	73	365p	480p	115p	—
AOV	124	620p	720p	100p	—
SELF	181	905p	690p	—	215p

NATIONAL MOUSE CLUB ANNUAL CUP SHOW AT WHITBY, SEPTEMBER 23 1978

	Entry	Entry fees	Prize money	Loss	Profit
TAN	107	535p	790p	255p	—
MARKED	98	495p	580p	85p	—
SATIN	80	400p	410p	10p	—
AOV	91	455p	660p	205p	—
SELF	221	1207p	900p	—	307p

MIDLAND MOUSE CLUB

SINCE MY last club notes we have had our first show at the Village Hall, Twycross, which turned out to be very poorly supported as the entry was only 482. The club would have lost over £15 on this show but for a member paying the hall rent £5, best in show and all loss on prize money. All the exhibitors present spent well on the tombola, raffle and the refreshments so we came out on top.

I hope our next show which is on Saturday June 30 will be better supported as I am sure all the people who came to the first show enjoyed themselves and many of them said what a good hall it was and in a very good area. I will not report on who did the winning as the judges will be putting their show reports in FUR & FEATHER.

The judges for our June show are Mr G Lupton (Sells), Mr J Hartley (AOV and Satins); I am awaiting confirmation of the judge to do Tans and Marked. The show will be advertised in FUR & FEATHER a bit nearer the time.

I thank all who made donations in cash or helped in other ways which made it possible for me to get this club off the ground. They include N Davidson, J Strutt, J Hartley, Mrs D Cooper, K Blackford, G Moore, C Cole, Mrs I Day and the following who made donations at the show and later, I Davies, D Parkinson, D Taylor.

We are putting a show on at the Walsall show on August Bank Holiday so I hope we will get a good entry and good turn out of exhibitors.

G HARLOW, secretary

NATIONAL MONGOLIAN GERBIL SOCIETY

THE ANNUAL members' stock show will be held at Poynton on Saturday August 25, in conjunction with the open gerbil section of the Poynton annual show. It will be judged by David Robinson.

David was to have judged our show at Doncaster in January and was as disappointed as we were that the section had to be cancelled, so start planning your breeding now to ensure him a good entry. The open section will be judged by Andrew Amos who had also taken over from Keith Smith as section manager for the 'London' in October. We got many inquiries from the general public at Poynton last year plus a few new exhibitors so put your best stock on view there and help make our Fancy a little better known.

One of our members has offered a rose bowl to be called the Calderpark Rose Bowl to be awarded annually to the member who is judged to have made the greatest overall improvement in the black gerbil. Once the black is stabilised as a recognised type and colour and breeding freely the award can, with the committee's permission, be assigned to a particular show for the best black or something similar. It was felt that the bowl would commemorate the contribution of an outside body to our hobby and also reward conscientious breeders.

I am often asked what we call baby gerbils—are they called kittens as in rats, cubs as in many animals or perhaps pups as sometimes used in research papers? What do you think would be appropriate? Also, is the male a buck and the female a doe? It seems time to make some sort of decision on this.

News and views to be placed at 3 Tracks Lane, Billinge, Wigan WN5 7BL.

(Mrs) M BROOKES, secretary

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Ailments in hamsters (Part 2)

Dennis Homes

THE SYMPTOM of a cold in a hamster is very similar to that of a human—wheezing, running eyes, nasal discharge and sometimes sneezing. The coat becomes open and appears dull. Isolation from the rest of the stock is of paramount importance as the virus is highly contagious. Clean bedding should be given and the cage should be brought into a warm, but well ventilated room. A mash made from 'Bemax' and warm milk is quite beneficial. Sometimes a bronchial condition can arise from a cold and if this is the case the animal should be seen by a veterinary surgeon, who may prescribe aureomycin or terramycin.

The cold virus that affects a hamster is the same as that which affects humans. If you happen to have a cold great care must be taken to ensure that you don't infect your stock. Wearing a mask over your nose and mouth at this time would perhaps be advisable. If a cold develops into pneumonia it is usually fatal in hamsters.

Sometimes a hamster may appear to have all the symptoms of a cold when in fact the condition may be an allergy. Very fine sawdust or dusty hay is quite often the cause, and the condition may be likened somewhat to hay fever. Changing the sawdust and bedding to that of a better quality will usually remedy the situation.

Constipation

The first indication of this condition is usually a reduction of absence of faeces in the cage. Sometimes the faeces that are present are small, hard and shrivelled. In severe cases the animal will sit hunched up with an open coat and the tummy will be hard and swollen. Constipation is often the result of the hamster eating too many pellets and not taking enough water. The provision of plenty of greenfood, dandelion and apple will usually remedy the condition. A very small pinch of Epsom salts in the water

bottle may help, but it is best to first try the greenfood. Constipation has sometimes been the result of a hamster having an intestinal blockage caused through chewing cotton wool. Obviously cotton wool or any other form of wool bedding should never be given.

Diarrhoea

This is usually caused by either eating too much greenfood or eating food that has been contaminated. Obviously the need for hygiene must be observed and, as previously stated, infected animals must always be isolated. Clean bedding should be provided and only dry food given. Arrowroot or a little cornflower may be added to the food. Diarrhoea is often nature's way of dealing with an intestinal infection and in most cases the condition will cure itself within a few days.

Falls

In an average sized cage a fall could never really be of a serious nature. Most nasty falls take place when the animal is being handled. It is important that you should always hold a hamster over a table top because, unlike mice, they seem to be quite unable to judge heights. Extra care should be taken when handling young or nervous animals as they have a tendency to take a sudden leap. Pregnant females should always be held with extreme caution.

If you have a hamster that has suffered a fall and you suspect a broken bone, then you should immediately consult a vet. If a hamster shows signs of shock then he should be given a warm mash and left alone preferably in a warm place.

Hibernation

As with cannibalism, hibernation is more prevalent among certain strains of hamsters and may also be partly inherited. The condition is more likely to happen when temperatures drop below 45°F, although there have been cases of hamsters hibernating at much higher

temperatures. Heartbeat, temperatures and respiratory rate all drop drastically and the animal becomes quite stiff. Many a hamster found in this condition has been mistaken for dead.

The best treatment is to move the cage into a warmer room, but ensure that the change is gradual or the creature could die from shock. Gradually the hamster will come round and in no time at all will be acting quite normally. At this time a warm mash would be of great benefit.

Inability to give birth

A hamster has a double uterus and a baby passes into the birth canal in turn from each womb. The inability to give birth is usually caused by a baby turning and becoming lodged in the birth canal. Sometimes the condition can be attributed to too much fat around the uterus, making the birth difficult. Obviously a mother should be well fed, but it is imperative that she does not become too fat.

If a hamster is found in this condition it should be taken to a veterinary surgeon at once. If caught in time a caesarian birth may be possible. Unfortunately, in most cases it is fatal.

Loss of fur

As a hamster gets old it is perfectly natural for a loss of fur to be encountered. The first place that it becomes noticeable is usually on the ears, which become quite shiny. The belly fur also becomes rather thin, starting from the area around the pits of the leg joints. If a loss of fur is found on a young animal then it could be attributed to a deficiency of vitamin A or C. Plenty of greenfood and regular cod liver oil may be helpful. A small sprinkling on the food of a multi-vitamin compound such as 'SA37' or 'Abidec' may also be of use.

Black gerbils

MRS MINA HENLEY, on behalf of Calderpark Zoo, kindly gave me two pairs of black gerbils. These arrived straight from quarantine and appeared healthy. Despite this, one male died within three days from no obvious cause. The remaining pair gave no signs of wanting to breed with each other and eventually each of the litters were paired with an agouti.

Two litters have been produced, one of four and another of six, all agoutis, the procedure is to inbreed these agoutis to recover the black. The black colour is inherited as a recessive, hence the expectation in the F2 in three agoutis and one black.

I have recently bred a 'waltzing' gerbil. This interesting little animal is healthy but tends to spin in circles when disturbed. It also circles spontaneously. I hope to determine if the behaviour is inherited. I should be pleased to hear from anyone who may have had or seen such behaviour. It should be added that this circling behaviour is not the same as the epileptic fits which most gerbils are prone. This tendency is probably related to their very quick and high-strung natures. ROY ROBINSON

Club secretaries

National Mouse Club: Mr S Smith, 26 Grassmere Road, Bolton, Bradford.

Airdale Mouse Club: John Kellert, 56 Claremont Grove, Wrose, Shipley, West Yorkshire, telephone Shipley (0274) 55621.

Calder Valley Mouse Club: E Longbottom, 109 Hopwood Lane, Halifax, Yorkshire, telephone Halifax 54124.

Faywood Hamster, Mouse, Gerbil and Fancy Rat Club: Mrs F Johnson, 79 Burdett Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.

Greater Manchester Mouse Club: D Taylor, 252 Stockport Road, Marple, near Stockport, Cheshire SK6 6EX. Telephone 061-427 2762.

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Yorkshire Hamster Club: Mrs E Baxby, 8 Rawlins Court, Coal Aston, Sheffield.

Midland Hamster Club: R Hegarty, 36 Welbeck Street, Mansfield, Nottinghamshire. Telephone: Mansfield 36580.

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Where and when to show

HAMSTERS

JUNE 9
Fyford

JUNE 30
Faywood

JULY 7
Alton

JULY 28
Abergavenny Agric

AUGUST 25
Faywood

SEPTEMBER 1
Newport

SEPTEMBER 8
Leatherhead

SEPTEMBER 29
Lymington

OCTOBER 20
Faywood

OCTOBER 26/27
London Championship
Super Pets

NOVEMBER 10
Surbiton

MICE

JUNE 9
London & Southern

JUNE 10
Bradford Metro

JUNE 16
Calder Valley

JUNE 30
Faywood

JULY 14
Dagenham

JULY 22
Dartford

JULY 28
Cleveland County

AUGUST 5
Portsmouth
Southsea

AUGUST 25
Faywood

AUGUST 26
Harlow

SEPTEMBER 1
Guildford

SEPTEMBER 8
Airedale

SEPTEMBER 16
Bradford Metro

SEPTEMBER 22
Greater Manchester

OCTOBER 6
North Yorkshire

OCTOBER 13
Airedale
London & Southern

OCTOBER 20
Faywood

OCTOBER 21
Bradford Metro

OCTOBER 26/27
London Championship

NOVEMBER 10
Bristol

NOVEMBER 18
Bradford Metro

NOVEMBER 24
Calder Valley

DECEMBER 1
Rugby

DECEMBER 8
London & Southern

DECEMBER 16
Bradford Metro

GERBILS

JUNE 30
Faywood

JULY 27
St Helens

AUGUST 15
Poynton

AUGUST 25
Faywood

SEPTEMBER 2
Birmingham

SEPTEMBER 9
St Helens

OCTOBER 20
Faywood

OCTOBER 26/27
London Championship

NOVEMBER 25
St Helens

RATS

JUNE 30
Faywood

JULY 15
Dagenham

JULY 28
Surbiton

AUGUST 25
Faywood

SEPTEMBER 29
Surbiton

OCTOBER 20
Faywood

OCTOBER 26/27
London Championship
Super Pets

NOVEMBER 24
Surbiton

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(Mrs) HELEN DAGG

Aylesbury

APRIL 28. SCC Two star. Judge F Holmes. Exhibits sixty-seven. Entries 245. Best in show D and M Beasley's Dutch.

SELF Black ad 3: 1 Mrs R Swain 2 3 W Vale **AOV Ad 3:** 1 B King 2 3 Cueli Stud **Chall ad 4:** 1 B King 2 R Swain 3 Cueli Stud **Black 5-8 mth 1:** 1 P and K Lane **White 5-8 mth 1:** 1 E Miles **Cream 5-8 mth 1:** 1 M Gore **AOC 5-8 mth 6:** 1 Brentwood Stud 2 3 P and K Lane **Chall 5-8 mth 7:** 1 P and K Lane 2 Brentwood Stud 3 M Gore **Black 5 mth 1:** 1 N J Field **AOC 5 mth 4:** 1 2 Cueli Stud **Chall 5 mth 5:** 1 2 Cueli Stud 3 N J Field **ABYSSINIAN Ad 2:** 1 2 T Merry **HIMALAYAN Ad 1:** 1 G Tyler **DUTCH Ad 3:** 1 D and M Beasley 2 R Fountain 3 Mrs E Green **AOV Ad 2:** 1 B King 2 W Vale **NON-SELF Chall ad 8:** 1 D and M Beasley 2 G Tyler 3 B King **5-8 mth 1:** 1 no award 2 T Merry **SHELTIE 5-8 mth 1:** 1 E Miles **HIMALAYAN 5-8 mth 1:** 1 G Tyler **DUTCH 5-8 mth 1:** 1 D and M Beasley **AOV 5-8 mth 2:** 1 B King 2 P and K Lane **NON-SELF Chall 5-8 mth 4:** 1 D and M Beasley 2 E Miles 3 G Tyler **ABYSSINIAN 5 mth 2:** 1 2 T Merry **HIMALAYAN 5 mth 4:** 1 Cueli Stud 2 G Tyler 3 Chestnut Stud **DUTCH 5 mth 1:** 1 D and M Beasley **PERUVIAN 5 mth 3:** 1 3 M Gore 2 Chestnut Stud **AOV 5 mth 1:** 1 no award 2 W Vale **Chall 5 mth 8:** 1 M Gore 2 D and M Beasley 3 Chestnut Stud **CRESTED ENGLISH Ad 3:** 1 P and K Lane 2 W Vale 3 Z and J Field **5-8 mth 2:** 1 2 Brentwood Stud **5 mth 2:** 1 B King **Chall 6:** 1 B King 2 K and L Lane 3 Brentwood Stud **AV Sow 15:** 1 D and M Beasley 2 G Tyler 3 B King **Boar 16:** 1 D and M Beasley 2 Brentwood Stud 3 W Vale **Chall ad 11:** 1 D and M Beasley 2 G Tyler 3 Mrs R Swain **5-8 mth 13:** 1 P and K Lane 2 G and M Beasley 3 Brentwood Stud **5 mth 14:** 1 M Gore 2 D and M Beasley 3 Chestnut Stud **Grand chall 27:** 1 D and M Beasley 2 P and K Lane 3 G Tyler **JUVENILE Pure Bred 8 mth 3:** 1 3 J Oakley 2 Swain **Non-Self ad 1:** 1 J and Z Field **8 mth 3:** 1 2 A Swain 3 J Davies **Chall Self 3:** 1 3 J Oakley 2 A Swain **Non-Self 3:** 1 2 A Swain 3 J Davies **Grand chall 6:** 1 3 A Swain 2 J Oakley **Pets 8:** 1 B and B King 2 G Vale.

Yorkshire Championship

APRIL 28. Judges A Robinson, B Emmett, F Kershaw. Best in show Palemoon Stud's Self White sow. Best Non-Self H Laycock's Abyssinian. Best juvenile B Gibbons.

Mr B EMMETT

THIS EVENT appears to be now well established and draws prominent fanciers from a wide area. Show organisation in the hands of John North leaves little to be desired. I would like to thank my willing stewards, Aubrey Roebuck, Jim Tenner, Tim Chew, Vic Bailey and my efficient book steward Mrs Mary Davidson.

ABYSSINIAN Brindle ad 7: 1 H Laycock, boar, well set out, fit and in good harsh coat, fine centres and strong ridges 2 L Health, boar, well set out, good coat, weakest point is on collar 3 S and C Deadman, boar, open rump rosettes, weak collar, otherwise good 5 mth 5: 1 D R Oulton, boar, well set out, nice centres, shade weak on ridges 2 K Yates, boar, good rosettes, one slightly out of line, good coat 3 L Health, boar, out of line, falls on rear ridge, good coat **AOV Ad 4:** 1 H Laycock, boar, well set out, good centres and rosettes, nice harsh coat, really a brindle but with white patch and feet 2 A Siddall, well set out, good rosettes and coat, falls on one hip rosette 3 M Yates, boar, falls on having plain back and shoulders, otherwise good 5 mth 3: 1 S McVay, boar, well set out, good rosettes, just a shade soft in coat and weak ridges 2 K Yates, well placed rosettes but shallow, plain on shoulders, otherwise good 3 A Robson, well set out, good rosettes, plain on one side **AGOUTI, SILVER or GOLDEN Ad 9:** 1 DLC Stud, silver boar, good, fit, large, just a shade dark on feet 2 A Terry, golden sow, excellent top, not finished feet, could have been groomed better 3 V and G Bailey, silver boar, fit and large, good chest, nice top and feet, just dark toes 5 mth 10: 1 S Hayward, silver sow, well up to age, nice coat and fair type, good chest, not finished on feet 2 DLC Stud, silver boar, not finished on feet, fair chest, nice coat but prick-eared 3 G Fox, boar, very wild, long in coat, fair colour and feet **AOC Ad 3:** 1 A Terry, cinnamon sow, good type, fit and fair chest, not finished on feet, fair colour 2 G Fox, cinnamon boar, good feet, fair chest and colour, falls on type 3 S Hayward, cinnamon boar, good feet, fair chest, nice type and colour 5 mth 2: 1 A and M Booth, sow, cinnamon, nice coat, good feet and chest, falls a little on ears and grooming 2 G Fox, boar, cinnamon, not finished front feet, fair chest, falls on type and undercolour **DUTCH Ad 3:** 1 2 DLC Stud, red boar, well balanced pig all round, fit and good colour 2 red sow, good stops and saddle, fair cheeks, just out under 3 E Lovell, agouti boar, slightly out under, short stops, balanced but heavy cheeks 5 mth 2: 1 DLC Stud, red, nice stops and saddle, just out under, baby and not in good coat yet 2 J M Thompson, black sow, one stop missing, saddle well back, heavy cheeks **HIMALAYAN Ad 10:** 1 P Liddle, sow, fair top and coat, good dark points, nice type 2 Mrs R Allinson, boar, young for this class, excellent smut and feet, good clean top 3 C and B Longthorn, sow, good top, nice points, long in coat otherwise good, grooming let down 5 mth 7: 1 T Chew, sow, wins on excellent smut, good dark feet and nice clean top, well shown 2 3 P Liddle, sow, very promising, not finished back feet, dark points 3 sow, chocolate, nice top, good colour points, attractive **TORT AND WHITE Ad 15:** 1 2 3 DLC Stud, sow, good type, nice squared patches, just brindled one cheek 2

boar, good on colour and definition, slightly out under 3 sow, good definition, top and under, fair colour and patches, could be brighter one side 5 mth 9: 1 C Cooper, boar, good definition, fair top, square patches 2 B Kent, sow, reasonable distribution and definition 3 DLC Stud, boar, good definition under, lacks white **AOV Ad 6:** 1 B Gibbons, Peruvian, fair length, good texture and density (but washed too near show), good frontal 2 S Kent, Peruvian, fair length, texture, good colour, faulted on frontal 3 S McVay, white Crested sow, could be cleaner, nice coat, lacks flesh, fair crest 5 mth: 1 J Wood, Peruvian, good texture, density and frontal, very well presented 2 S Kent, Peruvian, fair density and length, good frontal, nice texture 3 B and V Mayoh, black Crested (ply to meet Peruvians), good all, just faulted on coat length **AV Breeders ad 28:** 1 H Laycock 2 B Gibbons 3 DLC Stud 5 mth 29: 1 J Wood 2 D R Oulton 3 S Hayward **Boar ad 26:** 1 H Laycock 2 3 DLC Stud 5 mth 15: 1 D R Oulton 2 S Kent 3 P Liddle **Sow ad 16:** 1 B Gibbons 2 A Terry 3 DLC Stud 5 mth 17: 1 J Wood 2 S Hayward 3 B Mayoh **Chall ad 34:** 1 H Laycock 2 B Gibbons 3 DLC Stud 5 mth 31: 1 J Wood 2 D R Oulton 3 S Hayward. BRIAN EMMETT

Mr A ROBINSON

MANY THANKS to my stewards and to Eileen Emmett for attending to the book. The best in my section was a good white sow from Palemoon Stud, put down in tip-top condition, clean and of good colour with excellent coat texture, eventually best in show.

SELF Black sow ad 13: 1 Land F Davidson, a nice, cobby, fit pig with good shoulder and frontal, wins special best black 2 C and M Knowles, good colour and shoulder, not just as good frontal as winner 3 J Wood, same remarks as second **Boar 9:** 1 2 S and C Deadman, good type and coat quality, excels frontal 2 same remarks but not as good muzzle 3 R Watson, a good pig in every respect but needs a little more flesh on rump **Boar or sow 5 mth 20:** 1 Andrassey and Parker, sow, good type, fine coat quality and excellent expression 2 S and C Deadman, boar, same remarks as first but not just as good frontal as yet 3 B and V Mayoh, sow of good type, fit and well shown—a good class **White ad 4:** 1 2 Palemoon Stud, reported above 2 sow, not much between first and second 3 J Johnson, sow, good all-round pig, not just as good colour 5 mth 4: 1 J Johnson, sow, good condition and frontal, nice colour 2 C and M Knowles, nice sow with good muzzle, just a little behind on colour 3 Palemoon Stud, falls ears, otherwise good **Cream ad 6:** 1 Palemoon Stud, sow, excels frontal and condition, level shade and good undercolour, special best cream 2 Rivendell Stud, good all round, just a shade darker and not as good undercolour 3 R Watson, boar, a good fit pig, nice level shade, a bit light on nose and but a good boar 5 mth: 1 J and R Wood, nice quality sow, level colour, good frontal 2 Palemoon Stud, sow, not as good muzzle as winner 3 R Watson, nice type, boar, a little patchy in colour **Chocolate or Golden ad 12:** 1 D Taylor, nice golden sow, fit, good frontal, level colour 2 D Oulton, golden boar, good all round, fit pig, falls muzzle to winner 3 A Robson, chocolate sow, good undercolour, could be better ear carriage 5 mth 4: 1 S and C Deadman, golden sow, one of the best for type, colour and coat texture and condition, a good pig 2 D Oulton, chocolate sow, fair type and colour, not the muzzle of winner 3 D Taylor, golden sow, could have better ear carriage **AOC Ad 6:** 1 M E Crosse, beige sow, good colour, level shade, good condition, best AOC Self 2 K Yates, illac sow, one of the best I have seen for some time, nice shade, very level, fit, I like it 3 Rivendell Stud, red sow, rich dark red, level throughout, very attractive 5 mth 1: 1 Rivendell Stud, a very fit pig with good texture and coat, not as good colour as third adult red **AC Breeders ad 30:** 1 3 Palemoon Stud 2 L and F Davidson 5 mth 6: 1 Andrassey and Parker 2 S and C Deadman 3 J Johnson **Boar ad 17:** 1 2 S and C Deadman 3 R Watson 5 mth 6: 1 S and C Deadman 2 D R Oulton 3 R Watson **Sow ad 26:** 1 3 Palemoon Stud 2 L and F Davidson 5 mth 26: 1 Andrassey and Parker 2 S and C Deadman 3 J Johnson **Chall ad 29:** 1 3 Palemoon Stud 2 L and F Davidson 5 mth 27: 1 Andrassey and Parker 2 S and C Deadman 3 J Johnson. ARTHUR ROBINSON

BOTH JUDGES

Yorkshire Championship AV 82: 1 Palemoon Stud 2 H Laycock 3 B Gibbons.

Mr F KERSHAW

ALL EXHIBITS were of a high standard and were a credit to their owners.

JUVENILE AV Self 3: 1 D P Taylor **Non-Self 7:** 1 B Gibbons 2 T Oatle 3 S and C Deadman **PET Condition 11:** 1 M Wall 2 E Avery. F KERSHAW

National Tort and White

AN ENJOYABLE show with a good entry, best in show went to DLC Stud, with a nicely presented pleasing looking pig, this sportsman's stock show produced a lot of good triers.

Boar ad 8: 1 2 DLC Stud, breech, slight white, nice patch, good colour and type 2 short black, one side 3 B Kent, slight breech, back and head 5 mth 5: 1 R Sharp, slight break on back spoils nice patch work 2 S Hayward, falls line on top 3 DLC Stud, short white one side, good line top and under **Sow ad 7:** 1 2 DLC Stud, good line top and under, breeched head 2 good patch work, brindle cheek 3 C and B Longthorn, runs over slight black, runs through white 5 mth 1: 1 B Kent, fair line, band white 2 DLC Stud, short white one side 3 C and B Longthorn, short red one side, long white patch spoils **Breeders ad 11:** 1 2 3 DLC Stud 5 mth 6: 1 R Sharp 2 B Kent 3 S Hayward **Chall ad 13:** 1 2 3 DLC Stud 5 mth 5: 1 R Sharp 2 3 Hayward 3 DLC Stud **Grand chall 10:** 1 2 DLC Stud 3 R Sharp. P KELLY

mice

Midlands Mouse Club

MAY 5. Judges A Collins, L Heywood, J Strutt. Exhibits 109. Entries 462. Best in show B Dickinson's Self Champagne doe. Best opposite age J Hartley's Agouti doe. Best Satin F Hawley. Best Tan P Hall. Best marked H Jessop.

Mr A COLLINS

FIRST MAY I say to George Harlow, well done George, and follow up by saying I was disgusted by the low entry, where were all the Yorkshire boys? Is nobody supporting these new venues? People like George Harlow will just not bother—it was a good venue, easy to get to and yet only 462 entries. I hope at the next show held by the Midlands Mouse Club a few more NMC members will make an effort to give George the support he deserves. Best in show went to B Dickinson with an under eight weeks champagne doe, best opposite J Hartley's adult Agouti doe.

AGOUTI/CINNAMON or ARGENTE Ad 1: 1 J Hartley, Agouti doe, wonderful colour and type, nice feet, without any white toe nails, best opposite age in show 8 wk 3: 1 2 J Hartley, Agouti doe, a really smashing mouse, wonderful colour, as always from this stud, my nomination for best in show 2 Agouti doe, as good as the first, one white toe nail cost it first place 3 J Sheer, Agouti doe, not the colour of first two but still very young, four white nails back foot **AOV Ad 1:** 1 A L Lee, Chinchilla buck, massive mouse, good white belly but is really past its best, moult face and rump 8 wk 2: 1 G Squibb, Pearl doe, nice little mouse, still very young, good white base fur and nice even ticking 2 A L Lee, Chinchilla doe, far too young, hardly any white on belly and a brown cast on top coat **Chall ad 2:** 1 J Hartley 2 A L Lee 8 wk 5: 1 2 J Hartley 3 J Steer **SELF Satin ad 8:** 1 S Davis, fawn doe, very nice top colour, belly could be a little better, a bit thin but a mouse I could take home with me 2 3 F Hawley, silver doe, nice type doe but very moult or would have changed places 3 Ivory doe, another good mouse, slightly narrow skull, and moult on face 8 wk 13: 1 2 3 F Hawley, silver doe, a real beauty, good type and colour, nice shiny coat, another good one Frank, best Satin 2 Ivory doe, just as good but thin belly, should get better 3 champagne doe, same again, three very good mice **AOC Ad 5:** 1 S Davis, champagne/tan buck, massive mouse, good type and condition, just a little fat, good buck for breeding, smashing tan 2 P Hall, champagne/tan doe, good top and tan, tan behind ears spoilt a good mouse 3 G Harlow, champagne/tan doe, top coat too dark for me, falls late set, good tan 8 wk 3: 1 P Hall, champagne/tan doe, good type mouse, tan good, would like to see top colour just a little lighter 2 S Davis, champagne/tan, good type and top colour, tan not through 3 A L Lee, cinnamon, poor type, top coat very patchy, thin belly **Chall ad 12:** 1 S Davis 2 3 F Hawley 8 wk 16: 1 2 F Hawley 3 P Hall **Juvenile 2:** 1 2 C M Harlow **Stud buck 9:** 1 F Hawley 2 3 G Squibb. A COLLINS

Mr L HEYWOOD

SELF White or cream ad 5: 1 1 Davies 2 1 Day 3 Mrs 1 Day 8 wk 5: 1 S Davis 2 3 I Davies **Champagne or Fawn ad 4:** 1 3 C M Harlow 2 J Steer 8 wk 4: 1 B Dickinson 2 3 J Steer **Black or Chocolate ad 1:** 1 D Parkinson 8 wk 1: 1 D Parkinson **AOC Ad 3:** 1 B Dickinson 2 3 D Parkinson 8 wk 5: 1 2 I Davies 3 D Parkinson **AC Chall ad 11:** 1 C M Harlow 2 1 Davies 3 B Dickinson 8 wk 15: 1 B Dickinson 2 S Davis 3 I Davies **AC Breeders ad 23:** 1 J Hartley 2 S Davis 3 B Dickinson 8 wk 38: 1 B Dickinson 2 J Hartley 3 S Davis **DoE ad 17:** 1 J Hartley 2 C M Harlow 3 S Davis 8 wk 24: 1 B Dickinson 2 J Hartley 3 S Davis **Members ad 14:** 1 C M Harlow 2 3 F Hawley 8 wk 18: 1 3 F Hawley 2 P Hall **Grand chall ad 29:** 1 J Hartley 2 C M Harlow 3 S Davis 8 wk 45: 1 B Dickinson 2 J Hartley 3 S Davis **Selling class 6:** 1 J Hartley 2 G Moore 3 N Davidson. L HEYWOOD

Mr J STRUTT

TAN Chinchilla or Silver ad 2: 1 S Davis 2 J Hartley 8 wk 3: 1 J Hartley 2 3 P Hall **Black or Chocolate ad 2:** 1 2 G Squibb 8 wk 2: 1 2 G Squibb **AOC 8 wk 5:** 1 3 P Hall 2 J Hartley **AC Chall ad 4:** 1 G Squibb 2 S Davis 3 J Hartley 8 wk 10: 1 P Hall 2 3 J Hartley **DUTCH Ad 3:** 1 2 H Jessop 3 N Davidson 8 wk 4: 1 H Jessop 2 3 N Davidson **BROKEN or EVEN Ad 2:** 1 2 N Davidson 8 wk 1 N Davidson **AOV MARKED Ad 1:** 1 B Dickinson 8 wk 1: 1 B Dickinson **Chall ad 6:** 1 2 H Jessop 3 B Dickinson 8 wk 5: 1 B Dickinson 2 N Davidson 3 H Jessop. J STRUTT

gerbils

Chester

MAY 5. Judge L Collier. Exhibits twenty-four. Entries seventy-two. Best in show Mrs Brookes W B Golden male. Best opposite sex, best opposite age Mrs Brookes' Canadian White Spot under thirteen weeks.

AGOUTI ad 3: 1 Mrs Phillips 2 I Search 3 A Morris 13 wk 4: 1 A Brookes 2 I Search 3 A Morris **PE WHITE 13 wk 1:** 1 Mrs Morris **WHITE SPOT Ad 2:** 1 Mrs Lyons 13 wk 2: 1 Mrs Brookes 2 I Search **WB GOLDEN Ad 4:** 1 Mrs Brookes 2 I Search 3 A Brookes 13 wk 6: 1 3 A Brookes 2 A Morris **UNSTANDARDISED 2:** 1 West Park High School 2 Mrs Brookes **Male 5:**

1 2 Mrs Brookes 3 A Brookes **Female 5:** 1 3 Mrs Brookes 2 Mrs Lyons **Breeders 8:** 1 Mrs Brookes 2 Mrs Lyons 3 A Brookes **Non-Breeders 9:** 1 A Brookes 2 A Morris 3 Angela Brookes **Chall ad 5:** 1 Mrs Brookes 2 A Brookes 3 Mrs Phillips 13 wk 9: 1 2 A Brookes 3 Mrs Brookes **Points 6:** 1 Mrs Brookes 2 3 A Brookes **Pets 1:** 1 Campbell.

poultry

Ipswich

APRIL 28. Judge J Grimshaw. Best in show D Symond's Minorca.

Mr J GRIMSHAW

A TOTAL of fifty bentams on show. It was very nice to see some young fanciers, but what a pity Ipswich doesn't get more support from local Colchester and Hadleigh fanciers. A very nice Minorca took best in show.

OE GAME Black or Blue-red 2: 1 2 C Joiner **Wheaten 1:** 1 C Joiner **Spangle 1:** 1 C Joiner **Black or Blue male 4:** 1 A Rutter 2 D Symonds 3 A Marven **Female 4:** 1 D Symonds 2 3 A Rutter **AOC 3:** 1 C Joiner 2 A Marven 3 R Bird **MODERN GAME 1:** 1 A Marven **WYANDOTTE 3:** 1 C Joiner 2 3 D Mann **Leghorn/Minorca 6:** 1 D Symonds 2 R Axman 3 D Taylor **Pekin 2:** 1 2 Mrs D Marven **Australorp 1:** 1 L Marven **Orpington 5:** 1 R Axman 2 3 D Mann **Welsummer 2:** 1 2 L Marven **Rock 4:** 1 3 B Hibberd 2 D Mann **AOV Male 4:** 1 2 3 M Axman **Female 3:** 1 3 D Warren 2 M Axman **JUVENILE Male 3:** 1 3 C Hull 2 C Joiner **Female 3:** 1 3 C Hull 2 C Joiner **Chall HF 14:** 1 A Rutter 2 D Symonds 3 C Joiner **SF 26:** 1 D Symonds 2 R Axman 3 C Hull **Grand chall 33:** 1 D Symonds 2 A Rutter 3 R Axman. JOHN GRIMSHAW

forthcoming shows

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rabbits

BRC STAR SUPPORT: Show secretaries please note that, at the request of the British Rabbit Council, unless a show advertisement is accompanied by a BRC form confirming the star value allotted, reference to Star support will be omitted from the advertisement.

SCUNTHORPE & DISTRICT RABBIT CLUB
IMPORTANT MEETING
to be held in the Church Institute, Winterton at 7.30 pm.
To discuss the future of the above club.
Will members make every effort to attend.

CRANLEIGH RABBIT AND CAVY CLUB
YOUNG FANCIERS' OPEN PEN SHOW on SATURDAY JUNE 16, at Chiddingfold Village Hall.
Judging at 1.30 by Mrs B Scammell (Rabbits), Mr B Styles (Cavies).
Schedules (SAE) to Mrs P BEAUMONT, 1 Forest Cottages, Fisher Lane, Chiddingfold, Surrey.

ALSO ENTERTAINING SOUTHERN YOUNG FANCIERS
Judging 1.30 pm by Sue Vickers (Rabbits), Kirby Spencer (Cavies).
Entries both shows to Mrs P BEAUMONT, by June 13.

BRC ★★ SHOW FELIXSTOWE
TWO STAR OPEN ANY AGE SHOW and TWO STAR CAVY SHOW on SATURDAY JUNE 23 1979 at St Phillips Church Hall, Wadgate Road, Felixstowe.

Judges: Fancy, Mr K Buck; Fur/Rex, Mrs P Gaskin (Suffolk); Cavies, Mr R Steel.
BRC offers 45 CC's, Bests of Breed, Diplomas, Best Juvenile, BIS.
Prize Money: Rabbits 50p, 30p, 20p, guaranteed; Cavies 75p.
Entries close June 18 1979.
Entries to: (Rabbits) Mr E J FLACK, 1 Goyfield Avenue, Felixstowe, Suffolk.
Telephone: Felixstowe 5105.
(Cavies) Miss C GEATER, Westward Ho, Leiston, Suffolk.
Telephone: Leiston 830761.