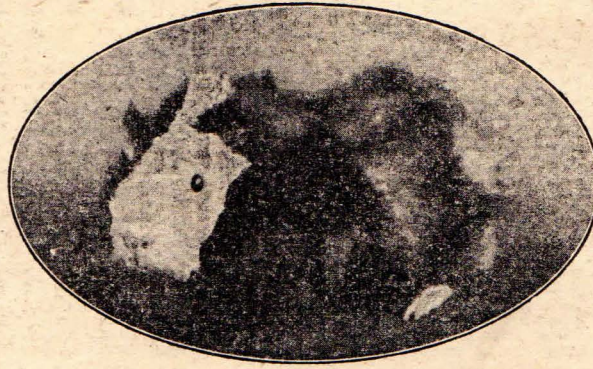


CAVY CORNER—Conducted by C. V. B. TAYLOR

NATIONAL MOUSE CLUB NOTES

# Cold Weather Breeding

"The Guinea Pig, when all is said and done—"



—Is a Hardy Little Chap"

**A**s I write snow is falling, which is a warning for that extra bit of hay or straw for cavy to keep them as warm and comfortable as possible. An extra thick layer of sawdust in the hutches will also help to keep them dry.

A warm mash made up of small potatoes and peelings well boiled, and dried off till crumbly-moist, with the precious bran ration, will help to keep those youngsters growing. The critical period of a cavy's life is during the first ten days or so of its existence, especially at this time of the year when the mothers do not as a rule appear to be blessed with an abundance of milk. It is up to breeders to help the babies along till they are really "on their feet," by giving them, if at all possible, a little warm bread and milk. This is ideal for young cavy.

Examine the sows a couple of days after kindling and if the milk supply is almost non-existent, then do try to help the litter along as suggested above. I don't ever remember during the 15 years that "Cavy Corner" has been running, having received so many letters giving details of cavy losses as I have received this year. It is difficult to give any helpful advice, for we are all more or less, I am afraid, having the same experience. One fancier writes that he has already decided not to attempt winter breeding again with his cavy. During the summer months cavy breed without trouble or losses, that is, compared with winter breeding, and the youngsters come along by leaps and bounds. To see them almost self-supporting at a fortnight old is a pleasing sight, for this is what does happen during the summer months when we can pile into the hutches an almost unlimited variety of fresh wild green food.

However, breeders must take these winter losses in their stride, although it is evident that hundreds of cavy are successfully reared during the present cold season. Keep youngsters "on the move" is the best possible advice I can give, for once they come to a stand still regarding growth (generally during the first four weeks) it seems a long time before they start putting on weight again. So do watch out for those sows with a poor supply of milk and help their offspring along till they can tackle food properly themselves.

Fanciers should now be making plans for the mating up of stock ready for that busy show season (July and August). If sows are mated now the youngsters will arrive during May, when the green food position will be at its best. Breeders should overhaul their breeding material and set their aim high, in the hopes of producing that champion. Do not persevere with the same old sows year after year. Use the well grown young cavy that have turned six months old, and try to fit them up in the breeding pen. Just "weigh up form" before deciding on any particular matings. It may prove time well spent in so doing.

Do not overwork, for I have never found this to be a successful way of cavy breeding or keeping. Above all, see that cavy are in good condition when mated, otherwise stamina will be lost. The way to create a strong healthy stud is not by the feeding pot alone when the litters arrive, but by the good condition of the parents when they are mated, and good feeding during their breeding period. It is no use trying to build unless there is a good foundation.

To all those who have sent me their cavy troubles, I repeat, do not lose heart, for the little guinea-pig is, when all is said and done, a hardy little chap, but I agree the elements seem to have taken a rather heavy toll this winter, but spring is just around the corner.

**AROUND THE CAVY CLUBS**  
NATIONAL CAVY CLUB

Trophies Awarded at Bradford

**A**t the National Cavy Club's adult stock show held in conjunction with the Bradford championship show at Leeds on Jan. 18th and 19th. Club trophies were awarded to the following members:

Welburn Bowl for best Smooth and cup for best Agouti to Mr. A. Tipper with a Silver Agouti sow.

Welburn Bowl for best Rough and cup for

best Abyssinian Gilbert and Son with a Tortoise and white Abyssinian boar.  
Cup for best White or Cream, Mrs. E. M. Elward with a White sow.  
Cup for best opposite colour to winner of White or Cream Cup, Mr. H. Craven, with a Cream sow.

Cup for best Black, Mrs. R. Tetlow, Black sow.  
Cup best Beige or Lilac, Mrs. F. Overton, Beige sow.

Cup best A.O.C. Self, Mr. C. J. Wilson, Golden sow.  
Cup best Smooth Tortoise and White, Mr. G. W. Mallinson, sow.

Cup best Dutch, S. and B. Mather, Black Dutch sow.  
Cup best Peruvian, Miss Castleman-Brown, Cup best Tortoiseshell, R. A. Bell.

Cup best A.O.V., S. G. Close, Himalayan. Non-members may have the pleasure of competing for these trophies next year by sending 5/- subscriptions now.—H. Craven, hon. sec and treasurer, 83, Thackeray Rd., Eccleshill, Bradford.

[A report of the Club's annual general meeting will be given next week.]

**ABYSSINIAN CAVY CLUB**

**C**ONGRATULATIONS to all winners at Bradford championship show. Messrs. Gilbert and Son took the spoon and challenge cert. for best Abyssinian with their noted tortoise and white boar. The best youngster was my own brindle boar. I see this boar is credited with winning the challenge class for sows. Probably a printer's error.

Venues for the young stock and the adult stock shows are now required. Will show secretaries who may be interested, please let me have their terms as soon as possible?

Mr. H. Badcock (Ibstock) is the first member to register a champion in 1952. This is a double championship for his Ch. Mzuri Moja. His qualifying wins were at: 1950. Strood, Miss Radeglia; Hertford, Miss Castleman-Brown; Brixham, Miss Radeglia. 1951, Portsmouth, Miss Castleman-Brown; Cullompton, Mr. H. Trigger.

Old members who have returned to the fold are: Mr. A. Tipper (Tutbury) and Mr. J. W. Hustler (Christchurch).

We met Mr. Hustler once again on his native heath at Bradford championship show, having a chat with Mr. J. Sutcliffe. Is it cavy keeping that keeps these folks still juniors?

I have not received points cards from all exhibitors at Altrincham, and I have not yet seen the awards, but here are the points competition as far as I know them, including Bradford.

Tort. and White: R. Farmer 9; Gilbert and Son 5; W. H. Stennett 4; T. Crabtree 4; S. Taylor 3; H. J. Lawrence 2; E. J. Brooke 2; F. Denney 2; R. W. Denney 1; J. Pegler 1.

Tort or Brindles: G. E. Skerratt 13; J. Pegler 12; S. Taylor 4; N. H. Stennett 4; H. Badcock 3; A. Sharp 3; J. W. Jackman 2; E. J. Brooke 2.

Any Other Colour: G. E. Skerratt 16; J. Billing 4; S. Taylor 4; N. H. Stennett 4; C. O. Turner 3; J. Pegler 3; E. J. Brooke 2; Gilbert and Son 1.

Will non-members please note that their points are recorded and if they join the club before the half year they will be eligible for the competition.

Arrangements are now well in hand for the spring show which will be held at Spenborough on April 5th. The following is the suggested schedule and if I hear of no objections I shall carry on with same. Tort. and White adult and u/4 mths.; Tort. or Brindle adult and u/4 mths.; A.O.C. adult and u/4 mths.; Novice Exhibit A.A.; Breeders adult and u/4 mths.; Chall. adult and u/4 mths.

It was suggested that an appeal for guarantors should be made, but that means that the people who guarantee the less popular classes will probably "catch a cold." So I have received, or have been promised the following for a guarantee fund. Miss Bartholomew 10/-. Mr. E. Beverley 10/-. Mr. S. Taylor 10/-. Mr. J. Pegler 10/-.

This fund will be set aside for possible losses on shows. If there is no loss on the

spring show the cash will be held for the young stock show or the adult stock shows. Will members who can spare a shilling or two please let us have them as costs are rising and subscriptions stand at about the 1901 level.

Miss Bartholomew also offers 5/- for best reserve in straight classes.

Mr. G. E. Skerratt has offered a roan Abyssinian sow in pig to be sold for the club's benefit.

Points show dates are Spenborough, April 5th; Otley, May 17th.—J. Pegler, 17, Stansfield Road, Failsforth.

Classes for cavy will be staged at Burton-on-Trent show on Feb. 23rd with guaranteed prize money.

**YORKSHIRE CAVY CLUB**

**T**HE next Yorkshire Cavy Club show will be on April 5th at Spenborough, and a good classification has been drawn up, in conjunction with this event the Abyssinian Cavy Club will hold its spring show. Mr. Pegler informs me that this will also be a points show, and a challenge certificate will be offered for the best Abyssinian.

Will any members or cavy fanciers who would like to guarantee a Y.C.C. class, or donate a special, please let me know. Guarantors will not be called upon unless the show itself records a loss.

In my last notes I invited offers for three pens of cavy that had been given by members for the show fund. Two of the pens, whites and creams, have now been disposed of to the highest bidders, and I have received word of their safe arrival and satisfaction.

This leaves the pen of tort. and whites. In addition Mr. and Mrs. C. Naylor have given a pair of self blacks and a pair of golden Agoutis. Mr. A. Hirst has also given the club a pen of three golden Agoutis. I will accept offers for any of these four lots up to Feb. 25th.

Several members have responded to my appeal for subscriptions. A welcome is extended to the following new members: Mr. Elward, Miss Radeglia, Messrs. F. Broadbent, S. Kent, and A. Frost.

I had a free Saturday on Feb. 2nd, so I went along to the Wyke Society's monthly show. Mr. Jenkinson placed the awards in the cavy section. The cavy entry was none too good.

Will any members or secretaries who have items of news that would be of interest to cavy fanciers please send them to me, and I will do my best to include in these notes? —C. Anderson, hon. sec. (pro tem.) Y.C.C. 16, George Street, Cleckheaton, Yorks.

**CAVIES IN AMERICA**

By JACK BALL, San Jose, California.

**T**HIS month, Mr. J. E. Love, of Compton, California, was appointed committee member on the Cavy committee of the American Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association. Mr. Love, who has been raising cavy since 1916, is the first cavy breeder from California ever to be appointed to this committee.

There will be no more cavy shows here in America for a while. We American cavy fanciers are resting up our show cavy until around April or May, when the shows will start once more.

At this year's A.R. and C.B.A. convention show, there were only 164 entries at the show. This was rather a poor entry, one of the American Cavy Breeders Association's worst showings. Although I have been told there were many very good cavy entered, there should have been more cavy represented. Of course, part of the blame lies in the high express charges, but the other part is because fanciers were either too lazy to send off their entries, or just did not have the money to pay for the shipping charges.

Among the finest group of cavy fanciers we have here in America is that in the state of Ohio. These people have several good cavy clubs and are quite active.

Another good cavy club is the San Gabriel Valley Cavy Breeders' Association, in California. The association has a fine bunch of members who are very active.

By C. H. JOHNSON, "Highfield," Driffield. Mouse Show Calendar Feb. 23rd—N.E.M.C. (Shildon), March 1st—Calder Valley.

**I** APPEND herewith some correspondence which should prove in no uncertain manner our assertion to the effect that the mouse Fancy contains some of the finest chaps in Christendom is no idle chatter. The correspondence in question was with Mr. J. Asquith, 78, Wormald Street, Heckmondwike, and the first letter I received is dated Jan. 12th. It read as follows:—

"Our local Fanciers Society at Heckmondwike is considering staging some classes for mice and I have promised that, if it will do so, I will guarantee six classes at six shows. The classes to be Self adult, Self under 8 weeks, Marked adult, Marked under 8 weeks, A.O.V. adult and A.O.V. under 8 weeks.

"Before the schedules are printed, I have offered to stage a table show with mice on view to stimulate interest. I propose to take several mice in Maxey cages and I have some new joiner-made breeding boxes painted inside and out, which I shall also take along. I have had glass tops fitted to the cages so that inspection can be made of the contents. The cages will contain does with young at varying ages. I also have a breeding cage with playing gadgets to amuse the children.

"I have bought books on the fancy mouse by Mr. A. C. Jude, also several by Mr. J. Wood. These will be available for anyone to borrow.

"In addition, I am having some handbills printed in the form of question and answer, such as (Q.) 'Where do I buy stock?' (A.) Through the advertisement column of FUR AND FEATHER, or from members of the National Mouse Club, as detailed in Year Book slip. An official N.M.C. Year Book slip will be available. (Q.) 'How many colours of fancy mice are there?' (A.) About 40. Other questions might be 'What do mice eat?' 'How do they breed,' etc.

"I shall also have a travelling box on view with a label attached, explaining how mice can be sent to a show away from home and duly returned. By means of a chart, I shall set out the carriage costs of sending mice to shows, along with any other features which may be of interest. If you have any N.M.C. prospectus forms or anything else that could be used to advantage in the interests of the Fancy, will you be good enough to let me have them?

"I hope to be able to repeat the foregoing at Cleckheaton in the near future. I am convinced that with the large gates we obtain, some new mouse fanciers could be gained. Mr. Tom Blackburn, Birstall, has promised to bring along some Chinchillas."

I replied thus:—

"I thank you for your letter of the 12th inst., contents of which I note with interest. From what I can see, we have in you a real asset to the Fancy, and it is very good of you to boom the longtails in the Heckmondwike district. What a pity dear old George Starkie is not alive, for he was a grand chap and could have been your lieutenant. What you propose to carry out is most praiseworthy and on behalf of the Fancy, I tender my best thanks. I do so hope that the exhibition which you propose to stage will be a success and that your society will respond to your overtures. We can do with a few more open shows to fill in, as it may be, the gaps.

"I am enclosing herewith several National Mouse Club prospectus forms which you will no doubt find useful. I shall look forward to hearing from you at a later date."

A further letter from Mr. Asquith read:—

"I thank you for your letter and encouragement. Your reference to Mr. George Starkie reminds me that it was in our present showroom where he and the late Mr. G. A. Turfrey did quite a lot of winning. This must be twenty years ago, when you lived in Leeds and Mrs. Blowers was secretary of the N.M.C. I, myself was then, as now, a fancier, never a showman. I have, in fact, kept mice for thirty years on and off and never once shown one. And it was not until recently that I became a member of the N.M.C.

"With further reference to our exhibition, it will be well advertised in the local paper. I shall be able to exhibit a trio of Black Dutch, a trio of Self Blacks and a trio of P.E. Whites. I shall paste the picture of the Dutch mouse, as depicted in the Year Book, on a piece of cardboard, along with photographs of various mice taken from Mr. Jude's book, entitled 'The Fancy Mouse.' I was wondering if you could let me have some literature or photographs of mice, or better still, put me in touch with a fancier who could let me have a show cage with a variety or two which I have not got. We draw big gates, and the opportunity is thus provided to put the fancy mouse on the map. I will gladly pay the expenses of any mouse fanciers who are prepared to loan me some mice."

I want readers to dwell and inwardly digest what Mr. Asquith has to say, what he has done, and what he is prepared to do for (Continued on page 117)

