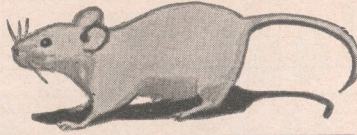


# FANCY MICE



## SELECTING FANCY MICE

Some who have not hitherto bred fancy mice will soon begin to consider a variety to choose and fancy as breeders. Much depends on one's likes or preferences, but one thing is certain: It is a mistake for a beginner, in any fancy, to select too many varieties at the start. It is much wiser to begin with one or two, and persevere with them until you have had some experience, and can see that your stock is approaching the standard for your particular breed of mouse.

If, for example, you choose to breed pink-eyed whites—a beautiful variety—you must get them as white as snow all over, and as large and shapely as possible. All varieties should have large bat-shaped ears, and long tapering tails, since small ears and short tails rob a mouse of much of its beauty. Some varieties, such as reds, are apt to have small ears and tails, and, therefore, compare unfavorably with varieties having the correct qualities. Reds should not be kept by a novice, as they are hard to breed, and need special care in feeding. So try to select a breed which will not give you too many disappointments, yet makes an appeal to you.

How is the beginner, for whom this is written, to choose one or two kinds of mice from among so many? Let us consider what varieties we can select from. Fancy mice are generally divided, by fanciers, into four groups.

These (are, 1): the self or solid colors—black, white, blue, chocolate, red, fawn, etc. These must be the same color all over, and have the undercolor as nearly as possible like the top. The belly, except in the case of whites, is usually a little lighter, and without the shine of the top coat. If, for instance, you decide to breed blacks, you must try to get them jet black, not dull or sooty, but with a gloss as though they had been polished. The black must extend from the nose to the end of the tail, and down to the toes, with an absence of white or tan hairs. This applies to other self colors, and the eyes may

need to be black, pink, or ruby, according to color of coat.

2. Marked varieties: a. Dutch: like a Dutch rabbit or cavy, with earmarks, saddle and stop on hind feet: b. Uneven or broken marked: these have a patch on one side of the nose, and patches of color distributed unevenly over the body and head. c. Even-marked: As many patches as possible, balanced equally on each side, saddle to be split. Included in this group are variegated and tricolor mice; but, as these are difficult to breed, and the latter rare, they are best left alone by the novice.

3. Tans: These are mice having a top coat of one color, and a belly of rich tan color, the latter to run in a straight line along the flanks, and to be visible when the mouse is viewed at eye level. There are all kinds of tans: black, blue, chocolate, dove, agouti, etc., and very beautiful they are. The feet must be the color of the top coat, not an easy thing to get in the darker colors. I have, however, succeeded in producing black tans, with good black feet.

(To be continued next month)

## AR&CBA NEWS

(Continued from page 91)

the breeders. Through his influence much has been done to help the breeders in Michigan. I believe Michigan is doing more for the breeders at the present time than any other state in the Union. In time I look forward to Michigan being one of our largest rabbit producing states.

**NEW CHARTERED ASS'N:** Application for charter for The Gate City Rabbit & Fur Breeders Ass'n., Nashua, N. Y., was received and granted October 31st. Robert Grogen, 21 Hall Ave., Nashua, N. H., is secretary and R. R. Trowbridge, Reeds Ferry, is president. This is the second association chartered in New Hampshire.

**NOMINATION AND ELECTION BALLOTS:** I am sorry that one of our candidates for office this year tried to carry the impression (through bulletins and otherwise) that nomination and election ballots were not handled according to our constitution and by-laws. They were handled this year the same as in previous years according to dates set for the convention. I always try to be fair in this matter and I give everyone time to cast their ballots. I found that nearly all ballots are in from 10 days to two weeks. There are a few stragglers but never enough to change final results. Therefore, I make a notation that nominations close in about two weeks, as in that way I can better handle the various candidates needs relative to placing their names on the election ballot, receiving

their reply, having the ballots printed and ready for mailing. In other words, it is at least 30 days after nomination ballots are sent out, and this is in line with our constitution and by-laws, section 4, article 6, under election at bottom of page 8 in Guide Book. There is nothing in our constitution and by-laws stating the number of days before nominations should be closed. The secretary must do this work and must arrange this work along with his other work to get them out on time. This is the first complaint I have ever had on this subject, and the only one received this year. However, I wish to inform our members these ballots were sent out in line with our constitution and by-laws the same this year as in previous years, and every member has ample time to fill them out and mail in.

**REGISTRATIONS:** Registrations for October showed a great improvement over the previous month and made a gain of 140% on total of animals registered. New Zealands, Chinchillas, Flemish and Angoras all showed a wonderful gain and we look forward to more registrations now that the hot weather is over. E. Coe, Santa Monica, Calif., offered five registrations free as specials at both the San Diego and Los Angeles Co. Fairs. This is a good idea and a very good special. In fact, it is a good example for other registrars to follow.

Following is the standing of the various breeds from January 1st to November 1, 1941: New Zealands, 524; Chinchillas, 274; Flemish, 264; Angoras, 189; Rexes, 58; Checker Giants, 57; Havanans, 23; Dutch, 20; Champagne de Argentis, 20; Creme de Argentis, 19; Silver Martens, 10; Beverens, 9; Lilacs, 8; English, 4; Himalayans, 4; Polish, 4; Belgians, 3; Silver Fox, 2.

**GRAND CHAMPIONSHIPS:** The following grand championship certificate has been issued since my last report:

Rex Reg. #8408-V, New Zealand Buck, owned by Ernie Branies, Dayton, Ohio.

**OFFICIAL SHOWS:** The following chartered locals have been granted permission to hold their shows as an official A. R. & C. B. A. show since my last report:

January 22-25, 1942, Pikes Peak Rabbit Ass'n., Colo. Springs, Colo.

February 21-March 1, 1942, Chicago R. & C. B. A., Chicago, Ill.

March 6-8, 1942, Portsmouth R. B. A., Lucasville, Ohio.

April 3-5, 1942, Cedar Rapids Small Stock Ass'n., Cedar Rapids, Ia.

June 14, 1942, Lima R. & C. B. A., Lima, Ohio, Lawn Show.

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