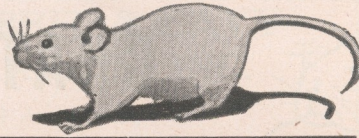


FANCY MICE



SELECTION FOR SIZE

By C. Frank Fayne, Shaker Heights, Ohio

ABOUT two weeks after your does have been put in with the bucks, they should show definite signs of carrying young. It is then that the fancier who wants real fine show mice, takes the female from the breeding cage and places her in a cage apart from other mice. The cage should be well littered with sawdust and a plentiful supply of chopped paper, excelsior or meadow hay given the doe as nesting material.

At this time she should be fed a liberal supply of bread and milk plus the regular feed of grain and occasionally some green stuff. I have found that it is a good idea to place a piece of cuttle bone in the wire of the cage. Does about to kindle, and those with young, will relish the minerals contained in cuttle bone, and it will make for more and better bone in the young.

Don't bother or annoy the doe. After all, you cannot be of any help to her. Then too, we want her to have her young in a normal way and raise them herself. Some fanciers allow several does to litter down together and nurse together, but unless all the does are good mothers, one or two will "inherit" the whole job. If we want to develop a strain of good milking does, we must segregate them and allow them to raise their own young. If they are poor mothers, we can sell them off and only breed from those that raise large, healthy young.

About a day before the young are due, the doe will stop eating and the young will appear in numbers from about 5 to 12. If the does are young and healthy, there will always be more than she can raise successfully and here is where the true fancier asserts himself. Within a week's time these large litters must be culled down to two or three young—that is, if you want fine show mice. If you are breeding for laboratory stock or for the fun of it, it doesn't matter much how many a doe is allowed to raise, but for fine show animals we must cull the litters down to four at the very most.

The first day I go over the litter and destroy all the weaklings and

those that do not seem to be getting their share of the milk supply. This should leave no more than five or six in the nest. Seven days later I destroy all the males leaving from two to four females to be raised by the doe.

You ask, "Why destroy the males?" I say, don't raise any more than you need or can sell in the near future. They will soon be fighting and killing one another, so why raise them if they are not needed? Personally, I raise my stud males to order, with one female as a nest mate, and they are fine studs, being larger than the average mouse when but six weeks old.

Perhaps you will think my culling system too rigid. But for the finest show mice and animals that are really outstanding, one must cull very closely. If four young are left at the end of eight or nine days, they should be permitted to grow and develop their fur. It is then that the fancier again examines them for color. These having color faults are destroyed at 12 days. This should leave only the very best for the doe to rear, and it will not be a hardship on her. In fact, she may be mated again on the 19th day after parturition if this rigid culling system is used, and she will continue to give large litters of fine young because she has not been sapped of her strength and vitality by feeding too many youngsters.

The other day while in a pet shop, I could not help but notice the largest and finest looking white mouse I had ever seen. I asked the proprietor how he obtained such remarkable size. He explained that it all happened by accident. This mouse's mother had eaten all her young except him, and there he was, the only survivor of a litter of eight. He grew up in his nest all alone with all the milk to himself. At six weeks he was larger than his mother and soon was the largest mouse in the collection. We put him on the scales and he weighed a fraction over two ounces. This convinced me that rigid culling is the way to finer mice.

The Future of Mice

The mouse fancy is back with us, but I have cause for deep concern as to its future. True fanciers, I am sure, will agree with me when I say that the pseudo-fanciers are doing much to ruin the fancy by selling stock that is next to worthless. A true fancier thinks of his stock first and of the profits later. If we want to get ahead, we must do all in our power to see that only good stock is sold at all times. There are many persons who, knowing that the hobby is new, see a good chance of cashing in; we can't stop this, but we can agitate against it.

The time has come for us to consider how we can achieve success in putting forward a great organization, and here we must consider the novice. He must be given every chance to compete on even terms with the old-timers. He can never do this unless he has good stock as a starter. Quite a bit of work has been done by a few fanciers in this country, and much stock has been imported from England, but the failure is, and seems to be, the quality of news given to our page in ALL-PETS. When I read the articles, I seem unable to catch any real spirit in the fancy. I place the blame on the true fanciers—if they have no spirit, do they expect the novice to have it?

Now, if we have 100 fanciers, and each one benches at least five mice, we can have a great little show, and this would show the country that we are going places. I am taking this opportunity to put forward a suggestion to other fanciers and would like to know how it would go over. At every show, wherever held, each fancier would send a trio of his best stock that is for sale and each trio is to be judged. The points earned by each would be placed in the cage

(Please turn to page 91)

MANATEE MOUSERY

FANCY MICE
ALL COLORS

Make fine pets.
Need little care and feed.

Howard Jones

324 Central Street
PALMETTO -:- FLORIDA

ell, Kansas City, Mo., stating he would be transferred to Frisco, Calif., April 1st. We're sorry to see Mr. Powell leave the Central West, but we wish him the best of success in his new location. California is fortunate in having a good breeder like Mr. Powell in their midst. He advises that he has sold his stock of New Zealands to W. J. Abbott, Hastings, Nebr.

SELL RABBITRY: Mr. & Mrs. Edwin D. Rose, Claussen, Mich., who have been members of The A.R. & C.B.A. for the past several years and who owned a very up-to-date Rabbitry at Clawson, Mich., stocked with good Chinchillas and New Zealand Whites, disposed of all of their stock, hutches, etc., recently to F. C. Stewart, Port Huron. Mr. Rose, in his letter, states that as they were both getting up in years, they wished to "Take it easy" the remainder of life. We are sorry to lose this wonderful couple as members and breeders, and we wish them many more years of happiness and health.

A WORD FROM MEXICO: A letter from Rodolfo Ruiz, Paseo de La Reforma, Mexico, a breeder of New Zealand Whites, came in wanting to know if we would accept members from Mexico; also, Mr. Ruiz stated he was organizing a local association. We sent him literature and membership applications stating we would be pleased to have members from Mexico, and to have their local take out a charter with us.

SOUTH AMERICA: Several inquiries on domestic rabbits came from South America recently, and Geo. S. Templeton, The U. S. Gov't Rabbit Experiment Station, Fontana, Calif., recently sent a copy of a letter he had received from Secretary of Agriculture of Brazil, stating the Brazilian Gov't. has a rabbit station of about 300 rabbits and wished to buy rabbits from America, which they formerly bought from Belgium and Germany. Evidently the War is already having its effect on the rabbit breeders and business in these countries and American breeders should benefit accordingly.

REGISTRATIONS: Registrations for March showed quite an improvement and we received 215 applications as compared to 109 received in February. New Zealands were in the lead with 68, Chinchillas next 54, and Flemish not far behind with 47. Checkered Giants showed a great improvement with 14 against 3 in February. This is due to Tony Biagini, Hammond, Ind., having 10 of his fine animals registered by Registrar Jake Holmes. Following is standing of the various breeds from January 1st to April 1st: New Zealands, 160; Chinchillas, 99; Flemish, 98; Angoras, 67; Checkered Giants, 22; Havanas, 16; Dutch, 5; Champ de Argent, 5; English, 1; Himalayan, 1; Creme de Argent, 3; Rexes, 29; Silver Fox, 1; Belgian Hare, 1; Beverens, 3; Lilacs, 3. Let us see a still greater improvement in April.

GRAND CHAMPIONSHIPS: Miss Perfection, Reg. #7859-V, White Flemish Doe, owned by Mayberry's Mt. View Rab., Denver, Colo.

Gakika, Reg. #9715-V, N. Z. White Buck, owned by Aubrey L. Glines, Santa Ana, Calif.

Jake's Black Rose, Reg. #561-W, Black Checker Doe, owned by Ivan Holmes, Calumet City, Ill.

Creme Lady, Reg. #9822-V, Creme de Argent Doe, owned by Harry Clauss, Canandaigua, N. Y.

Raritan Aristocrat Knight, Reg. #5366-V, Chinchilla Bk., owned by H. C. Finger, Somerville, N. J.

OFFICIAL SHOWS: Following chartered locals have been granted permission to hold their show as an Official A. R. & C. B. A. Show, since my last report:

Aug. 24-29, 1941, Pueblo R. & C. Club, Colo. State Fair, Pueblo, Colo.

May 11, 1941, Essex Co. R. B. A., Topsfield, Mass.

Aug. 29-Sept. 7, 1941, Calif. State Fair, Sacramento, Calif.

June 8, 1941, Anderson R. B. A., Anderson, Ind.

May 25, 1941, Will Co. R. B. A., Joliet, Ill.

May 25, 1941, Seneca Co., R. B. A., Geneva, N. Y.

*When writing to advertisers
please mention ALL-PETS.*

ILLINOIS-INDIANA CHECKER CLUB

By the time you read this, no doubt your Checkers are on their way to the show of shows—the National Checkered Giant Specialty show, at Indianapolis, Indiana.

The last word I had of the total pledge was \$72.00 and \$55.00 in ads, besides the specials, and when the club puts its finishing touch to it, no doubt we'll have the largest cash pot we've ever had.

I can also say that if you fail to show you're going to miss the best competition you've ever had a chance to show against in your life.

L. C. Wells, manager of the show, has assured us it will be a Checker show to remember, also a good time is assured for all who attend.

Here is something I don't think has ever been done by a Checker breeder. Orest "Tony" Biagini, our chairman at the Tibbar Rabbit Show held in March, really walked off with the prizes. He took Best Jr., Best 6-8, Best Opp. Sex 6-8, Best Black, Best of Breed, Best Opp. Sex, Best Display of Checkers and also Best Display of the entire show, leaving our secretary, Best Blue, and to myself, Best Baby. Tony also took 6 out of a possible 11 Firsts, and nothing below a third.

We were glad to know the Ohio show had such a large entry. Three new members were received since last month, and our chairman gets the credit for this.

Members who have won best Checker so far this year, include the writer, at the Chicago Show in February, Nick Migas at the Indianapolis Show in March, and Orest Biagini at the Tibbar Show, in March.—I. R. Holmes, Pub. Dir.

MIAMI VALLEY (OHIO) RABBIT ASS'N.

The regular monthly meeting was held April 11, 1941, in Room 312, Montgomery County Court House, Dayton, Ohio. All members enjoyed the Cooperative Marketing discussion and subjects were discussed that were of vital interest to all breeders.

All 4-H club members who are in good standing with their respective clubs are also automatically in good standing with the Miami Valley Rabbit & Cavy Breeders Association, without payment of dues of any kind, and can buy feed at wholesale prices, can take advantage of cooperative marketing, or any other advantages of the membership in the club. If you are a 4-H Club member, and are interested in the above privileges, please register your name in our books.

We are all busy with plans and details for our Annual Lawn Show to be held May 25. Tickets are ready for distribution for our dinner and we feel that it is the duty of every member to sell at least five. Be sure and get your tickets.—Mrs. S. V. Stedman, Sec'y.

Shipping Cavies

Information about shipping cavies should be of great value, particularly to those who are new to the field, or the others who still need some pointers. Too often breeders use poor judgment in shipping. Therefore, here are a few rules or suggestions in this connection.

Use common sense. That is, do not overcrowd stock; particularly in the summer allow sufficient space and ventilation. In cold weather try to protect your stock from the severe weather.

Use light boxes—not crates made of heavy boards one inch thick. Use boxes of light wood to save on express charges.

Always provide bedding. Use sawdust, shavings, hay, straw, etc., for a bedding to keep your stock clean and dry. Sometimes breeders do not use any bedding and the guinea pigs

arrive wallowing in their own filth, in poor condition because of failure to supply a bedding.

Provide food for the trip. Give plenty of food for the time you expect them to be in transit. Remember, too much is better than not enough. Express Company men will feed enroute if so instructed. Attach feeding instructions to the crate.

Sort and examine your stock before you ship. Do not start any stock in poor condition as you cannot expect them to improve in transit. If any of your stock has a cold, is blind, has mange, etc., don't send it. It will not pay in the long run as buyers cannot accept stock not in good health and condition. Do not think the other party will not know the condition of your stock, because he may, or probably does, know more about cavies than you do.

The above are general rules that can be summed up in one sentence: "Be careful, sensible, and use common sense in getting stock ready for shipment and you should be rewarded by having few or no losses in transit."

Deer Mice

To K.—The following information should help you: Deer Mice are found in wooded lands and are quite easy to tame after they are caught. They are about the size of the ordinary field mouse. Its upper coat is yellowish brown, and the under-sides are white. The feet are rather pinkish and on each foot is found a "thumb." This "thumb" is grayish-white and has the appearance of a glove on the foot. The mice feed on nuts, berries and field grains. They are easy to keep; they have no mousy odor, and are capable of being tamed within only a few days after capture.

Over 335 Varieties

There are some 335 kinds of mice and rats in the United States today, according to officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service. There are 3 species of rats, 1 species of house mouse (not a native of this country), and 331 species and sub-species of field and other mice. The house mouse is believed originally to have been imported from Spain and its name a derivation of the ancient Sanskrit word "mush," meaning "to steal." Its scientific name, *Mus musculus*, signifies "little stealer."

Clover hay is too hard for cavies and is dangerous, because the end of the stems project and often damage the cavy's eyes.



Abyssinian Cavy—by E. R. B. Chapman.

GLOSSARY OF RABBIT TERMS

Blaze—The all white marking which covers the nose and which spreads up between the eyes and to the ears of Dutch rabbits.

Breed—Common characteristics that a type of rabbits share. Breed and variety differ in that breed means the race as a whole, and variety refers to a division of that race.

Buck—A male rabbit.

Carriage—The way a rabbit carries himself.

Cased—Means the pelt taken from the carcass whole, not cut down the belly.

Condition—The condition of the rabbit—health, flesh, cleanliness, life and appearance of fur.

Crooked Legs—A bend or bow in the legs, or if the feet turn outward or inward from the foot joint. This usually applies to the front legs.

Creaminess—A light yellow or cream color.

Dewlap—The loose or hanging skin under the rabbit's throat.

Doe—A female rabbit.

Faking—When it is a disqualification, trying to remove foreign color in the fur. Staining or bleaching of the fur or toe nails.

Fawn Color—A light yellowish brown.

Foreign Color—Any other color but that required in the Standard for that variety or breed.

Guard Hair—Longer hairs on a pelt shielding the under fur.

Gypsy Color—Extremely dark purple.

Hock—The joint where the hind foot joins the leg.

Junior Buck—A male rabbit under six months of age.

Junior Doe—A female rabbit under six months of age.

Kindle—To give birth to young.

Knee Joint—The second joint above the foot which joins the shank with the thigh, many times called the hock.

Leg—The thigh and shank.

Litter—The young of the doe.

Loin—The thick meaty part of the back between the lower ribs and hip bones.

Lop Ear—A ear which falls over to one side.

Parti-Colored—Breed of rabbit which has two or more colors.

Pen of Rabbits—One buck and four does.

Peppered—Scattered with gray or black.

Rump—End of backbone with its adjoining parts.

Saddle—Upper portion of the hind quarters where they join the back.

Senior Buck—A male rabbit older than eight months.

Senior Doe—A female rabbit older than eight months.

Shank—Lower part of the leg which is situated between the foot joint and the knee joint.

Strain—A family of any variety of rabbits bred in line by descent by one breeder, over a period of time that has acquired certain traits which set it apart from the other strains.

Thigh—The leg above the shank.

Ticking—Salt and pepper effect showing on the surface of the fur.

Type—The outline which show the individual traits of a breed.

FUTURE OF MICE

(Continued from page 87)

along with the price. The winning trio could then be sold for an extra dollar or so. This, I believe, would be an excellent way to get fanciers into the hobby.

Finally, I would like to say that if all true fanciers would get behind the organization and push, we will take up from where the old club left off and advance to greater triumphs. I have not done much for the fancy, but from now on I am going to give my culls to a few high school science clubs for work in biology—this will acquaint students with the varieties.

I am joining the association, and I want all to know that I am 100% behind C. Frank Fayne's article in the February issue. Here's hoping that things will get started soon, and using a famous present day slogan, let's say, "There'll always be a bigger and better Mouse Ass'n."—D. G. Laughton, 134 Suffolk St., N. Y. C.

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