

how good a specimen you have produced. You will produce good cavies with a little patience and thought. Those that you have raised yourself will give you a lot more pleasure and satisfaction when they take the blue ribbon on the show table than any you can buy from the other fellow.

## Mouse Facts

By S. P. HOLMAN

The word "dominant" is used to designate the character which is plainly seen to be retained in the young from a cross between two varieties.

"Recessive" is used to designate the character which is unseen.

In a cross between a black and a brown mouse, black is the dominant and brown the recessive character.

Agouti dominates non-agouti.

Full color dominates Albinism.

Dark eye dominates pink eye.

Intensity dominates dilution.

Self color dominates piebald.

Black eyed white dominates self.

Normal gait dominates waltzing.

Normal ears dominate short ears.

Straight tail dominates kinky tail.

Yellow is dominant over all other colors but cannot be bred true.

When yellows are mated to yellows, the young will average about 4.7 to the litter.

When yellows are mated to some other color, black for example, the average litter will number about 5.5.

The word homozygous denotes an animal made up of "like" characters.

Heterozygous denotes an animal made up of "unlike" characters.

Recessives are always homozygous.

Usually dominants may be either homozygous or heterozygous, but yellows are always heterozygous dominants.

The short ear mutation in mice was first recorded in 1921.

Man short eared mice have "wavy" tails which immediately straighten out in death or sickness.

Extreme dilution was discovered in 1921 in a wild mouse.

Waltzing mice are mentioned in Chinese records dating as far back as 80 B. C.

Pink eyed mice (not albinos) were known as early as 1640.

A rat which does not keep its tail clean is in poor physical condition.

"Irish" is the fanciers' term for rats having only a small patch of white on the belly. Example, Black Irish.

## The Abyssinian Cavy

By ARTHUR W. LEHSTEN

**A**FTER the Peruvian comes the rough-coated variety of cavy, the Abyssinian. This is generally looked upon the most hardy variety of all, it being acknowledged that it will stand rougher treatment than will the other varieties. In fact, some go so far as to say that the rougher the treatment, the better coated will be the stock bred.



With that I do not agree, as I have seen good Abyssinians bred under the most cozy conditions, just as I have seen some bred under a regime that many would consider drastic. Both methods gave good results and this I think is the truth about the breeding of the Abyssinian. It will accommodate itself to almost any kind of housing and feeding. As to the animal itself, it seldom appeals to the live stock owner at first glance. It has a type of beauty all its own, and it is a peculiar one. In fact, the taste for Abyssinian cavies is something akin to that for tomatoes in that it is an acquired one. It is a taste which, when once it has been acquired is a lasting one, there being a something about the Abyssinian cavy which cements the affection of its followers.

We need few words to give a description of the Abyssinian cavy that will enable the novice to recognize one when he sees it. It is an animal with the hair growing straight out from the body, and not lying close, as in the case of the other varieties. In fact, it is almost like a hedgehog at first acquaintance, though the comparison is not so noticeable when once the points essential in a good Abyssinian have been assimilated. The head should be wide and full, with a

short, snub nose and just above the nose there should be a tuft of hair, this being termed the moustache. This gives the face a quaint yet attractive appearance. The ears should be set wide apart. The whole appearance of the Abyssinian should be one of boldness and a large, square-shaped body, with bold short head: the ideal to aim for so far as shape is concerned.

Now we come to coat properties. The coat should be of a wiry texture, harsh to the touch, anything approaching silkiness or softness being a grave fault. Along the top of the shoulders, commencing between the ears and running right through to the hindquarters, there should be a ridge of hair standing up, and of medium length. This is termed the scruff. The coat on the shoulders will be almost smooth, it being relieved by rosettes formed in the hair.

There is no stipulated number of rosettes on an ideal pig, the object being to get them clear and distinct from each other, with neat, clean, well-defined centers from which all the hairs radiate in a circle. The coat should not exceed one and one-half inches in length. On the shoulders there can be carried two rosettes; one on each side, and these numbers will relieve any possibility of plainness, the latter being a grave failing.

On the sides of body and on the hindquarters there should be as many rosettes as possible, though as I have said above they must be clear and distinct, not overlapping in any way. Clearness is more important than mere numbers; and it lies only when the rosettes are equal in shape and distinctness that the question of num-

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