

faults, and these should be taken into consideration before any money is invested.

Authorities generally agree that an ideal meat rabbit should mature at about 10 to 12 pounds. An animal of this weight produces young weighing from 3¼ to 4½ pounds at weaning age, which is the desirable weight for a fryer. By butchering the young as they are weaned, much labor and, still more important, hutch space is saved. An ideal meat rabbit should be compact and well balanced with broad shoulders, with a well filled out saddle and nicely rounded hips. The feet, head and ears are waste products and therefore should be small, however not so small as to make the animal seem unbalanced or appear out of proportion. Always keep in mind that the main market is meat and furs, and sales and breeding stock are of secondary importance.

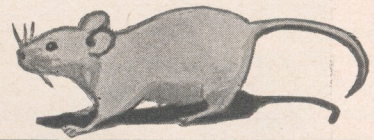
There are many breeds in this middle weight class, some of the more popular being the Champagne d'Argents, New Zealand Reds and Whites, Chinchillas and Beverens. All are bred closely to the standard and it is a matter of personal favor to get good stock, provided a reliable breeder is chosen to buy from. The New Zealand White is the most popular rabbit in the United States, mainly because of its desirable type, plus the most valuable fur on the market. In the colored varieties, there is always a tendency to breed for color, sacrificing type and making the infusion of new blood a dangerous move. Your author favors the rapidly becoming popular Champagne d'Argent over the others because they develop into four pound fryers as much as a week sooner than the others and definitely dress with less waste than any other breed.

A prospective breeder looking for a small lively rabbit that will provide plenty of action and meet competition will be fascinated with the beautiful Dutch, Havanas, Martens, or Standard Chinchillas. These lively fellows require little space and eat a surprisingly small amount of feed, yet their dressed carcass contains the finest grained and most delicious meat of all.

In all fairness to the giant breeds, something must be said of them. Here is a rabbit that, once bred, is usually always bred. It is a rabbit backed by many of the country's oldest and most popular breeders. Prob-

(Please turn to page 92)

FANCY MICE



NEW YORK MOUSE FANCIER FINDS HIS MICE PROFITABLE

The following interesting item is from the Livingston County Leader and Democrat, New York.

"A few days ago we happened upon an interesting hobby of an Avonian, Lou Cleaver, who lives down by the river and who travels with his troupe of performing mice and mouse-game. We discovered him busy in making up an exhibit of unusual rodents which he intends to open to the public in the near future. We spent some time observing and photographing these amusing and interesting animals and discussing mice and other rodents.

"One species of animal of which Lou has a small colony is said to be very rare in this country and he knows of only two or three persons who have any. These are called "Golden Hamsters" or "Syrian Hamsters" and are a distinct species — neither rat, mouse, nor ground squirrel. In appearance they are something between a miniature cinnamon bear and a red squirrel and about the size of a red squirrel.

"They have deep, soft fur of a beautiful golden brown color, a funny rudimentary tail, enormous cheek-pouches capable of holding a good handful of grain or any other food that the animal fancies. They travel with a curious 'side-wheeler' motion of the hind legs which seems to skid their bodies over the ground. As they come from the rocky deserts of Syria and Arabia and it is quite likely that their peculiar anatomical formation permits them to hide in narrow crevices. According to written information, the hamsters now in this country are descended from one pregnant hamster doe brought from Jerusalem a few years ago.

"A curious mouse was found by Mr. Cleaver in a hibernating state while spading the garden early in the Spring. This mouse, which came to life quickly when put in a warm place, is quite like a house mouse in appearance except its tail is two or three times longer than its body and that its hind legs are developed for jumping like a kangaroo. The animal progresses like a kangaroo by long leaps and greedily eats white grubs, larvae of June bugs.

"In the West there is a so-called Kangaroo Rat, sometimes called "Banner-tail" from the tuft on the end of the long tail. A collector in the desert has promised to send some to Avon as soon as weather conditions are favorable. These are said to be very lovable and fascinating pets by those who have handled them.

"Other rodents on order by Mr. Cleaver are the Golden Mouse of Florida, which is an exquisite little mouse somewhat like a deer mouse but like an animated gold nugget in appearance, also ground squirrels of which there is a wide variety. The Prairie dogs are a recent acquisition, too wild as yet to afford close study. These are a kind of ground-squirrel, related to marmots and woodchucks, and so named because of their bark somewhat like that of a toy dog."

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SELECTING A BREED

(Continued from page 90)

ably no rabbit brings more excitement and gasps from the crowd than a big 20 pounder stretched on a showroom cage floor, and probably no rabbit is more highly sought, more money paid for, than a near-perfect giant. With all these facts, there must surely be something fascinating and gripping about them. To visit a Flemish or Checkered rabbitry, is to be a Giant breeder.

With all these factors to be considered, one must use careful judgment before going heavily into one breed, only to find that you wish you had started with another. It is my opinion that it is best to buy only a trio to start and possibly add another breed at the same time. By contrast and comparison, the favorite breed will more easily be chosen and if practical, the raising of a few of a different breed now and then aids you to learn more about them. It is useful and interesting.

In conclusion, I say, join as many of the clubs as is practical, subscribe to a good magazine, and don't be afraid to show your stock in the showroom. Their merits or faults are quickly pointed out.

Mouse Breeding Hints

A mouse shall be considered even-marked that is of any distinct color and equally balanced in markings, and free from runs. The more spots or patches the better, combined with pleasing effect.

Concentrated in-breeding will probably fix markings, but even in the marked varieties we require constitution, size and prolificity. It is known that excessive in-breeding results in deterioration in constitution, bone vigor and size to such a degree that certain strains become non-prolific or reproduce young small in numbers.

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