

Judging Contest

Sponsored by: BlueRibbonRabbitry.com

Judging is a difficult concept to teach over the internet. However I do have suggestions to offer.

- Writing for judges gives you a great opportunity to learn about different breeds.
- Talk with breeders and ask for hands on experience learning to judge different breeds.
- Study the standards for each breed. It is best to know going into judging what you need to look for in each breed.
- Learn all of the general disqualifications and faults.
- Learn all breed specific disqualifications and exceptions to disqualifications. For example, Dutch is the only breed that disqualifies for a bare spot.
- Learn how to correctly pose all breeds. All breeds are handled differently and respond better to certain types of handling. For example, poking or pushing a Tan will usually not make it want to run. The animal should be allowed to move naturally.
- When you first begin the actual judging, check all rabbits for disqualifications. Take a mental note of what you think of that rabbits. Continue on.
- Go back and evaluate animals that seemed close. You will usually be able to easily place several. You may use a standard on judging, so do not feel afraid to consult it.
- Relax. If an animal does not want to pose, leave it alone and go back to it. Getting frustrated with the rabbit will not help anything.
- Have fun. This is all meant to be a learning experience, enjoy it!

The ARBA also provides additional advice on their website at:

<http://arba.net/AdviceID.pdf>