

PROPER POSING AND EVALUATION

COMMERCIAL TYPE

French Angora, Giant Angora, Satin Angora, Blanc de Hotot, Champagne d'Argent, Californian (pictured), Cinnamon, American Chinchilla, Creme d'Argent, French Lop, Harlequin, New Zealand, Palomino, Rex, American Sable, Satin, Silver Fox, and Silver Marten

Commercial type rabbits are medium length with a depth of body equaling the width of body throughout. There will be a slight taper from the shoulder to the hips when viewed from above. Since commercial type rabbits are primarily raised for meat, a firmness of flesh and fullness of body are particularly important. The animal should present a smooth appearance throughout.

To pose your Commercial Type Rabbit:

- Place the front feet directly under the eyes.
- Align the toes of the rear feet with the front of the hips.



Josh Humphries has been raising rabbits since 1994 and became a ARBA licensed judge in 2001. He has been an ARBA district director and is a current member of the ARBA Standards Committee. In 2013 Josh was the recipient of the prestigious ARBA Distinguished Service award.

Josh has long been a popular judge and is frequently selected to pick Groups at ARBA Conventions. He has judged all across the USA, Japan, Canada and Thailand. Currently, Josh lives in Birchwood, TN where he works as a hospital manager at a small animal veterinary clinic.

Within the Rabbit and Cavy community the most common area of criticism from both judges and exhibitors alike is inconsistent or improper posing. Too many good animals are culled because they are improperly posed. In addition too many culls are kept for the same reason. Simply stated: If your animal is not properly posed you cannot properly evaluate the body type.

Overposing, is the most common posing fault. It distorts the animal creating the illusion of depth but causes the animal to slide off the hindquarter.

Underposing can make the animal appear to have a fuller hindquarter, but also creates the illusion of length and lacking in depth.

To pose your animal, you must first understand the style of animal you are breeding. The ARBA specifies five body type profiles:

Semi-Arch
Compact
Cylindrical

Full Arch
Commercial

Within these body type profiles there are further specifications. For example; while some compact types may be posed with a low headset (Mini Rex, Florida White, Mini Satin), others are posed to display a high headset (Netherland Dwarf, Holland Lop, Jersey Wooly). Some full arch rabbits may be posed (Britannia Petite and Belgian Hare), while others are permitted to move naturally about the table to evaluate type (Rhinelander, Checkered Giant). The ARBA Standard of Perfection provides detailed posing instructions relating to the type of animal you are breeding.

Over Posed

The rabbit is over tucked, giving the illusion of depth, but creating a flat spot behind the hip and an undercut appearance.



Under Posed

The toes of the back leg are placed behind the hip which falsely elongates the rabbit and distorts the topline.



Correctly Posed

With the toes of the back leg aligned with the front of the hip, and the front feet directly under the eye, this animal is posed correctly and ready for evaluation.

