



THE SELF CAVY





**IT IS A PHYSICAL IMPOSSIBILITY
TO COVER THE INTRICACIES
OF 16 COLOURS OF SELF CAVY
AND ALL THE ASPECTS OF THE
SELF STANDARD IN ONE SHORT SESSION**

**MY INTENTION IS THAT THIS DISCUSSION
SHOULD BE **INTERACTIVE** AND ENCOURAGE YOU
ALL AS JUDGES TO DISCUSS, COMPARE AND
MAYBE RE-APPRAISE YOUR JUDGING TECHNIQUE**





**WHEN JUDGING THERE IS NO
COMPLETELY RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWER
WE HAVE OUR OWN INDIVIDUAL OPINIONS
ON THE IDEAL SELF CAVY - BUT IT IS
IMPORTANT THERE IS SOME DEGREE OF
UNIFORMITY IN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF
THE STANDARD AND UNIFORMITY OF
JUDGING RESULTS - MEETINGS OF COLLEGES
OF JUDGES HOPEFULLY WILL BENEFIT THIS
IT WOULD BE NICE TO THINK MORE
SPECIALIST JUDGES CAN HELP OTHERS WHO
ARE LESS WELL AQUAINTED WITH A BREED**



EXTRACT FROM BCC NOTES.....Standards define the ideal animal and so define the fundamental basis of all forms of livestock competition. They detail what breeders and exhibitors should look for in a perfect specimen. Standards indicate which features are the most important and which are the least when making a decision and therefore enabling us to make a decision on which are the winners and the losers in a class. Personal preference will always be a major factor but for anyone who shows any cavy other than pets and who cares whether they win or lose at a show basic standards are very important.



The Self Breed Standard is intended to describe the most important characteristics of an ideal self cavy and to allocate points to the breeds attributes adding up to 100. However, the importance of **BALANCE** in an exhibit is not negotiable. An exhibit that is a near miss on many characteristics should be regarded as more desirable than one that is perfect in several but very poor in a particular one. However it should not be forgotten good condition and good temperament are also essential attributes of all exhibition cavy.





ENGLISH SELF CAVY STANDARD

HEAD, EYES & EARS 30

- HEAD**
 - To have a pronounced Roman nose.
 - To have good width of muzzle, squared off at the end but rounded at the corners.
- EYES**
 - To be large, bright, bold and appealing, set wide apart.
- EARS**
 - To be large and drooping, with lower rim parallel to the ground & set with good width between.

- BODY**
 - To have short, broad, cobby body with very deep, broad shoulders.
 - To be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh.
 - To have good size appropriate to age.

- COLOUR**
 - Top colour to be lustrous and of glossy sheen, of even shade all over the head & body.
 - Hair on feet to match body colour.
 - Undercolour to match top colour down to the skin, giving an appearance free from flakiness.
 - Colours of coat, eyes, ears and pads to match.

- COAT**
 - To be soft & silky, clean and short, and groomed free of guard hairs





JUDGING BY COMPARISON – INTERACTIVE SESSION

Whatever breed a cavy is if it meets the standard and it's shown in tip top condition it is going to be beautiful to look at. A judge must be able to appreciate this beauty to stand any chance of successfully judging cavies. The judge must have passion for something good, not just turn up and go through the motions that is wasting everyone's time!



I BELIEVE THE BEST JUDGES WATCH CLASSES BEING JUDGED & ENJOY JUDGING AND DEBATING THE FINER POINTS OF A CLASS WHATEVER THE BREED. NO ONE LEARNS BY SITTING IN A CORNER CANOODLING, GOSSIPING & DRINKING TEA



DISCUSSION.....Cavies cannot be judged in isolation contrary to what some of our continental friends would have you believe. Comparisons of cavies standing next to each other or at least on the same judging table is an essential part of judging. I defy anyone to hold a colour or facial expressions in your mind for many seconds especially if the differences are minimal. The differences between first and second or even seventh and eighth can be minuscule, cavies must be compared directly, and this is one of the reasons why points judging failed so abominably as well completely bypassing the fundamental requirement of balance.



Basically the standard for the Self cavy is and always has been divided into three PRINCIPAL components:

COLOUR

TYPE

COAT



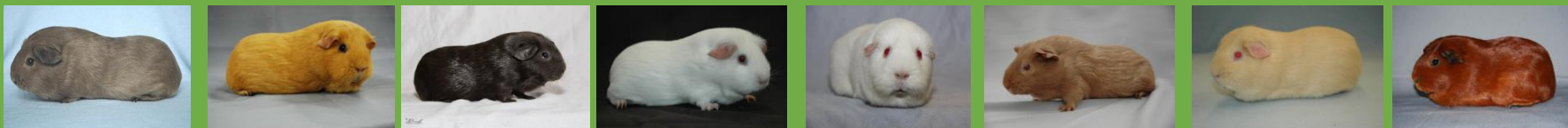


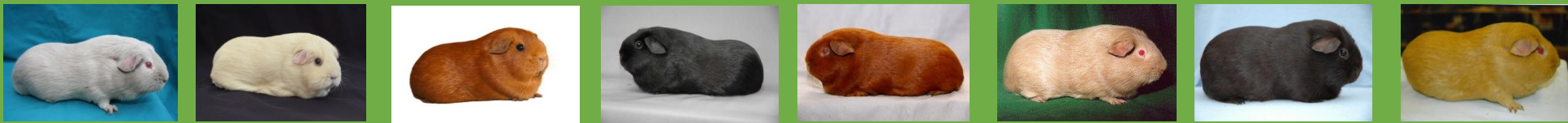
COLOUR

It is important the standard is easy to read and to understand. Consequently the standard has a generally agreed aim but cannot be too specific particularly about things such as colour. It is important when it comes to shade of colour we try to promote what the standard tries to describe but it is important that we do not become completely dogmatic only allowing our own personal preferences.

I believe it is the biggest pitfall for new or inexperienced judges to pick up what they have heard from someone they think should be in the “know” and then religiously apply said rule or point of view to every cavy they see.

Remember breeders of specific colours can be the worst bigots and be narrow minded in their views. Over the years preferred shades of colour vary a great deal who is to say that the off white shade of lilac common 40 or 50 years ago was wrong because in the 21st Century the norm is a much darker colour.





DESCRIPTION OF COLOURS

Black	To be deep and lustrous. Eyes dark, ears and pads black.
White	To be pure snow white. Eyes pink (P.E.W) or dark (D.E.W.), dark-eyed to be as dark as possible. Ears and pads flesh pink.
Cream	To be a pale cream colour, free from yellow or lemon tinge. Eyes ruby (DEC) pink (PEC). Ears pink. Pads pink.
Golden	To be a medium gold colour with no suggestion of brassiness, yellow or red. Eyes pink (P.E.G.) or dark (D.E.G.), dark-eyed to be as dark as possible. Ears pink/golden. Pads pink/golden. The ears of PE Golden and DE Golden should match the body colour. Ears whose colour deviates from the body colour should be penalised according to the extent of the deviation
Red	To be a rich, dark colour. Eyes dark. Ears and Pads dark.
Chocolate	To be a rich, dark colour. Eyes dark ruby. Ears and Pads chocolate.
Lilac	To be a medium dove grey colour, with no suggestion of beige. Eyes pink. Ears pink/ lilac. Pads pink/lilac.
Beige	To be a medium colour. Eyes pink. Ears pink/beige. Pads pink/beige. The colours of young Lilac and Beige cavies are appreciably darker than those expected in adult exhibits of these breeds. This should be taken into account when judging young classes of Beige and Lilacs. The belly colour of a Beige indicates the colour that it is likely to attain when it reaches adulthood.
Saffron	To be a medium sand colour. Eyes pink. Ears pink. Pads pink.
Buff	To be a deep, rich buff shade with no hint of lemon, apricot or cream. Eyes ruby. Ears pink. Pads pink.



SELF SLATE



A MID SLATE-GREY COLOUR WITH NO TENDENCY TOWARDS A BROWNISH HUE. EYES RUBY.

SELF CARMEL



COLOUR TO BE A RICH, WARM TOFFEE, DISTINCTLY DARKER THAN THE SELF BEIGE. EYES LIGHT RUBY

SELF BLUE



COLOUR TO BE AN EVEN DARK BLUE/GREY COLOUR, SIMILAR TO GRAPHITE, WITH NO HINT OF BROWN. UNDERCOLOUR TO MATCH TOP COLOUR DOWN TO THE SKIN. EARS AND PADS TO MATCH TOP COL. EYES DARK



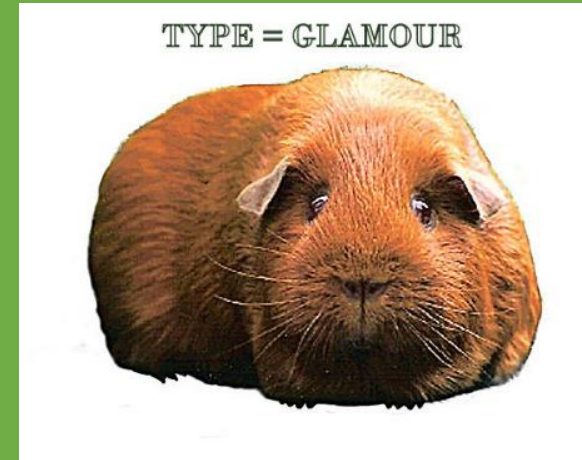
INTER-REACTIVE SESSION

- 1) BLACK IS BLACK AND WHITE IS WHITE – TRUE OR FALSE?
- 2) CREAM SHOULD BE THE COLOUR OF THE TOP OF THE MILK BUT IS THAT FROM YOUR COMMON OR GARDEN FRIESIAN OR THE NOBLER JERSEY?
- 3) GOLDEN, PEOPLE HAVE NEARLY COMMITTED MURDER IN THE PAST OVER THE COLOUR OF GOLDEN BUT NOW WE ARE QUITE LAID BACK ABOUT SHADE OF COLOUR GOLDEN, IS THIS GOOD? BUT WHAT OF EARS AND PADS SOME JUDGES ARE REALLY DOGMATIC AND ARE THE WORST OFFENDERS ARE JUDGES WHO HAVE NEVER KEPT THE COLOUR?
- 4) BEIGE AND LILAC – COLOUR VARIATION CAN BE GREAT – WHAT IS ACCEPTABLE WHAT SHOULD WE PENALISE?
- 5) THE RED DO WE GROOM AND LOSE SOME OF THE FIRE?
- 6) CHOCOLATES CAN HAVE A BROWNY OR SILVERY UNDERCOLOUR DO WE PENALISE ONE OF THESE?
- 7) BUFF AND SAFFRONS HOW DOGMATIC SHOULD WE BE – WE DO NOT WANT TO LOSE ALL BREEDERS?
- 8) SLATES, CARAMELS AND BLUES THESE COULD FILL AN ENCYCLOPAEDIA ON COLOUR





TYPE



The English Self Standard and accompanying Guidance Notes define what self breeders consider ideal or perfect “type”. It must be born in mind for show-worthy self cavy to excel in type it must be glamorous and most have “harmony” and have the correct proportions i.e. the pig must be **BALANCED.**





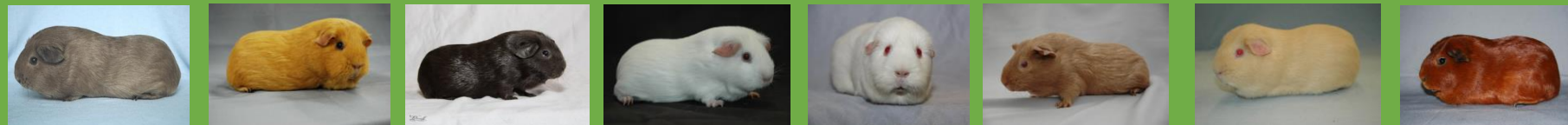
INTERACTIVE SESSION

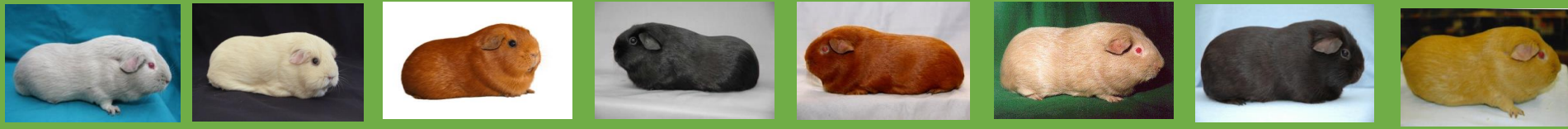
APPRECIATING TYPE

It is important though that a judge is capable of setting up, settling and being aware of how to fully appreciate type. It is a hobby horse of mine but a self-cavy must be set up and the judge must stand back and must look from all directions to stand any chance of really appreciating type. Appreciating type is all about recognizing glamour and balance

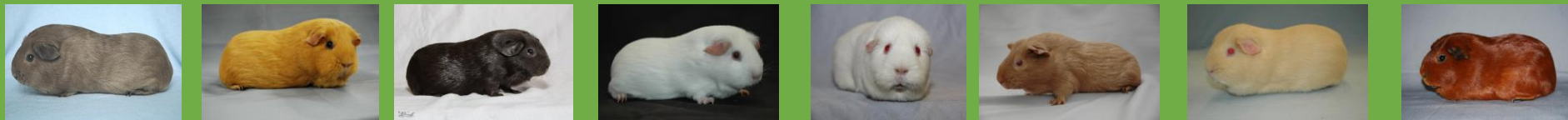
Self-cavies will expect to be set up and not plonked down or scrunched up like a bit of waste paper – any judge worth his weight will learn to settle a cavy, set it up and step back with confidence and appreciate its type.

**DON'T BE JUST A PLONKER A GOOD CONFIDENT JUDGE
WILL SPEND TIME SETTING UP A CAVY**



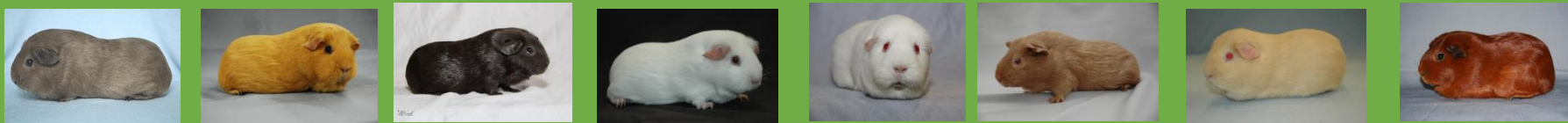
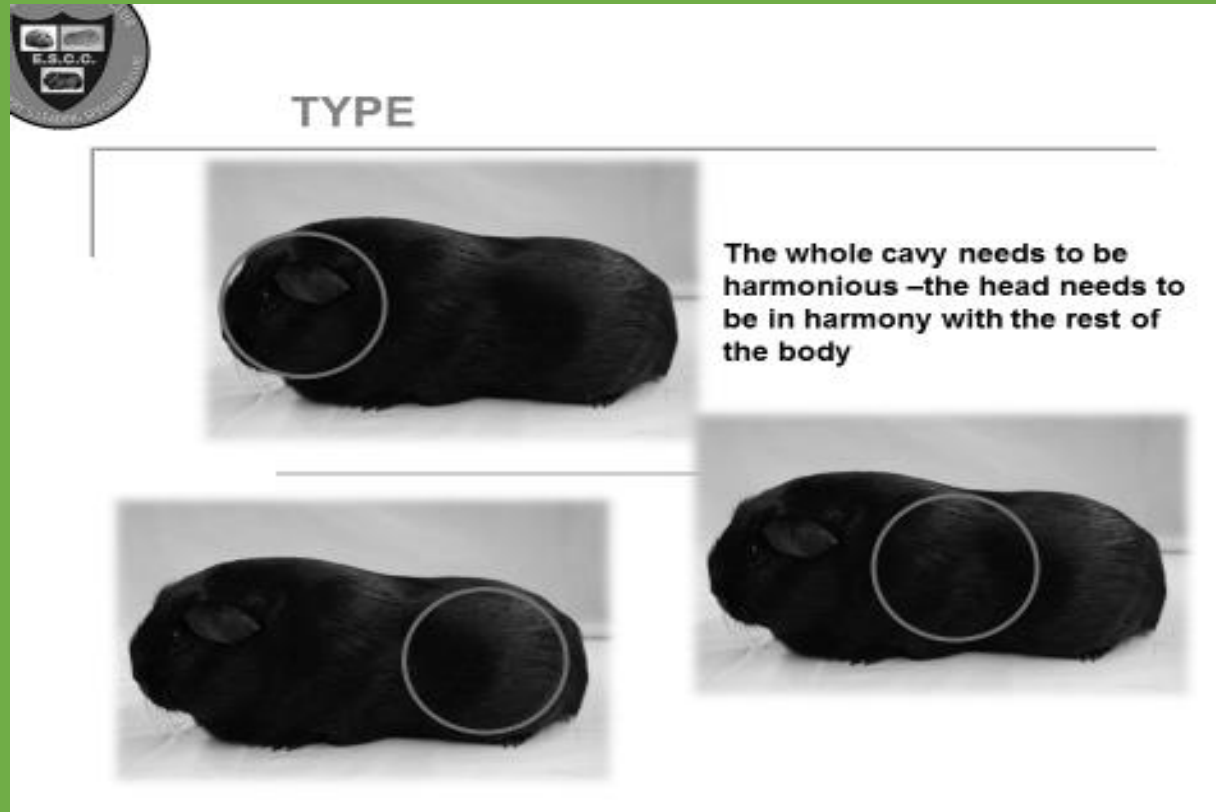


**SWATHE OF SELF GOLDENS – IMPORTANT TO STAND BACK AND EXAMINE A CLASS
FROM FRONT / SIDE / BACK AND FROM ABOVE – SO MANY JUDGES SQUASH PIGS
TOGETHER AND JUST APPRAISE THE HEAD FROM THE FRONT AND IGNORE BODY TYPE**





FROM THE SIDE THE IDEAL SELF CAVY CAN BE DIVIDED INTO THREE EQUAL SEGMENTS





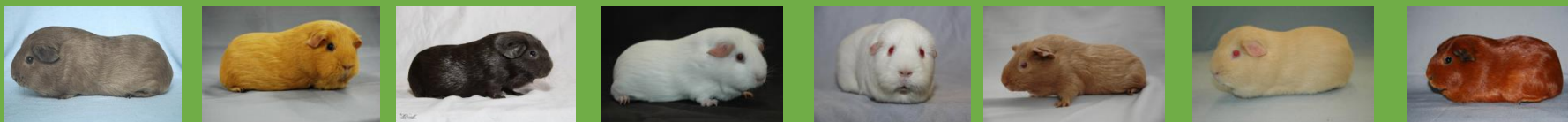
THE COMMONEST FAULT IS IN THE SEARCH FOR A WIDE HEAD THE FRONT SEGMENT
IS NO LONGER A THIRD OF THE TOTAL LENGTH

DESIRED TYPE


When assessing a cavy, I am always looking for balance; i.o.w.: the whole cavy needs to be harmonious –the head needs to be in harmony with the rest of the body.

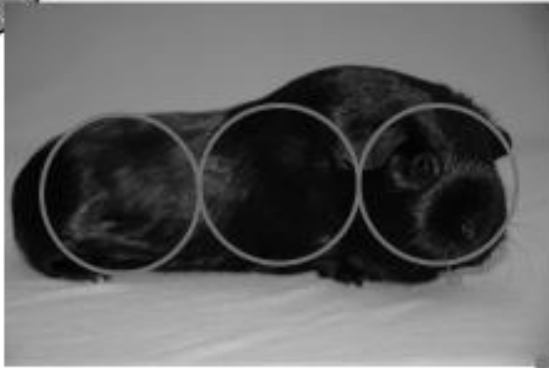
HEAD = ONE THIRD AND BODY IS TWO THIRDS

Two very good examples of sound type, shape and head qualities = ALL IN THE CORRECT PROPORTIONS.






 THE "BARREL"

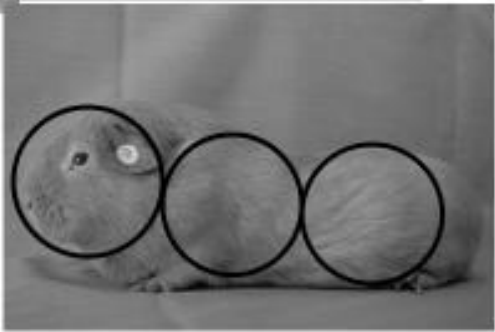


BODY TOO LONG

OR




HEAD CAN BE SLIGHTLY SMALL!!








**THE SHOULDER CAN ONLY BE APPRECIATED FROM ABOVE AND TO THE SIDE
AND NOT FORGETTING ALSO BY FEEL**


 **THE SHOULDER**

GOOD DEPTH OF SHOULDER


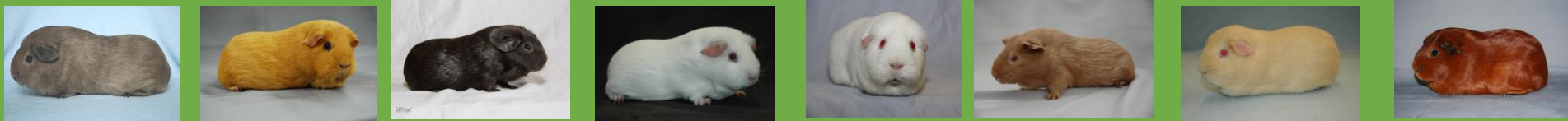


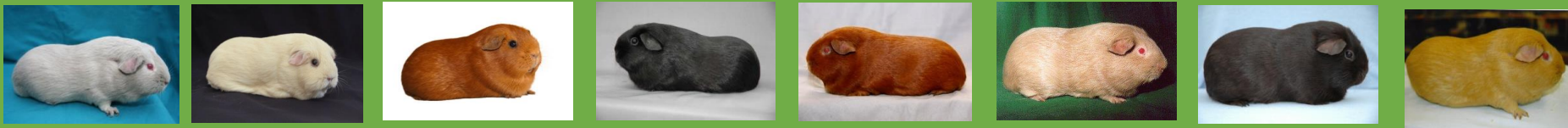
AND

AND WIDTH OF SHOULDER

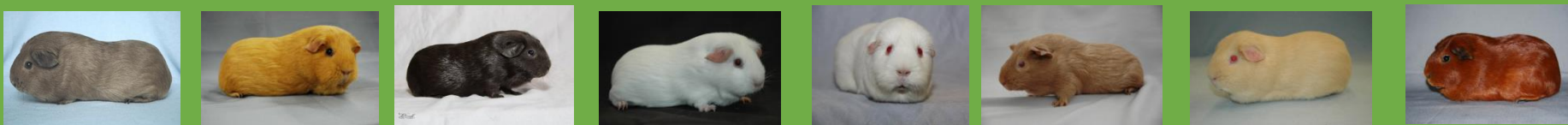


PEAR SHAPED



DON'T FORGET TO LOOK AT THE BACKSIDE THERE ARE SOME AWFUL ONES ABOUT!





INTERACTIVE SESSION

GOOD HEAD SHAPE



THE HEAD

to have good width of muzzle, squared off at the end, but rounded at the corners.



THE WIDTH BETWEEN THE EYES





THE HEAD

to have a pronounced Roman nose,



THE HEAD



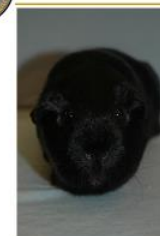
THE HEAD



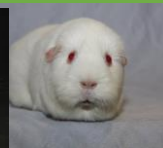
GOLF BALL HEAD



THE HEAD




The sex of the exhibit will usually be apparent from its facial qualities. Boars, if complying with the standard, should not be penalised if in competition with sows on account of slightly different head shape

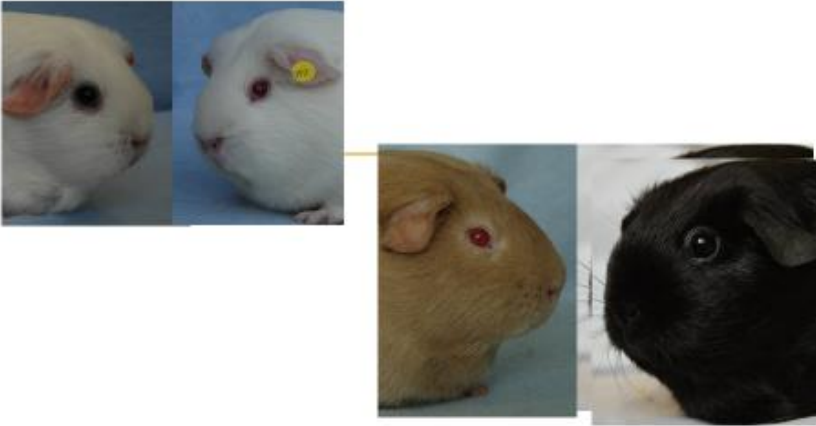




EYES

 **THE EYES**

to be large, bold, bright and appealing
and set wide apart.

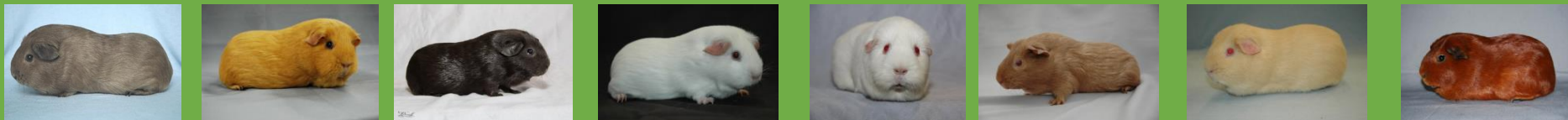


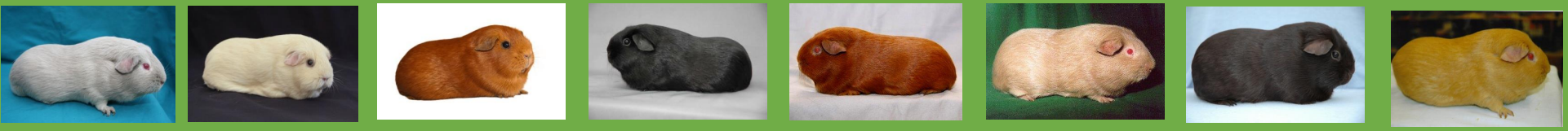
 **THE EYES**



SUSPECT EYELIDS

INTERACTIVE.....FATTY EYE / RED EYE / HOODED EYES / WHEEPLY EYES





EARS.....TO BE LARGE AND DROOPING WITH THE LOWER RIM

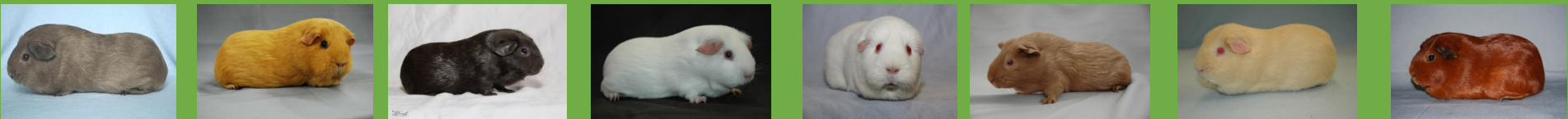
PARALLEL TO THE GROUND AND SET WITH GOOD WIDTH BETWEEN

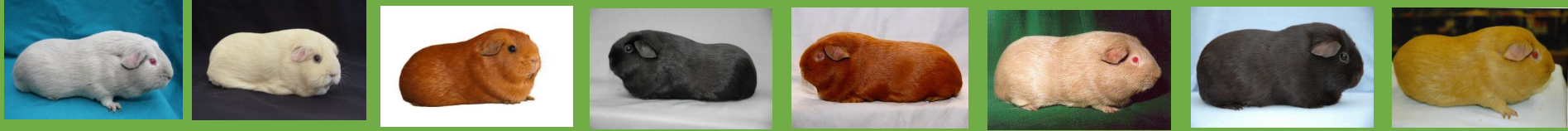
THE EARS

to be large and drooping with lower rim parallel to the ground and set with good width between.

THE EARS

INTERACTIVE.....EARS IN EVERY FORM



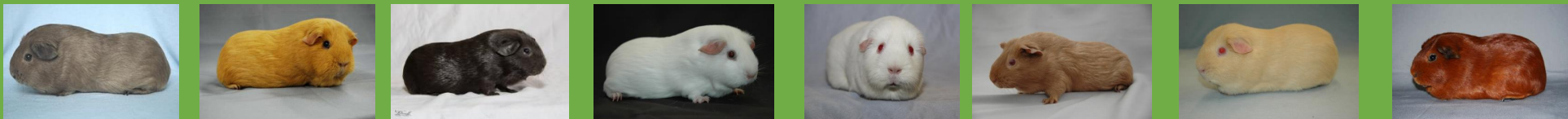


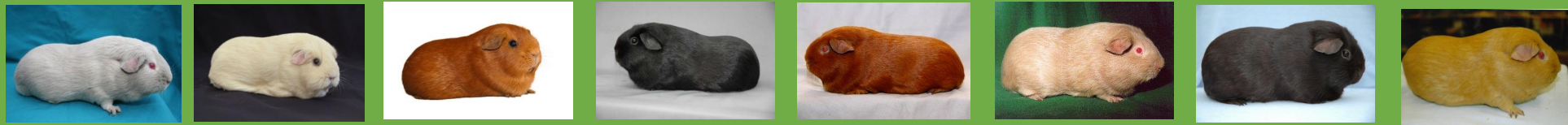
INTERACTIVE SESSION

COAT

The coat of a Self-Cavy is to be soft & silky, clean and short, groomed free of guard hairs.

- 1) How short do we expect the coat to be?**
- 2) Coat faults are common in some colours do we penalize these adequately?**
- 3) Various coat problems are either faults or disqualifications, are you fully aware of which applies?**

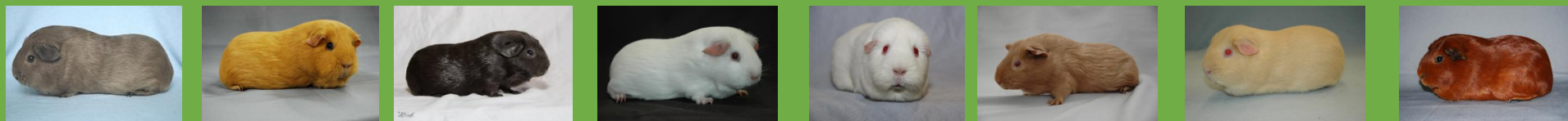


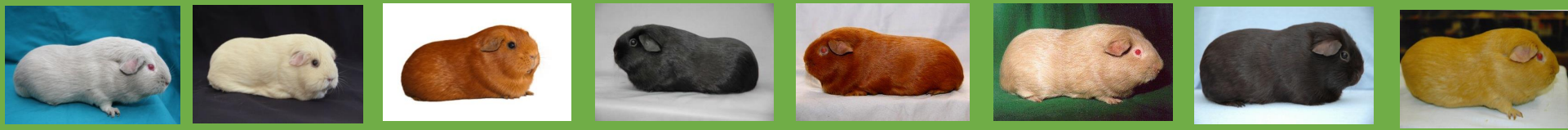


SIZE – Size is very desirable in a self-cavy but we specifically state that this must not be at the expense of cobbiness or general quality

CONDITION – Condition is not specifically mentioned within Breed Standards but good condition is very important and it is important that a self-cavy should carry plenty of firm flesh but not be gross or flabby. Judges should not hesitate to penalise exhibits that are not in show condition and to disqualify any that are in poor physical condition.

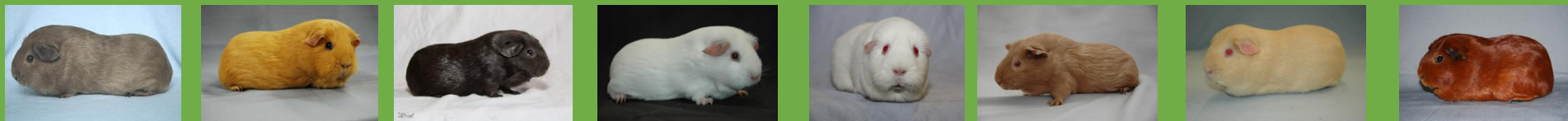
GOOD TEMERAMENT- Good Temperament is a highly desirable quality in the show exhibit; and animals that prove difficult to handle or control or that show clear signs of aggression should be penalised, with disqualification being appropriate in extreme cases.





Normally the upper weight limit for a U/5 months Self cavy will be 30 oz or thereabouts. For a cavy of 8 months it will be 37 oz or thereabouts. Although the judge's discretion is absolute as regards whether a cavy is eligible for the class in which it is entered, judges should give careful consideration in cases where these weight limits are exceeded.

The ESCC members voted at the 2016 AGM that weight scales would no longer be provided and that whether or not a cavy should be penalized for being entered in an inappropriate age class would be left to the discretion and judgement of the judge officiating on the show day.





**ENJOY JUDGING AND DISCUSS YOUR
DECISIONS WITH OTHER JUDGES AND
EXHIBITORS, WE ALL ARE CAPABLE OF
LEARNING, HOPEFULLY**





FAULTS AND DISQUALIFICATIONS IN CAVIES SELFS



Faults and Disqualifications

INTRODUCTION

This talk will be conducted in 2 parts and each part will be split up in 6 sections.

Part 1: Faults

- **Physical conditions**
- **Ill Health conditions**
- **Ear conditions**
- **Eye conditions**
- **(Skin conditions)**
- **Coat conditions**



Faults and Disqualifications

Part 2: Disqualifications

- Physical conditions
- Ill Health conditions
- (Ear conditions)
- Eye conditions
- Skin conditions
- (Coat conditions)



Faults and Disqualifications

PART 1 – FAULTS

Physical conditions:

▶ Extra toes

Most commonly seen as a rudimentary toe on the side of the back foot.

Also called polydactylism





Faults and Disqualifications

Less commonly seen.





Faults and Disqualifications

Ill health conditions:

▶ External cysts

These can occur anywhere on the body, but are mostly seen in the throat area or round the nipples and on the under side of the cavy.





Faults and Disqualifications

Ear conditions:

▶ Hems

These constitute a significant fold or crease at the front rim of the ear



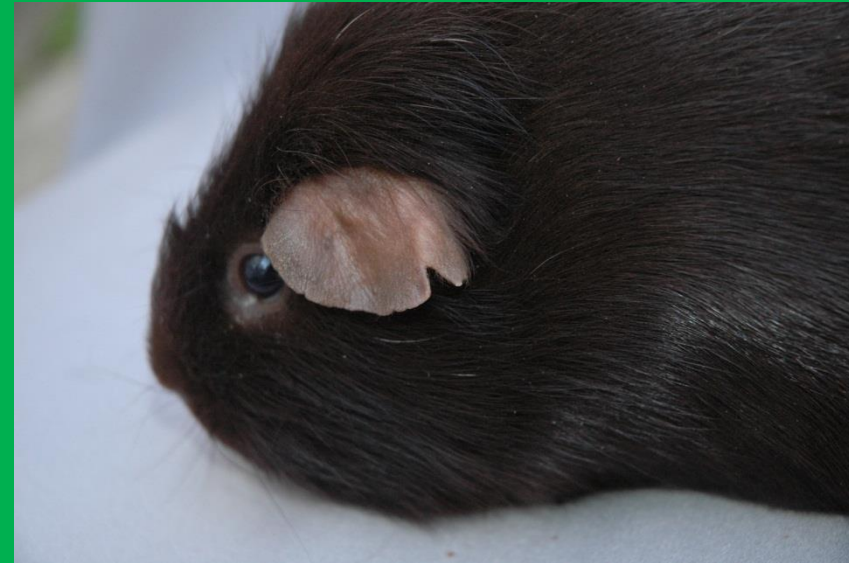


Faults and Disqualifications

Ear conditions:

▶ Damaged Ears

This can be anything from a slight tear or a chunk of flesh missing on the outer rim to an ear torn in half.





Faults and Disqualifications

Eye conditions:

▶ Red Eye

This looks like a small blood blister that is situated between the eyeball and the eyelid, but it can vary in size.





Faults and Disqualifications

Skin conditions:

There are no faults listed at all in the Cavy Breed Standards for skin conditions.

Skin conditions are mostly severe and therefore are dealt with under Disqualifications.



Faults and Disqualifications

Coat conditions:

▶ Breaks in coat

A break in coat constitutes a patch of coat missing and can be caused by, e.g.:

* over zealous grooming / * the cavy scratching itself





Faults and Disqualifications

Coat conditions:

▶ Static (Mite) / Hay Mite

These look like tiny little specks along the shaft of individual hairs and are most commonly seen around the rump and along the jaw line and the cheeks. They appear light coloured on dark coloured pigs and vice versa.





Faults and Disqualifications

PART 2 - DISQUALIFICATIONS

Physical conditions:

These include serious physical abnormalities deviating from the norm.

Some of these are:



Faults and Disqualifications



Eyes:

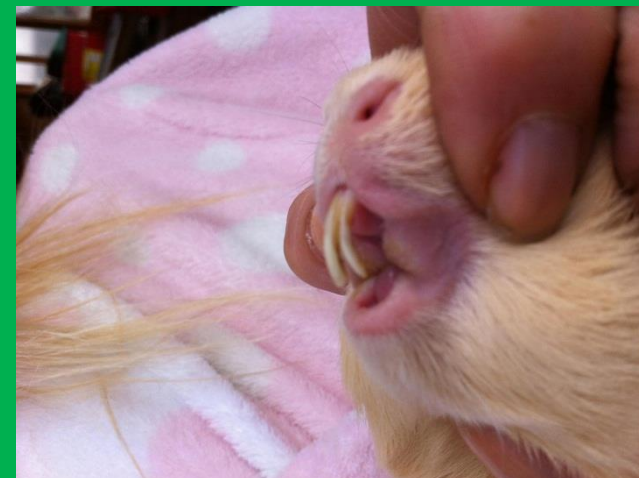
very damaged or missing altogether
cataracts





Faults and Disqualifications

- ▶ Bent leg(s)
- ▶ Wry neck
- ▶ Missing toenails
- ▶ Any other gross physical deviations





Faults and Disqualifications

▶ Sows obviously in pig





Faults and Disqualifications

Ill Health conditions

- ▶ Visible breathing difficulties.
- ▶ Abnormal discharges from the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, reproductive or intestinal openings.





Faults and Disqualifications

Skin conditions:



Breaks in skin





Faults and Disqualifications

Skin conditions:



Breaks in skin





Faults and Disqualifications



Running lice

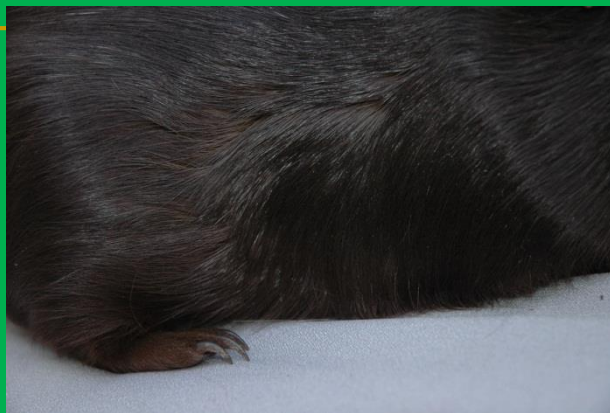




Faults and Disqualifications

FAULTS in short / smooth haired pigs

▶ Quiffs or Swirls in coat on sides, flanks, belly





Faults and Disqualifications

►or between the eyes.



ALSO KNOWN AS “EYE FLICKS”





Faults and Disqualifications

DISQUALIFICATIONS in short / smooth haired cavies

▶ Side whiskers





Faults and Disqualifications



Rosettes in coat.





Faults and Disqualifications

Specific FAULTS in Self cavies

▶ Differently coloured hairs according to quantity.





Faults and Disqualifications

▶ Dark pigmentation on ears and pads





Faults and Disqualifications

▶ White toenails on all but PEW and DEW.





Faults and Disqualifications

Other faults / disqualifications, not mentioned in the Cavy Breed Standards, found whilst judging:

Physical condition

 **Entropion**





Faults and Disqualifications

Other faults / disqualifications, not mentioned in the Cavy Breed Standards, found whilst judging:

Ill Health condition



Mouth scabs





Faults and Disqualifications

Other faults / disqualifications, not mentioned in the Cavy Breed Standards, found whilst judging:

Ill Health condition

 **Mange / Sellnick**





Faults and Disqualifications

**Other faults, found whilst judging, in
Sels.**

▶ **Odd toenail colours, other than white**





Faults and Disqualifications

Other faults, found whilst judging, in Selves.

▶ **Muddy overlay or smutting**





Faults and Disqualifications

Other faults, found whilst judging, in Selves.

▶ **Long and woolly coats**





Faults and Disqualifications

**Other faults, found whilst judging, in
Selves.**

▶ **Muddy overlay or smutting**

