

A March Through ACBA History

IRVIN A. REINHART 1995 ACBA Hall of Fame

JACBA Spring 2001

Irvin A. Reinhart began breeding cavies in 1913. He was a licensed cavy judge from Evansville, Indiana. He was a charter member and the first Chairman of the Board of Governors of the American Cavy Breeders Association, having been elected in 1944. Mr. Reinhart lived until December 31, 1968. He was nominated and inducted into the ACBA Hall of Fame in 1995.

“We lost “Mr. Cavy,” Irwin Reinhardt... I believe he forgot more about cavies than any one of us will ever know. He always had a smile and his favorite departing words were keep smiling”

Don Reid, ACBA Chairman, 1969

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EXHIBITION CAVIES - AMERICANS

By Irvin A. Reinhart

Looking at an American Cavy from the top view, they should look like a brick with the corners cut off. From the side view they should have a graceful curve starting from the roman nose, over the crown and shoulders, to the symmetrical line. Then straight down the back to rump. Rump should be round not chopped off or flat. Back should not be sway backed. Ears should be slightly dropped, without folds or wrinkles and same color as the body in solid varieties. From the front view, the nose must be short and not pointed. Eyes to be large and bold with ample width between them, greater width between the ears gives the desired head type.

Sows usually develop and show their good points at the age of 6 to 8 months. Boars take greater time. Usually 1 year to 15 months.

Selecting babies when they are a few days old for color. With a little practice one can detect which will have the best color when an adult. Look deep into the ears, with a flash light, as an example. In blacks we want them black to the skin, so the babies must have glossy black, deep

in the ears, that's our choice. This applies to all solid colors. Another thing to look for while you are looking over the babies, that's the hind legs. When they are short and have heavy bone that's the cue for a cobby adult. When hind legs are long and thin you can't expect them to have the desired cobby type when they get older.

For size and weights. In the Cavy Standards, Broken Color is the only one that mentions size. Large as possible. 10 points. We like adults to weigh 36 to 48 ounces. A lot depends on the strain and variety, so we must give at times. However, I think the larger cavy should place, over the smaller, when color, shape and all other points are equal.

When cold weather sets in do not make the mistake and close up your cavy quarters too closely, they must have fresh air coming in from some opening that can be adjusted to the condition of the weather. Should some of your hutches face the door you use most, protect the cavies with a cover over part of these hutches.

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