

# 2012 ACBA Hall of Fame



## James D. Nielsen



As a child, James was never a dog or cat lover, but had a passion for pocket pets which he has carried through his life. Of all the small animals, the cavy was his favorite. He got his first cavy around the age of ten. They lived in homemade wooden cages with glass fronts. Even the feed dishes were hand crafted from wood. The cavy he raised were all crossbreeds and were for the pet market. When he was 14, James discovered the American Cavy Breeders Association and the wonderful world of purebred cavy. Not much after, he discovered that there were classes for pocket

pets, including cavy, at the state fair, but there was nothing for youth.

Later in his teens, James gave up the cavy to pursue his education. During this eight year period without cavy, he also met and married Mary. Mary had no idea what a cavy was but welcomed them into their home.

Early in the 1990's James discovered the Grand Canyon Cavy Club. Of course, the fanciers he met through this club were rather horrified at his Aby/Peruvian breeding couple. One of the first breeders that James met was Nancy Davis. A visit to her caviary was eye-opening and educational. He was in awe of the professional quality of her wire caging with the fancy feeders and water bottles and vowed that if the family was going to become serious about raising cavy, they were going to do it right.

First born son, Kevin shared Dad's passion for the cavy and wanted to get involved as well. James added lemon agouti, cream and white broken colored Americans from Utah to his growing herd and obtained some lilac self Americans from Dave Hardesty.

Three of the children had their own projects; Kevin raised TSW Americans, and Dennis and Kaitlyn raised Teddies. Mary was the one who nurtured the babies. The entire family took part in the care, raising and showing of the cavy, hence the caviary name Nielsen's Family Caviary.

Arizona fancier Teri Leach took James under her wing and provided great guidance. When Teri became too ill to care for her cavy, she gave her black and solid silver Americans to James. James added stock from Jim Hupp, and upon the passing of Dave Hardesty, added some of his lines as well. James worked until he developed his own line of black and solid Americans that were consistent BIS winners. James has always been interested in promoting cavy, and obtained White Cresteds just to promote the breed in Arizona.

James became very involved with the Grand Canyon Cavy Club and was the secretary-treasurer for many years. His efficiency in that office got his name put forward as a possible replacement for

Lenore Gergen upon her retirement from the office of ACBA secretary-treasurer. James took over this role in 2006 after being appointed at the Texas ARBA National Convention. His first ARBA national was Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 2007. He has attended every ARBA national and ACBA specialty since his appointment.

James has been a huge asset to the ACBA. He devotes many hours to make sure all the files are kept updated when it comes to the membership dues, and spends many hours just in correspondence to answer many members' questions, and is very prompt to respond to keep the ACBA running smoothly. James sets up all the meeting agenda schedules and donates all the paper. James also mails many ballots out as well as working with the editor and the printer to get all the labels completed for Ron Reed to send out to the membership, in a very timely manner.

When we didn't have a Guide book chair, James did them for two years and mailed out, for which he donates much of the postage.

With his major interest for the betterment and success of the future of the ACBA, he has gotten his wife Mary more heavily involved. Her first national show was the ARBA Convention in Del Mar, California. Mary has taken over the membership services for ACBA.

James and Mary spend countless hours working behind the ACBA booth at the ARBA National Convention. James has not missed one convention since he took over as Sec/Treas. He is an utmost dependable man and a huge asset to the ACBA.

The one most admiral behaviors about James is that he has no axes to grind and does not get involved with any political issues.

For his years of dedicated service to the ACBA, we congratulate James in his induction into the ACBA Hall of Fame.



Hannah Mowry, Carrie Nolan, Miranda Menard, Noelle Adams and Brynn Price giving ACBA Secretary-Treasurer James Nielsen a thank-you card.