

# 2012 ACBA Hall of Fame



## Robert D. Spitzer



Robert Spitzer began raising cavies in the early 1970's when his parents made the mistake of buying him two guinea pigs for his birthday. In the early years, Robert raised and exhibited Abyssinians, American Blacks, and Peruvian broken colors in 4-H and ARBA sanctioned shows. He became a member of the ACBA in January 1975.

Robert's first ARBA Convention was in Tucson in 1979. He has raised and won three ARBA Convention Best in Show winners. His first was at the 1994 Convention in Tulsa with a Silkie, again at the 1996 ARBA Convention

in Peoria with a Peruvian, and the third was with his show partner Janet Brady at the 1999 convention in Louisville with their Abyssinian.

Robert became a cavy registrar in 2000 and later a licensed ARBA cavy judge in 2006. Robert has judged all over the United States, and has been asked to Canada as well. He has had the honor of judging the 2008 ACBA Specialty in Idaho, and is slated to judge the 2013 Specialty in Orlando. In 2011, Robert judged the ARBA National Convention, and received the honor of selecting Open Best in Show.

Robert served as editor of Grand Canyon State Cavy Club's newsletter *Coat & Crown* from late 2003 to mid 2007. He didn't know it at the time he took over his club's local newsletter, but former *Coat & Crown* editor Teri Leach was preparing him to follow her as editor of the ACBA's *JACBA* as well. Upon Teri's retirement in 2005 (and with some arm-twisting), he took on the major task of ACBA Editor that fall. Finding he did not have the time to fulfill both positions, Robert let go of his local post and continued on with *JACBA*. Robert has now completed his 7<sup>th</sup> full year as the ACBA Editor.

Even before taking in the job as editor, Robert was most helpful to the *ACBA Journal* and *JACBA* throughout the 1990's and 2000's by submitting many photographs and articles to our past ACBA editors, including the Armstrong's, the Ingersoll's, and Teri Leach.

Robert puts in many, many hours working on the newsletter. He is a perfectionist and it shows in his work. Robert makes numerous contacts to people who submit articles, just to double check all is made clear. Robert sends out notices to all the board members as well as all the committees, to remind them of the time frame for their information for the *JACBA*. This is not always an easy task to get people to respond in a timely manner.

After receiving all the information and articles etc., he spends many nights editing and formatting all the information to make for a top notch newsletter. All together Robert spends over 100-plus hours an issue of his dedicated time.

In the past, Robert has also served his local Pima County 4-H club as a member, leader, and more recently as a judge, educating the youth all he could about the cavies.

Along these lines, Robert has served on the ARBA Continuing Education Committee as well as serving on the ARBA Cavy Subcommittee, and has spoken at numerous ARBA Cavy Judges Conferences. Robert has helped prepare numerous PowerPoint presentations for other speakers. He has contributed many articles to ARBA that have been printed in *Domestic Rabbits*.

Another contribution he provides is judging many shows for his local Arizona club gratis to keep the club financially stable.

He has helped clubs, like the Ontario Cavy Club, to produce their convention catalog one year, and currently serves upon two of their committees.

Robert and his show partner Janet Brady have provided many nice animals in numerous breeds and varieties all over the country to help other breeders add to their herd and maintain interest in cavies. Today Robert still has his Abyssinians, Americans, and a few long coats.

One of his favorite cavy hobbies is photography. As many of us know, he enjoys getting his share of some unique photos of many exhibitors; but in all seriousness, he has attended many ACBA Specialties as well as ARBA Conventions just to help out where he can, and take some wonderful winning pictures for the *JACBA*.

For his continuation of serving the ACBA as a positive ambassador to the cavy fancy, we are proud to have Robert Spitzer join the ranks of the ACBA Hall of Fame.



Robert with Jim Hupp, Alice, the Queen of Hearts, and the Mad Hatter