

Hello fellow rabbit fanciers,

I've received requests to write something about showing Cashmere Lops, so after a few days contemplation on the subject here it is . . .

What came first to mind about exhibiting Cashmeres was **patience** and then when you almost lose heart you will need to summon up the rest of your reserves of **patience**. Now you are wondering what on earth I'm talking about! Well **impatient** ones, I am talking about their coat! That elusive dense undercoat overlaid with heavy and even guard hairs that should be 3.81 to 5.08 centimetres (1½ to 2 inches) long, unmatted or felted, sparkling with good health and vitality. If your Cashmeres are not in the best of coat and presented on the show table the 30 points delegated to coat will surely be penalized.

Kittens, juniors and young adults tend to go through various minor to drastic moults and frankly, Cashmere Lops generally look their best when they are a few years old. Sometimes I have been devastated when brushing and preparing kittens before handing over to new owners. When, they drop most of their baby coats they can end up looking more like Mexican Hairless Lops! I simply cannot let them leave home in their shameful nakedness until the coat grows to at least cover most of their hairless skin. It happens. Some will drop the coat in seemingly one fell swoop; at least theoretically, the new coat should grow back evenly.

Other moults start the process at the back of the neck and this usually coincides as well at the base of the rump. then ever so slowly works its way up, across and eventually all over the entire body.

'Blinky Bill' has a moult
petticoat!
(patiently waiting for removal)



Thorough grooming is a must, as there is no point in leaving a dead coat on, which could end up matted and restricting the new coat from coming through. A small carding brush, a steel flea comb or nit comb (not that they have fleas and nits), olive oil for dry spots and plucking will do the job. Be sure not to overlook fur blobs in tails, feet, between legs, and give a good going over around neck and chest areas.

As for type, I find if I select kits between four to six weeks of age closely evaluating for boofy head, compact body, wide ears (not folded) and hopefully lopped (resting close to the eye), I can fairly predict in their maturity they'll turn out to be nice adults. If a kit has guard hairs instead of cotton wool type of coat all the better – though keep in mind that colours especially dilutes tend to have softer coats anyway.

From then on, you **patiently** wait, ignoring their teenage gangly stage right up to the developed adult in their prime whose head, shoulders, bone structure and coat comes into its own. Mini Cashmere Lops are simply smaller replicas of the standard size and weigh no more than 1.587 kg (3 ½ lbs)

Finally, the Cashmere Lops is a breed I highly recommend for their lovely docile personalities. Most of them quickly learn to trust and seek affection from those strange humanoids – yes us! Rarely would they dream of attacking someone's neck, fingers or toes as some less fortunate people have experienced with other breeds.

All the best in rabbit showing and enjoy heaps of bunny cuddles!

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