

Minutes of the Meeting of 7th October 2017, held at Over Whitacre Village Hall, Warwickshire.

In Attendance: Bryan Mayoh (Chairman), Carol Payne (Secretary, after Item 1a), Aaron Barnicott (RVCC), Tony Cooke (NFTCC), Steve Davies (ESCC), Amy Heale (NACC), Fred Holmes (DRCC), Nikki Matthews (CSCC), Rex Matthews (RCC), Simon Neesam (ACC), Tony O'Neill (ESCC), Don Payne (CCC), Joan Phillips (PVCC), Ken Phillips (NTWCC), Pam Ramsden (RVCC), Ian Reynolds (TCC), Allan Trigg (DCC), Peter Wardman (NHCC).

N.B. As has become customary, these Minutes are largely confined to documenting the rationale and content of the decisions reached. All decisions reported in regard to breed status, standards or guidance notes will take effect from 1st January 2018.

1. Meeting Administration

- a) **Election of Secretary:** The Chairman expressed his thanks to the former Secretary, Mrs Alston, for her hard work and commitment over a number of years. He advised the Council that Mrs Payne had agreed to take over the role, although she was willing to stand aside should any of those present wish to offer themselves instead. With the expected number doing so, Mrs Payne was unanimously elected as Secretary and welcomed to the Council.
- b) **Apologies for Absence:** All Clubs were fully represented so none required.
- c) **Minutes of the Meeting of 8th October 2016:** The Minutes had previously been agreed as a true record before being published in CAVIES.
- d) **Matters Arising from the Meeting held on 8th October 2016** (not otherwise on the Agenda): None.
- e) **Chairman's Opening Remarks:** The Chairman welcomed Councillors to the Meeting, particularly those that were attending for the first time. He was pleased that all Clubs were represented, this being a recognition of the important matters dealt with by the Council. Today these would largely concern submissions from the RVCC; but there would also be discussion of whether it was still appropriate to maintain certain Full or Guide Standards that were agreed in an era when there was far less scrutiny of these matters than is required today.

2. Administration of BCC

- a) **Financial Report:** The Chairman presented the Financial Report for 2016 prepared by Mrs Alston, which indicated a small excess of income over expenditure and a C/F Balance of £1,335.64. The general position was that the most significant expenditure, on the website, prefix certificates and the costs of the annual meeting, were offset by income from prefix registrations. So long as this continued to be the case then some of the funds held might be used to support other activities in the cavy fancy at large, should the Council identify appropriate opportunities.
- b) **Prefix Scheme** –Mr Trigg reported that, in contrast to the previous year, the level of prefix registrations was below the usual running rate. This might produce a shortage of income over expenditure this year.
- c) **Website** - Mr Neesam had already circulated his annual plea for breed articles for the website. It appeared that some that he had identified as 'missing due to inaction'

had actually been provided to him, whilst others were available in past copies of CAVIES should someone make the effort to retype them. The major omissions appeared to be in regard to breeds supported by the RVCC. The Representatives of this Club agreed to ensure that the necessary action was taken.

Mr Neesam will issue an updated list of the breeds that are apparently deemed unworthy of publicity even by their own Specialist Clubs. It was also agreed that the links from the BCC website to that for the NCC will be improved to make it easier for prospective new fanciers to find out about shows in their area.

3a. Breed Club Responsibilities

The Chairman suggested that the increasing number of standardised (or likely to be standardised) breeds is creating a situation in which, when many are catered for by their own Specialist Clubs, the fact that more breeds are spread amongst a virtually static number of breeders has adverse consequences on Club Membership levels, the appeal and financial viability of Club Stock Shows, and the numbers of people willing and able to help run Specialist Clubs.

He therefore suggested yet again that both the viability and vibrancy of several Specialist Clubs might be enhanced by their catering for breeds with similar characteristics, perhaps by amalgamation of some Clubs. Amongst the possibilities are: (short-term) Rex & Teddy to form 'Rex & Teddy CC'; Peruvian Varieties & Sheltie Varieties to form 'Peruvian & Longhaired Varieties CC'; Crested to become 'Crested & Satin CC'; (longer-term) Himalayan to acquire Californian; Fox & Tan to acquire Chinchilla; T/W to acquire other Patched Varieties.

Such possibilities are to be left to the Clubs concerned to ponder, with perhaps even lower expectations of success than for Mr Neesam's annual plea for breed articles.

3b. Liason with National Cavy Club (NCC)

It was agreed that the Council will nominate three Councillors to hold discussions with a similar number of NCC representatives in order to come up with ideas that might benefit the cavy fancy as a whole. In addition to two items suggested by the NCC (these being the education and selection of judges and the definition of appropriate welfare standards for cavies) such discussions will also cover the vital matter of how to attract new cavy fanciers. Amongst the possibilities aired in respect of the latter are improved interaction with the public at agricultural shows and encouraging pet owners to visit local shows to have their cavies assessed by a judge and to discuss health problems, breeding possibilities, showing possibilities etc.

Councillors were asked to submit ideas on any of these matters to the Chairman and notify him should they have an interest in participating in BCC / NCC discussions.

4. Breed Standards

4a. Satins: Points for Satinisation

It was agreed unanimously that, in all Satin Breed Standards, Satinisation should count for 20 rather than the present 30 points, Mr Neesam having suggested that the colour of the cavy rather than its individual quality defines so much of the observed satinisation that 30 points is excessive for this single feature. The 20 points for satinisation in Satins then becomes the same as for the crest in Cresteds.

It was further agreed unanimously that the Points Allocation for the remaining features in Solid Satins would be 25 points for Head, Eyes & Ears (vs 30 in Selves), 25 points for Body Shape (as in Selves), 15 points for Colour (vs 30 in Selves since no exact shade is required in Satins and the necessary gloss is provided by satinisation) and 15 points for Coat. The latter is appropriate since, whilst satinisation gives the required silky texture, it also produces a tendency for various coat faults. Accordingly, the Coat requirements in Satins will include the stipulation: “To be straight and free of waves, swirls, skirts, flicks or woolly feel.”

In **Satin Non-Selves** the 30 points presently mentioned would simply change to 20, with the other 80 being allocated in the same proportion as the normal breed standards, other than Satin Cresteds where 20 would go to satinisation, 20 to crest and the remaining 60 allocated in the same proportion as the normal breed standards

4b. Agoutis: Colour of Lemon and Cream Agoutis

There has been a degree of controversy in regard to the judging of Lemon & Cream Agoutis, which respectively have black and chocolate base colour ticked with lemon / cream, in that colour variations exist in the shade of cream in the latter in particular, with some judges looking for a shade approximating to that of the Self Cream and others less emphatic on this point.

It was agreed unanimously that the Agouti and Solid Agouti Standards should make it clear that the exact shade of lemon / cream is irrelevant; it may be pale, medium or dark so long as it is clearly lighter than buff. The following note will therefore be added to the Colour Descriptions in the Standards: “In Lemon and Cream Agoutis, which are based on a combination of black or chocolate base colour with lemon / cream ticking, the specific shade of lemon / cream is immaterial so long as it is lighter than buff.”

4c. Argente: Description of Coat Appearance, Status as Full or Guide Standard

The Council had asked the RVCC to review this breed and consider whether the requirements for Coat Appearance in the Standard, referring to ‘a shimmering, shot-silk effect’, represented the most appropriate guide to judging it. The Club considered this request and concluded that, since the Argente is genetically a Pink-Eyed Agouti, it would be more appropriate to remove the ‘shimmering, shot-silk’ phrase and instead use the Agouti wording calling for ‘sharp, level ticking that is even all over the body.’

However, a review of the leading Argentes of the present time has indicated that, if these cavies are ticked rather than tipped, then this is not obvious; this has cast doubt on the precise wording to describe Coat Appearance and indeed whether Full Standard status is presently appropriate for this breed.

Several members of the Council shared the view of the RVCC that it is both possible and desirable to develop the Argente towards the same requirements as sought by the Agouti Standard, so that there is no doubt about the viability of the breed itself or of the required Standard. However, it was felt that the breed would benefit from a period in which the rather less precise requirements appropriate to a Guide Standard are applied, until such time as it is demonstrated that the desired ‘sharp, level ticking’ is being achieved in the best examples of the breed.

Therefore, it was agreed unanimously, that the interests of the Argente will be best served by its being returned to Guide Standard pro tem, with the Coat Appearance

revised to require ‘an agouti-like effect that is level and even all over the body, including around the eyes and on the chest and feet’.

A note will be appended to the Guide Standard stating that it is the Council’s intention that once it is demonstrated that this is achievable, any Full Standard for the Argente will require the same sharp, level ticking as specified for the Agouti.

Following a recommendation by the NACC it was further agreed unanimously that slate-based ticked cavies will be regarded as Argente not Agouti as previously. The Chairman failed to suppress the temptation to point out that this is what he had argued for in the first place.

4d. Chinchilla: Modification of Guide Standard

The RVCC had consulted Chinchilla breeders in order to clarify the distinction between Chinchillas (based on black or chocolate base colour with white or cream ticking) and the corresponding Agoutis. Fundamentally, the differences arise because Chinchillas have two dominant Agouti genes, AA, and Agoutis only one, being Aa.

This produces much longer ticking on the Chinchilla, shown by a significantly wider band of light colour on individual hairs, which on most of the body are composed of base colour that is paler near the skin but darkens towards the ticked area, a band of white or cream ticking, followed by a dark tip of base colour. Areas of tipped hairs also create white or cream markings around the eyes; in the nostril area; on the jowls, chest, belly and forelimbs of the cavy; and these are generally similar to those found in the Fox and Otter.

Selection to emphasise these characteristics has produced a cavy that has a lighter base colour than the corresponding Agouti, with agouti-type body markings caused by the ‘banding’ of lighter colour; and with pronounced areas of light markings.

The Chinchilla, being homozygous for the agouti gene, is true breeding; and Agouti breeders should be cautious of describing it as ‘a bad Agouti’ since the description could more legitimately be used by Chinchilla breeders of the Agouti itself. Golden-based ‘Chinchillas’ have been shown in NEB classes, but since many Golden Agoutis are themselves homozygous for Agouti (not producing ‘Dilutes’), these are more appropriately termed ‘bad Agoutis’ and they are discouraged by the RVCC.

The revised Guide Standard proposed by the NACC was approved, with the exceptions that (1) The word ‘peppered’ suggested to describe the body markings was not thought helpful by most Councillors, who believe that the phrase ‘long ticked’ is much more likely to be understood by non-specialist judges and thus afford the Chinchilla the best chance of being judged properly; (2) Mention should be made of an unticked area of lighter markings on the inside of the feet.

The agreed changes to the Guide Standard are therefore:

Body Colour

The Body colour is created by individual hairs consisting of:

- (1) a base colour that is wider and paler nearest to the skin, followed by
- (2) a band of darker base colour;
- (3) a white or cream band narrower than the combined bands of base colour;
- (4) a very small tip of dark base colour.

The desired hair characteristics should give Body Colour consisting of a muted, pastel shade and an even, long-ticked appearance.

Belly should be white or cream with no base colour showing through.

Base colour should be paler than on the corresponding Agouti without losing

clarity of markings and the desired pigmentation of eyes, ears and pads.

Markings	To have pronounced and clearly defined white or cream markings as eye circles; around the nostril area; on the jowls, chest, belly and an area around the forelimbs extending from the belly. Belly should be wide enough that it is just visible when viewed from the side. Feet to be ticked, other than for a lighter area on the inside, and should match the body colour.
White/Grey (Silver)	Medium grey base with a darker band, then a white band with darker (grey) tipping. White markings. Eyes dark with a hint of ruby. Ears and Pads grey.
Cream/Grey (Lemon)	Medium grey base with a darker band, then a cream band with darker (grey) tipping. Cream markings. Eyes dark with a hint of ruby. Ears and Pads grey.
White/Chocolate (Cinnamon)	Light chocolate base with a darker band, then a white band with darker (choc.) tipping. White markings. Eyes ruby. Ears and Pads pink / light chocolate.
Cream/Chocolate (Cream)	Light chocolate base with a darker band, then a cream band with darker (choc.) tipping. Cream markings. Eyes ruby. Ears and Pads pink / light chocolate.

4e. Tricolours, Bicolours, Harlequins & Magpies: Revised Guide Standards

Last year the Council agreed that Tricolours and Bicolours would be returned to Guide Standard and that the RVCC would review what might be the ideal wording for these Guide Standards. It was agreed by a majority of the Council that some modification from the strict requirements imposed by following the T/W Standard might encourage more breeders to attempt what are undoubtedly difficult and challenging breeds.

The RVCC had accepted the Chairman's subsequent recommendation that the principles underpinning these modified Guide Standards should be (1) To have the Guide Standard describe the required features in approximate order of importance; (2) Maintain the same general model as laid down for the T/W but emphasise which are essentials of the breeds and which are the 'all other things being equal' deciding factors; (3) To apply similar Guide Standards to the Harlequin and Magpie.

The Council debated the RVCC proposal carefully and it was finally agreed that the key requirements for the Guide Standards for the Tricolour, the Bicolour (of which the Tortoiseshell is now logically defined as a black / red example rather than a breed in its own right), the Harlequin and the Magpie are, in order of importance:

1. The coat pattern should consist of clear and distinct patches with no intermixing of colours (other than the intermixed patches that represent one of the three 'colours' in Harlequins & Magpies).
2. The cavy should have patches of generally rectangular shape arranged on opposite sides of the body, ideally around a line running roughly down the centre.
3. There should be similar amounts of the three (two for Bicolour) colours on the body, distributed in patches of similar size.
4. All three colours should be visible from each side of the cavy.
5. At least two colours should be visible on the head.
6. All three colours should be visible on the belly.

It was further agreed that the first three factors are of greater significance than the last three, such that the points allocation for an eventual Full Standard might read (1) to (3): 15 points each; (4) to (6): 5 points each, totalling the expected 60 for Markings.

The intention of this change is **not** to make it easier to achieve the Standard but to clarify to judges the relative importance of the various factors, and so improve the judging of breeds with complex requirements that are rarely if ever achieved.

The Chairman expressed the wish that one day, perhaps after easier problems such as achieving world peace, universal prosperity and Brexit have been solved, the NTWCC might consider adopting this same wording and points allocations.

4f. Californian: Transfer to Guide Standard for Specified Colours

Although the Californian can be found in many combinations of colours (black, chocolate, slate, lilac and beige points with red, golden, buff, cream and white body colour in standardised colours alone), the Council unanimously agreed the RVCC proposal to transfer to Guide Standard only those colour combinations that are considered the most promising. These have Black or Chocolate points in combination with body colour of Red / DE Golden, Buff, DE Cream and DE White. The eye colour of the latter must be manifestly darker than that found in Himalayans so as to avoid any confusion between the breeds.

The points of the Californian are similar to those on Himalayans, although smut is likely to be rounder (oval rather than pear-shaped). However, at this stage of the breed's development it is already evident that similar if not identical characteristics can be expected, and this is reflected in the agreed Guide Standard.

At present it appears that the best U/5s are homozygous for the californian gene and the best adults are heterozygous, so that it is unlikely that a good U/5 will become a good adult and vice versa. Whilst smut is generally good, more selection for quality of feet is required in order for the breed to progress further.

It is not yet known whether a small clump of dark hairs above the ears is a slight fault or is inevitable with well-marked Californians. Until it is, judges are advised to disregard this.

4g. Ridgeback: Modification to Guidance Notes

Last year the Council agreed that the Ridgeback be transferred to NEB status and asked the RVCC to consider how the Guidance Notes might be strengthened to emphasise rather more factors than the cavy's having a ridge along with other features of far lesser importance. Having met with interested breeders the Club had proposed enhancements to the Guidance Notes that require the colour to conform to Self, Agouti or Argente specifications and specify that there must be no rosettes.

In order to ease the transition from a situation in which colour was irrelevant to one in which it is significant, the Notes ask judges to disregard small patches (less than a £1 coin) of incorrect colour for an initial period of two years, after which this will be reviewed. The Notes continue to stress the vital importance of the quality of the ridge. In addition it was suggested that the Notes should specifically allow 'a circular pattern of hair on the back of the foot'. The Council agreed these Guidance Notes.

4h. Belted: Transfer to NEB Status

In its ongoing review of Guide Standard breeds the RVCC had noted that the Belted has made little progress in 10 years, with the few examples seen falling significantly below the requirements of the Guide Standard. It therefore recommended that the breed be redesignated as NEB, although it could identify no improvements to its Guidance Notes that might help its viability. Accordingly, there is a real possibility that, unless significantly more and better examples are seen at RVCC shows, it may be regarded as potentially unviable. The Council unanimously agreed this recommendation.

4i. MiniPli: Transfer to NEB Status

The Council's views on this breed last year caused a great deal of controversy; and trying to understand precisely what it is and what it is meant to look like has involved considerable effort since that time. It now seems that in conventional genetic terms the MiniPli is a 'longhaired' cavy, since it has the required **major** genes (ll) to produce a long coat. However, it was originally created from longhairs in Europe that we would consider to be poor examples; and it has subsequently been bred to have a shorter (mid-length) coat that grows more slowly and is weaker than 'normal' longhairs, with a much shorter frontal (fringe) and weaker chops.

Accordingly it is likely to have minor genes that 'tone down' the longhaired characteristics (as opposed to the minor genes that are selected for in other longhairs so as to emphasise them). It also has homozygous (two) Lunkarya curly genes, giving it corkscrew curls all over the body, and two rex genes (originally derived from Alpaca), which are said to produce tighter curls than on the Lunkarya, these also being assisted by the cavy's having a softer coat. On this genetic basis the MiniPli should breed 'true' within the limits imposed by the variability in its minor genes.

So, compared with the Lunkarya it has tighter curls, a softer coat and considerably less length of coat on body, frontal and chops. Its shorter coat, corkscrew curls and the difficulty in maintaining any form of parting make it different from the Alpaca.

The Council considered certain issues in regard to this breed. One is that its major genes define it as a longhair but it is required to have minor genes that cause its coat to be shorter / weaker than in other longhairs. If it were crossed to these it would produce offspring somewhere in between the two, appearing to be too long in coat to MiniPli breeders and too short to Longhair breeders; so that back-crossing these would introduce undesirable characteristics into both breeds. Therefore, **MiniPlis should not be crossed with other Longhair breeds.**

A second issue is that, when assessing MiniPlis, judges have to tell themselves that many of the features that they have been taught to look for in a good longhair are bad in a MiniPli, and vice versa.

Both of these issues may affect the MiniPli's long-term potential, but the Council's view was that **the issue under review was a move to NEB status, not Full Standard or even Guide Standard.** NEB classes should allow ongoing review of how well, or not, the breed is meeting its objectives and whether it could be the 'interesting and desirable' addition to the cavy fancy that a new breed is required to be. The argument put forward by MiniPli breeders is that it can be exactly that, since it is aimed to appeal to people that like longer-coated pigs but lack the time, skills or inclination to keep normal longhairs in full coat.

The Council therefore accepted unanimously the RVCC's recommendation that the MiniPli be transferred to NEB status with the Guidance Notes recommended following

the Assessment process. As for all NEB cavies the RVCC will continue to monitor its development carefully over the next few years to determine whether or not it fulfils the requirement to become a distinct, desirable and worthwhile addition to the cavy fancy.

In summary, the NEB Guidance Notes state that the MiniPli is a genetically longhaired cavy selected to have weaker, slower-growing, mid-length coat with a short frontal (known as the fringe), short chops, plus profuse corkscrew curls all over the body caused by Lunkarya curly genes, the curls being tighter than on the Lunkarya due both to a softer coat and the presence of rex genes derived from Alpaca.

4j. Potentially Unviable Breeds

The **Brindle** and the **Sable** are breeds that have in the past been exhibited in reasonable numbers, the former as a Full Standard cavy and the latter as a Guide Standard / NEB. However, very few examples of these breeds approaching the stated requirements have been sighted in recent years, so that there are significant doubts about the viability of the Full Standards / Guide Standards / Guidance Notes previously agreed. Similar comments apply to the **Sable Fox**, save that few such examples have ever been sighted.

Accordingly, the Council unanimously accepted the RVCC recommendation that Guide Standards or Guidance Notes for these breeds be withdrawn and that examples of the breeds must be presented for RVCC Assessment before they can be shown competitively. Because of prior knowledge of these breeds, the RVCC may, after conducting such a process, choose to recommend a 'fast-track' process of moving to Guide Standard status immediately rather than NEB.

4k. Definition of Breeds as Guide Standard, NEB or Unrecognised

As new breeds with different genetic features continue to appear, it becomes increasingly difficult to determine the class(es) in which a breed with a complex combination of features should be entered, or indeed whether it can be entered in any at all. For example, is a Satin Crested Slate/Golden Californian a Guide Standard, NEB or totally unrecognised cavy?

The following guidelines, designed to answer such questions, were proposed by the Chairman and, after careful consideration by the Council, agreed unanimously:

- (I) The only breeds that may be shown in **Guide Standard** classes are those for which a specific Guide Standard has been agreed by the Council.
- (II) The only breeds that may be shown in **New / Emerging Breed** classes are those for which specific NEB Guidance Notes have been agreed by the Council, or that are unrecognised (but with Full or Guide Standard status) *colour or ticking variants* of Full or Guide-Standard Non-Self breeds.
- (III) If the cavy is anything other than a Full Standard, Guide Standard or NEB as defined above, it may only be shown in **RVCC Assessment or Pet** classes.

A more precise version, agreed as replacing the rather complex statements presently contained within the Council's Standards, is:

DEFINITION OF BREEDS AS GUIDE STANDARD, NEW / EMERGING OR UNRECOGNISED PENDING ASSESSMENT

- (1) The only breeds that may be shown in **Guide Standard** classes are those for which a specific Guide Standard has been agreed by the Council. At present these consist of: **Self** - Blue; **Ticked** - Normal and Solid Argente (with slate, lilac or beige base colour and golden, buff, cream or white ticking / tipping); **Marked Pattern** - Californian (with black or chocolate points and red, golden, buff, cream or white body colour), Chinchilla (with grey or chocolate base and cream or white banding); **Marked** - Tricolour, Bicolour, Harlequin, Magpie (in specified colours); **Semi-Longhair** - Swiss (any colour); **Longhair** - Lunkarya (any colour).
- (2) In addition to breeds for which detailed NEB Guidance Notes have been defined (consisting of Caramel; Belted, with black body and white belt; Ridgeback, in Self, Agouti or Argente colours; MiniPli in any colour); a cavy containing a Self colour or an Agouti or Argente pattern that has a Full or Guide Standard, but belonging to a Non-Self variety whose Full or Guide Standard does **not** recognise that particular colour / pattern, is deemed to be a **New / Emerging Breed**. The general requirements will be as stated in the Full or Guide Standard for the Non-Self variety but with colour requirements as in the Full or Guide Standard of the specific Self, Agouti or Argente. Examples might be American Crested Agouti, Crested Argente, Slate/Golden Californian, Blue/White Californian, Blue Dalmation, (true) Blue Roan etc.
- (3) A new colour variation of a Self cavy (e.g. the partial or full pink-eyed versions of the Self Blue, or Self versions of the blue-dilution gene with red or chocolate base colour) will be treated as an '**Unrecognised Breed Pending Assessment**' until such time as Guidance Notes for the colour are agreed.
- (4) Likewise, a Non-Self cavy (other than Solid Satin) containing a colour that as a Self would be regarded either as a 'New and Emerging Breed' or as an 'Unrecognised Breed Pending Assessment' will be treated as an '**Unrecognised Breed Pending Assessment**', since efforts should first be concentrated on defining the colour to at least Guide Standard level.
- (5) A Non-Self cavy containing a combination of features that are likely to interact in an inappropriate or unpredictable way will be treated as an '**Unrecognised Breed Pending Assessment**' (although in many cases the term 'Pet' might be more appropriate).

Examples of such combinations are:

- Crested versions of rough or harsh coated Non-Self varieties such as Abyssinian, Rex, Teddy, Lunkarya or Swiss;
- Combinations of Marked and / or Marked Pattern varieties, e.g. T/W Dalmation;
- Satin versions of Coated varieties other than Crested, e.g. Satin Abyssinian, Satin Rex, Satin Peruvian, Satin Sheltie.

Before being shown in competition any '**Unrecognised Breed Pending Assessment**' must be presented to an Assessment Process supervised by the RVCC for the purpose of defining Guidance Notes for those varieties considered to have the possibility of progressing to Full Standard.

In normal circumstances a Guide Standard variety that has not demonstrated its suitability to progress to Full Standard within five years will be returned to New / Emerging Breed status for re-evaluation by the Rare Varieties Cavy Club.

Likewise, a New / Emerging Breed that has not demonstrated its suitability to progress to Guide Standard within five years may be removed from New / Emerging Breed status pending further assessment by the Rare Varieties Cavy Club.

It was agreed that, after initial uncertainty during the ‘bedding-in’ process, the Assessment Process had ultimately worked well in the case of the MiniPli. Future Assessments will all be arranged by the RVCC. Most of these will be held at RVCC Shows involving RVCC judges and officials, but a formal Assessment will be required prior to any recommendation to the Council to move a breed to NEB status. Where possible this will involve Council representatives from other Clubs. It was agreed that the RVCC will explain and publicise this process.

The **principal changes** within these Guidelines from those existing presently are that

- At present an unrecognised **Full- or Guide-Standard colour variant of a Full-Standard breed** is itself regarded as having a Guide Standard. However, these classes are intended for specific varieties considered by the Council to have the potential to reach Full Standard, not as a ‘catch-all’ for unrecognised variants of Full Standard breeds, so henceforth such cavies will be regarded as NEBs.
- **Agouti variants** of colours recognised within a Non-Self Standard or Guide Standard breed will be treated in the same way as Self variants, i.e. as NEBs. The omission of these appears to be an anomaly in the existing Notes.
- Because satinisation affects coat quality in a fundamental way, **Satin variants of Coated breeds** other than Crested will not have either Guide Standard (as they do at present) or NEB status.
- In order to encourage breeders to concentrate on developing the most important features of a new breed, rather than being ‘sidetracked’ into variations that are unlikely to help this end, **Satin or Crested variants of Guide Standard breeds** will not have any status other than as defined by the above rules, i.e. they will not be regarded as Guide Standard unless specifically defined as such.

Potentially attractive colour variants that can be shown in NEB classes are the Blue variants of Silver Agouti, Lemon Agouti, Fox, Otter, Dalmation and Roan; Silver or Cinnamon Agouti Himalayans; and American Crested Agoutis. The alternative to relying on such a general ‘colour or ticking variant’ stipulation is to define Guide Standards or NEB guidance for each specific variety. The approach of allowing ‘colour/ticking variants’ was agreed as being the option that is simplest to implement and easier for judges to remember. However, this comes with the risk that some varieties that might be considered ‘undesirable’ (e.g. buff versions of Agouti or red/golden versions of ‘Chinchilla’) are then regarded as having NEB status, but this is considered to be the lesser of two evils.

4l. Appropriateness of Standards for Crested and Satin Marked Varieties

English Crested versions of all Full Standard smooth, short-coated varieties were themselves recognised as having Full Standards in the early days of the Council, when time pressures for meetings held at shows meant that there was far less consideration of such decisions than there is today. Amongst the breeds recognised as ‘Standardised’ in this way were Crested versions of Marked Pattern breeds such as Himalayan, which have achieved some popularity and success, and of Marked breeds such as Tort & White, which have not.

When the Satin was recognised as Full Standard the same procedure was followed. In neither case was there discussion of whether these breeds were ‘interesting and desirable additions to the cavy fancy’; but the minimal impact of Crested and Satin

Marked Varieties over the years has perhaps answered the question more clearly than even protracted debate would have. Perhaps such varieties are difficult enough to breed to a high standard without further complexities introduced by the need to consider qualities of crest and satinisation.

The Council considered that, given the difficulties of breeding good examples of Marked Varieties (T/W, Dutch, Dalmaton, Roan) in any case, it is undesirable to encourage fanciers to produce satinised or crested variants of these by allowing them Full Standard status, and no adverse effect on the cavy fancy would be caused by the withdrawal of such Standards. Therefore, the Council agreed that the Full Standards for Satin and Crested T/Ws, Dutch, Dalmations and Roans will be withdrawn and these breeds will have no formal status.

As regards Crested or Satin variants of standardised Marked Pattern Breeds (Himalayan, Tan, Fox, Otter), the difficulties of producing the desired markings are considerably reduced by normal means of selection. In addition Satin and Crested Himalayans in particular have achieved reasonable degrees of show popularity and success. Therefore, it was agreed that the existing Full Standards for these breeds would be retained, but the Standards would specify any particular considerations required of the judge by the interaction of crest / satinisation and markings.

4m. Discussion on the Progress of Other Guide Standard and Emerging Varieties

RVCC Representatives updated the Council on these breeds. The essence of their report was that:

- Lunkaryas are doing well in Guide Standard classes and may be ready for a recommendation to move to Full Standard next year. However, this view was challenged by the Chairman since many are being shown with a de facto parting in disregard of the Guide Standard developed by the Council.
- Caramels are in very few hands such that progress is being affected.
- Swiss are being shown in line with the Guide Standard in some parts of the country, although in other cases cavies are being put up with coats that are far too short and brushed forward. Exhibitors showing such cavies and judges awarding them first prizes are holding back the breed, putting off more serious breeders by such actions.

The ESCC Representatives stated that the Club will formally review the progress of the Self Blue next year in order to assess its suitability for Full Standard. At present there appears to be reasonable consistency in terms of the dark grey/blue colour sought.

5. Correspondence: Relevant correspondence was considered in previous discussions.

6. Motions of Urgency (accepted at the Chairman's discretion): None.

7. Any other business: In response to a question from Mr Holmes, the Chairman confirmed that regulations proscribing the showing of hairless / skinny cavies and identifiable Giant or Cuy cavies were contained in the 'Guidance Notes to Judges' and 'General Disqualifications' sections of the Standards.

Councillors thanked the Chairman for his diligence in preparing the Agenda and Notes for the Meeting and, more importantly, the Secretary for her efforts in preparing a splendid lunch, the quantity of which had proved beyond even Mr Davies' normally unlimited capabilities.

8. Date and location of next meeting: To be arranged.

Details of Changes to Standards

SOLID SATIN

		Points
Head, Eyes & Ears	Roman nose with good width of muzzle, squared off at the end but rounded at the corners. Eyes to be large, bright and bold and set with good width between. Ears to be large and drooping, with lower rim parallel to the ground & set with good width between.	<u>25</u>
Body Shape	To have short, cobby body with very deep, broad shoulders. Broad in body. To be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh. To have good size appropriate to age.	<u>25</u>
Satinisation	To show a distinct satin sheen that is pronounced and even on all body areas, able to 'catch' and reflect any light that is directed towards the coat.	<u>20</u>
Colour	To be of any solid colour, but to be even all over the body, although allowance must be made for the fact that shorter hair on the face and feet will reflect light differently and make colour appear darker than on the body. Undercolour to be carried well down to the skin. Pigmentation on ears, feet and nostrils to match body colour.	<u>15</u>
Coat	To be soft & silky, clean and short, groomed free of guard hairs. To be straight and free of waves, swirls, skirts, flicks or woolly feel.	<u>15</u>
COLOURS	Any solid colour is allowed, with any eye colour.	<hr/> <u>100</u>

GUIDANCE NOTES

The **Solid Satin** is a solid-coloured cavy with a satinised coat, satinisation being due to hollow hair shafts in the coat. The satin sheen of the coat is of great importance. To assess the degree and quality of the sheen, judges should handle the cavy in such a way that the coat 'catches the light' to its fullest advantage. Satinisation imparts an extra intensity to any colour, so that exact compliance with shades in other varieties should not be expected.

SPECIFIC DISQUALIFICATIONS

None

SPECIFIC FAULTS

Hairs of a different colour to be penalised according to quantity.
Areas of darker pigmentation on rims of ears to be penalised.
White toenails, except on Whites, to be penalised.

SATIN NON-SELFS

Satins may be exhibited in any of the following Non-Self varieties:

Satin Agouti and Solid Agouti

Satin Himalayan

Satin Tan

Satin Fox

Satin Otter

Satin Crested (applies to Standardised English Crested varieties)

In all cases, other than for Satin Cresteds, the Standard will consist of 20 points for Satinisation, defined as for the Solid Satin, and 80% of the points for the corresponding Non-Self variety.

For Satin Cresteds the Standard will consist of 20 points for Satinisation, defined as for the Solid Satin, 20 points for crest (formation) and 60% of the points for the corresponding **Satin** variety.

However, where the corresponding Breed Standard refers to ESCC colours, in the case of the Satin this will be taken to mean 'Any Solid Colour'.

This means that Cresteds in Guide Standard or NEB solid colours are fully standardised in their Satin versions.

The same Guidance Notes as for Solid Satins apply, as do any Guidance Notes, Specific Faults and Specific Disqualifications for the corresponding variety.

AGOUTI

		Points
Head, Eyes & Ears	Head to be short and broad, with a gently curving profile. Muzzle to be of good width and gently rounded at the nostrils. Eyes to be large, bright and bold and set with good width between. Ears to be large and drooping, with lower rim parallel to the ground & set with good width between.	<u>20</u>
Body Shape	To have short, cobby body with deep, broad shoulders. To be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh. To have good size appropriate to age.	<u>20</u>
Ticking	To have sharp, level ticking extending evenly over the head, body, chest and feet. Ticking on chest to be carried well down between the front legs. Feet to match body and chest.	<u>30</u>
Colour	Top colour to be bright and lustrous and conform with Descriptions below. Undercolour to be carried well down to the skin. Belly colour to be the same colour as the ticking colour but not ticked (to be tipped), even and with well-defined demarcation line; and to be as narrow as possible, although not at the expense of condition.	<u>20</u>
Coat	To be soft & silky, clean and short, groomed free of guard hairs.	<u>10</u>

100

DESCRIPTION OF COLOURS

Golden	Deep black undercolour with dark golden ticking. Belly to be a rich mahogany and free from brassiness. Eyes dark. Ears and Pads black. Nails to match pad colour.
Silver	Deep black undercolour with silver ticking. Belly to be a rich silver and free from whiteness. Eyes dark with a hint of ruby. Ears and Pads black. Nails to match pad colour.
Lemon	Deep black undercolour with lemon ticking. Belly to be lemon. Eyes dark with a hint of ruby. Ears and Pads black. Nails to match pad colour.
Chocolate	Deep rich chocolate undercolour with orange ticking. Belly to be a rich orange. Eyes dark with a hint of ruby. Ears and Pads chocolate. Nails to match pad colour.
Cream	Deep rich chocolate undercolour with cream ticking. Belly to be cream. Eyes dark with a hint of ruby. Ears and Pads chocolate. Nails to match pad colour.
Cinnamon	Deep rich cinnamon (milk chocolate with pinky tinge) undercolour with silver ticking. Belly to be a rich silver and free from whiteness. Eyes dark with a hint of ruby. Ears and Pads cinnamon. Nails to match pad colour.

NOTE: In Lemon and Cream Agoutis, which are based on a combination of black or chocolate base colour with lemon / cream ticking, the specific shade of lemon / cream is immaterial so long as it is lighter than buff.

GUIDANCE NOTES

The **Agouti** is a dark-eyed ticked cavy in which the ticking covers the whole of the body other than the belly.

In **judging Agoutis**, the emphasis must be on quality of ticking, colour, type and condition. Exhibits should not be unduly penalised for minor faults if they possess these qualities.

Size is very desirable, but not at the expense of cobyness or quality.

Grooming is essential to producing an even effect on the body and sides of the cavy.

Chest faults are often accompanied by poor colour and, if this is the case, should be severely penalised.

Exhibits should not be penalised for **wide belly** unless the belly colour is visible when viewed from the side.

Dark or unticked feet, although these are faults, are preferable to **light or uneven feet**.

In **U/5 exhibits** a small degree of eye circles or some unevenness on feet should not be unduly penalised, as these faults may clear as the cavy matures.

SPECIFIC DISQUALIFICATIONS

Nails and foot pads different from those specified in the Standard.

SPECIFIC FAULTS

Long in ticking, producing too light an appearance in body colour.

Circles of lighter ticking colour around the eye ('Eye circles').

Light streaks or patches on chest, body or sides.

Lightness on jowls.

Feet that are lighter or darker than the body colour, or that are odd.

White or other odd coloured hairs, to be penalised according to quantity.

SOLID AGOUTI

		Points
Head, Eyes & Ears	Head to be short and broad, with a gently curving profile. Muzzle to be of good width and gently rounded at the nostrils. Eyes to be large, bright and bold and set with good width between. Ears to be large and drooping, with lower rim parallel to the ground & set with good width between.	<u>20</u>
Body Shape	To have short, cobby body with deep, broad shoulders. To be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh. To have good size appropriate to age.	<u>20</u>
Ticking	To have sharp, level ticking extending evenly over the head, body, chest, belly and feet. Feet to match rest of cavy.	<u>30</u>
Colour	Top colour to be bright and lustrous and conform with Descriptions below. Undercolour to be carried well down to the skin. Belly colour to be ticked evenly all over, as per the body.	<u>20</u>
Coat	To be soft & silky, clean and short, groomed free of guard hairs.	<u>10</u>

DESCRIPTION OF COLOURS

Golden	Deep black undercolour with dark golden ticking. Eyes dark. Ears and Pads black. Nails to match pad colour.
Silver	Deep black undercolour with silver ticking. Eyes dark. Ears and Pads black. Nails to match pad colour.
Lemon	Deep black undercolour with lemon ticking. Eyes dark. Ears and Pads black. Nails to match pad colour.
Chocolate	Deep rich chocolate undercolour with orange ticking. Eyes ruby. Ears and Pads chocolate. Nails to match pad colour.
Cream	Deep rich chocolate undercolour with cream ticking. Eyes ruby. Ears and Pads chocolate. Nails to match pad colour.
Cinnamon	Deep rich cinnamon (milk chocolate with pinky tinge) undercolour with silver ticking. Eyes ruby. Ears and Pads cinnamon. Nails to match pad colour.

NOTE 1 The colour of the Solid Agouti is likely to appear darker than that of the corresponding 'Normal' Agouti. So long as the ticking is sharp, distinct and even, this should not be penalised.

NOTE 2 N.B. In Lemon and Cream Solid Agoutis, which are based on combinations of black or chocolate base colour with lemon / cream ticking, the specific shade of lemon / cream is immaterial so long as it is lighter than buff.

GUIDANCE NOTES

The **Solid Agouti** is a dark-eyed ticked cavy in which the ticking covers the whole of the Body, including the belly.

In **judging Solid Agoutis**, the emphasis must be on quality and evenness of ticking over the entire cavy, along with colour, type and condition.

Exhibits should not be unduly penalised for minor faults if they possess these qualities.

Size is very desirable, but not at the expense of cobbyness or quality.

Grooming is essential to producing an even effect on the body, sides and head of the cavy.

The **ticking on the feet** is likely to be less pronounced than on the rest of the body. This is a relatively minor fault.

Cinnamon Solid Agoutis often become darker with age, tending towards chocolate undercolour rather than cinnamon as in the 'Normal' Agouti. This is not a fault.

It should be noted that some Solid Agoutis are born solid in colour, and develop ticking later. Accordingly, incomplete ticking on **U/5 exhibits** should not be unduly penalised.

SPECIFIC DISQUALIFICATIONS

Nails and foot pads different from those specified in the Standard.

SPECIFIC FAULTS

Long in ticking, producing too light an appearance in body colour.

Circles of solid colour around the eye ('Eye circles').

Light streaks or patches on chest, body, belly or sides.

Lightness on jowls.

Feet that are darker than the body colour, or that are odd.

White or other odd coloured hairs, to be penalised according to quantity.

A 'shadow belly', or the impression of a belly band caused by longer ticking on the belly, is a serious fault.

ARGENTE: GUIDE STANDARD

- Head, Eyes & Ears** Head to be short and broad, with a gently curving profile.
Muzzle to be of good width and rounded at the nostrils.
Eyes to be large, bright and bold and set with good width between.
Ears to be large and drooping, with lower rim parallel to the ground & set with good width between.
- Body Shape** To have short, cobby body with deep, broad shoulders.
To be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh.
To have good size appropriate to age.
- Coat Appearance** Throughout the head, body, chest and feet the Argente should have individual hairs ticked or tipped with gold, cream or white over a base colour of beige or lilac.
This should produce an agouti-like effect that is level and even all over the body, including around the eyes and on the chest and feet.
- Colour** Top colour to be bright and lustrous and conform with Descriptions below.
Undercolour to be carried well down to the skin.
Belly colour to be the same colour as the ticking colour but not ticked (to be tipped), even and with well-defined demarcation line; and to be as narrow as possible, although not at the expense of condition.
- Coat** To be soft & silky, clean and short, groomed free of guard hairs.
- N.B. It is the Council's intention that, once it is demonstrated that this is achievable, any Full Standard for the Argente will require the same sharp, level ticking as specified for the Agouti.

DESCRIPTION OF COLOURS (Descriptions state the ticking colour first)

- Gold / Slate** Deep slate undercolour with gold ticking. Belly to be golden.
Eyes ruby. Ears slate grey. Pads slate grey.
- Gold/Lilac** Deep lilac undercolour with gold ticking. Belly to be golden.
Eyes pink. Ears pink/lilac. Pads pink.
- Gold/Beige** Deep beige undercolour with gold ticking. Belly to be golden.
Eyes pink. Ears pink/beige. Pads pink.
- Cream / Slate** Deep slate undercolour with cream ticking. Belly to be cream.
Eyes ruby. Ears slate grey. Pads slate grey.
- Cream/Lilac** Deep lilac undercolour with cream ticking. Belly to be cream.
Eyes pink. Ears pink/lilac. Pads pink.
- Cream/Beige** Deep beige undercolour with cream ticking. Belly to be cream.
Eyes pink. Ears pink/beige. Pads pink.
- White / Slate** Deep slate undercolour with white ticking. Belly to be white..
Eyes ruby. Ears slate grey. Pads slate grey.
- White/Lilac** Deep lilac undercolour with white ticking. Belly to be white.
Eyes pink. Ears pink/lilac. Pads pink.
- White/Beige** Deep beige undercolour with white ticking. Belly to be white.
Eyes pink. Ears pink/beige. Pads pink.
N.B. Bellies in Solid Agoutis to be as for body colour.

GUIDANCE NOTES

The **Argente** is a ruby- or pink-eyed ticked cavy in which the ticking covers the whole of the body other than the belly.

In **judging Argentes**, the emphasis is on quality of ticking, colour, type and condition. Exhibits should not be unduly penalised for minor faults if they possess these qualities.

Size is very desirable, but not at the expense of cobyness or quality.

Grooming is essential to producing an even effect on the body and sides of the cavy.

Chest faults are often accompanied by poor colour and, if this is the case, should be severely penalised.

Exhibits should not be penalised for **wide belly** unless the belly colour is visible when viewed from the side.

Dark or unticked feet, although these are faults, are preferable to **light or uneven feet**.

In **U/5 exhibits** a small degree of eye circles or some unevenness on feet should not be unduly penalised, as these faults may clear as the cavy matures.

SPECIFIC DISQUALIFICATIONS

None

CHINCHILLA (Guide Standard)

Head, Eyes & Ears	Head to be short and broad, with a gently curving profile. Muzzle to be of good width and gently rounded at the nostrils. Eyes to be large, bright and bold and set with good width between. Ears to be large and drooping, with lower rim parallel to the ground & set with good width between.
Body Shape	To have short, cobby body with deep, broad shoulders. To be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh. To have good size appropriate to age.
Body Colour	The Body colour is created by individual hairs consisting of: (1) a base colour that is wider and paler nearest to the skin, followed by (2) a band of darker base colour; (3) a white or cream band narrower than the two bands of base colour; (4) a very small tip of dark base colour. The desired hair characteristics should give Body Colour consisting of a muted, pastel shade and an even, long-ticked appearance. Belly should be white or cream with no base colour showing through. Base colour should be paler than on the corresponding Agouti without losing clarity of markings and the desired pigmentation of eyes, ears and pads.
Markings	To have pronounced and clearly defined white or cream markings as eye circles; around the nostril area; on the jowls, chest, belly and an area around the forelimb extending from the belly. Belly should be wide enough that it is just visible when viewed from the side. Feet to be ticked and should match the body colour.
Coat	To be soft & silky, clean and short, groomed free of guard hairs.

DESCRIPTION OF COLOURS

White / Grey (Silver)	Medium grey base with a darker band, then a white band with darker (grey) tipping. White markings. Eyes dark with a hint of ruby. Ears and Pads grey.
Cream / Grey (Lemon)	Medium grey base with a darker band, then a cream band with darker (grey) tipping. Cream markings. Eyes dark with a hint of ruby. Ears and Pads grey.
White / Chocolate (Cinnamon)	Light chocolate base with a darker band, then a white band with darker (chocolate) tipping. White markings. Eyes ruby. Ears and Pads pink / light chocolate.
Cream / Chocolate (Cream)	Light chocolate base with a darker band, then a cream band with darker (chocolate) tipping. Cream markings. Eyes ruby. Ears and Pads pink / light chocolate.

GUIDANCE NOTES: U/5 exhibits may be paler in colour than adults but must still retain the markings described. This should not be unduly penalized since it may clear as the cavy matures. Size is very desirable, but not at the expense of quality or cobbiness. Grooming is essential to produce the effect of even long-ticking on the body and sides of the cavy.

SPECIFIC FAULTS: Too dark a shade of body colour. Patches of solid white or cream hairs, except where specified. Uneven ticking. Inappropriate toenail pigmentation.

TRICOLOUR (Guide Standard)

Head, Eyes & Ears	Head to be short and broad, with a gently curving profile. Muzzle to be of good width and rounded at the nostrils. Eyes to be large, bright and bold and set with good width between. Ears to be large and drooping, and set with good width between.
Body Shape	To have short, cobby body with good width across shoulders and body. To be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh. To have good size appropriate to age.
Markings	The coat pattern should consist of clear and distinct patches with no intermixing of colours. The cavy should have patches of generally rectangular shape arranged on opposite sides of the body, ideally around a line running roughly down the centre. There should be similar amounts of the three colours on the body, distributed in patches of similar size. All three colours should be visible from each side of the cavy. At least two colours should be visible on the head. All three colours should be visible on the belly. All three colours should be visible from each side of the cavy.
Colour	Colours to conform as nearly as possible to ESCC (Self colours) or NACC (Agouti colours) Standards, although slight variations from these should not be penalised so long as colour is rich, even, of glossy sheen and carried well down to the skin to avoid any appearance of flakeyness
Coat	Eye colour to be dark or pink, as appropriate to the constituent colours. To be soft, clean and groomed free of guard hairs.
COLOURS	Tricolours may be shown in white plus any two fully standardised colours as recognised by the ESCC or NACC, with the exception of red, black and white, this being the Tort & White, and D.E. golden, black and white, which is insufficiently differentiated in colour from the Tort & White.

BICOLOUR (GUIDE STANDARD)

Head, Eyes & Ears	Head to be short and broad, with a gently curving profile. Muzzle to be of good width and rounded at the nostrils. Eyes to be large, bright and bold and set with good width between. Ears to be large and drooping, and set with good width between.
Body Shape	To have short, cobby body with good width across shoulders and body. To be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh.
Markings	To have good size appropriate to age. The coat pattern should consist of clear and distinct patches with no intermixing of colours. The cavy should have patches of generally rectangular shape arranged on opposite sides of the body, ideally around a line running roughly down the centre. There should be similar amounts of both colours on the body, distributed in patches of similar size. Both colours should be visible from each side of the cavy. Both colours should be visible on the head. Both colours should be visible on the belly.
Colour	Colours to conform as nearly as possible to ESCC (Self colours) or NACC (Agouti colours) Standards, although slight variations from these should not be penalised so long as colour is rich, even, of glossy sheen and carried well down to the skin to avoid any appearance of flakeyness
Coat	Eye colour to be dark or pink, as appropriate to the constituent colours. To be soft, clean and groomed free of guard hairs.
COLOURS	Bicolours may be shown in any two fully standardised colours as recognised by the ESCC or NACC The black / red Bicolour is known as the Tortoiseshell , one of the oldest varieties of cavy.

HARLEQUIN (Guide Standard)

- Head, Eyes & Ears** Head to be short and broad, with a gently curving profile.
Muzzle to be of good width and rounded at the nostrils.
Eyes to be large, bright and bold and set with good width between.
Ears to be large and drooping, and set with good width between.
- Body Shape** To have short, cobby body with good width across shoulders and body.
To be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh.
To have good size appropriate to age.
- Markings** The coat pattern should consist of clear and distinct patches with no intermixing of colours, other than of black and deep cream in the patches that constitute one of the 'colours'.
- The cavy should have patches of generally rectangular shape arranged on opposite sides of the body, ideally around a line running roughly down the centre.
- There should be similar amounts of the three colours (one being black / deep cream intermixing) on the body, distributed in patches of similar size.
- All three colours should be visible from each side of the cavy.
- At least two colours should be visible on the head.
- All three colours should be visible on the belly.
- Colour** Colours to be rich black and deep cream, even, with glossy sheen and carried well down.
The colours comprising the mixed patches should be as evenly mixed as possible.
Eye colour to be dark.
- Coat** To be soft, clean and groomed free of guard hairs.
- COLOURS** As well as being based on a black / cream combination, as referred to in the Guide Standard above, the Harlequin may also be based on a chocolate/ cream combination.
- IMPORTANT NOTE** In using the word 'colours' in this Standard, this refers both to the black (or chocolate) and deep cream colours and to the patches of black (or chocolate)/ deep cream mixing.

SPECIFIC DISQUALIFICATIONS

Patches of white hairs anywhere on the cavy.

MAGPIE (Guide Standard)

Head, Eyes & Ears	Head to be short and broad, with a gently curving profile. Muzzle to be of good width and rounded at the nostrils. Eyes to be large, bright and bold and set with good width between. Ears to be large and drooping, and set with good width between.
Body Shape	To have short, cobby body with good width across shoulders and body. To be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh. To have good size appropriate to age.
Markings	<p>The coat pattern should consist of clear and distinct patches with no intermixing of colours, other than of black and white in the patches that constitute one of the 'colours'.</p> <p>The cavy should have patches of generally rectangular shape arranged on opposite sides of the body, ideally around a line running roughly down the centre.</p> <p>There should be similar amounts of the three colours (one being black / white intermixing) on the body, distributed in patches of similar size.</p> <p>All three colours should be visible from each side of the cavy.</p> <p>At least two colours should be visible on the head.</p> <p>All three colours should be visible on the belly.</p>
Colour	Colours to be rich black and bright white, even, with glossy sheen and carried well down. The colours comprising the mixed patches should be as evenly mixed as possible. Eye colour to be dark.
Coat	To be soft, clean and groomed free of guard hairs.
COLOURS	Black, white and black / white mixture. Chocolate, white and chocolate / white mixture.

IMPORTANT NOTE In using the word 'colours' in this Standard, this refers both to the black (or chocolate) and white colours and to the patches of black (or chocolate)/white mixing.

SPECIFIC DISQUALIFICATIONS: Patches of cream hairs anywhere on the cavy.

CALIFORNIAN

Head, Eyes & Ears	Head to be short and broad, with a gently curving profile. Muzzle to be of good width and rounded at the nostrils. Eyes to be large, bright and bold and set with good width between. Ears to be large and drooping with lower rim parallel to the ground, and set with good width between.
Body Shape	To have short, cobby body with good width across shoulders and body. To be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh. To have good size appropriate to age.
Markings (Points) of which	To consist of even, sharply defined dark points on face, ears and feet with clear demarcation from the body colour.
Smut	To be prominent, oval-shaped, and carried well up between but not above the eyes. To be intensely coloured black or rich milk chocolate.
Ears	To be intensely coloured black or rich milk chocolate, dense to the base.
Feet	To be an even and intensely coloured black or rich milk chocolate; sharply defined, with colour carried well up the legs to just beyond the hock joint, also covering the nails and pads.
Colour (of body)	To correspond to ESCC Red, DE Golden, Buff, DE Cream or DE White, with similar eye colour. As free from body pigment (stain) as possible. N. B. It is not yet established whether a small clump of black or chocolate hairs above the ears is inevitable with well-marked examples, so these should be disregarded until this is known.
Coat	To be soft & silky, clean and groomed free of guard hairs.

GUIDANCE NOTES:

The Californian is a smooth, short-coated cavy with smut and feet of one colour and body of a different colour, the pattern of markings being similar to those of the Himalayan cavy. However, because of its genetic basis it is likely that well-marked youngsters will become over-marked adults, whilst under-marked youngsters may develop into good adults. In common with Himalayans, colour density of the smut and feet varies with temperature, being more intense in colder seasons.

SPECIFIC FAULTS:

Uneven markings. Speckled smut and feet with white hairs giving a 'peppered' effect. Poor demarcation between points and body colour. Excessive pigmentation in the body colour, giving a 'muddy' body stained effect.

GUIDANCE NOTES RELATING TO SPECIFIC NEW & EMERGING BREEDS

SELF CARAMEL

All characteristics are as for a Self cavy but with colour to be a rich, warm toffee, distinctly darker than the Self Beige. Eyes light ruby.

RIDGEBACK

The Ridgeback is a smooth-coated cavy other than for a pronounced **Ridge**, which should be pronounced, unbroken, erect and straight, running down the spine from between the ears to the hips. The ridge should be up to approximately 2.5 cm (one inch) in height and be most pronounced at the shoulder, tapering towards the rear end. The ridge should be firm and erect when brushed with the palm of the hand.

Other than the ridge the **Coat** should be soft, short, clean and free from grease. It should have no coat faults or rosettes, although a small circular pattern at the back of a foot is not a fault.

The Ridgeback is only recognised in Self **Colours**, Agouti and Argente, which should conform to ESCC, NACC or RVCC standards. The coat should be of glossy sheen, free from visible brindling, roaning or patches of different colour; with the colour carried well down to the skin to avoid any appearance of flakeyness. However, during a two-year period when breeders are moving from no restrictions on colour to defined colour requirements, exhibits should not be penalised for small patches of hairs of inappropriate colour so long as these do not exceed the size of a £1 coin (e.g. a white foot). Odd-coloured hairs found in the coat of the cavy, but not visible, from the surface should not be penalised.

The **Head** should be short and broad, with a gently curving profile and muzzle to be of good width and rounded at the nostrils. **Eyes** should be large, bright and bold and set with good width between. **Ears** should be large and drooping, with lower rim parallel to the ground and set with good width between.

The **Body** should be short and cobby, thick-set with good width across the shoulders. It must be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh covering the shoulders; and the pig should have good size appropriate to age

BELTED

The Belted is a smooth coated solid coloured (black) cavy with a belt of white circling the body just behind the shoulders and incorporating the front legs and feet. Younger exhibits may have a narrower belt.

The **Belt** should be of white colour circling the body just behind the shoulders and including the front legs and feet. It should be vertical (at right angles to the spine), even in width all round the body, and straight. The width of the belt should be between 3 and 5 cm. Steps, skewing and variations in width of the belt are to be penalised according to severity.

Body Colour should be black, even & with glossy sheen, carried well down to the skin. Differently coloured hairs found within the Black or White are to be penalised according to quantity.

The **Belt Colour** should be pure and clean, Eye colour should be dark.

The Head should be short and broad, with a gently curving profile and muzzle to be of good width and rounded at the nostrils. **Eyes** should be large, bright and bold and set with good width between. **Ears** should be large and drooping, with lower rim parallel to the ground and set with good width between.

The **Body** should be short and cobby, thick-set with good width across the shoulders. It must be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh covering the shoulders; and the pig should have good size appropriate to age

Coat should be soft, clean and groomed free of guard hairs

MINIPLI

The MiniPli is genetically a Longhair cavy but it also carries curly genes (derived from Lunkarya) and rex genes (derived from Alpaca) and it has been selected to have a slower-growing, shorter, weaker coat than conventional longhairs.

This combination of factors produces a semi-longhaired, curly-coated cavy with characteristics that differentiate it from other longhairs, one that appeals to people that like longhairs but do not have the time, skills or inclination to keep them in full coat and who are also attracted by the curls. Specifically:

Coat length should be such that it only just reaches the board even without being cut (which it must not be). The coat grows more slowly than on other longhairs, at approximately half the rate, so that the length of U/5 and 5/8 exhibits will be much shorter than in those of other longhair breeds. The frontal (known as the '**fringe**') is also much shorter and weaker than on other longhairs, so that it flops a little from the head in the style of a fringe but it will never cover the whole face. **Chops** are short, never of a length to reach the board, and have a slightly fuzzy, harsh feel. The overall appearance of the cavy should be of a rounded effect (when viewed from above), looking neat and tidy.

The cavy should be covered with a large number of tiny **corkscrew curls** all over the body, these being tighter than those of the Lunkarya. The **coat texture** is sufficiently harsh that these curls stand out from the body, meaning that it is not possible to attempt to show the cavy with a parting; but the coat is much softer than on the Lunkarya, and this contributes to the tighter curls.

Accordingly, the MiniPli can be distinguished from the Lunkarya by a shorter, more slow-growing coat; shorter frontal (fringe) and chops; softer coat and tighter curls. Its shorter coat, corkscrew curls and the difficulty in maintaining any form of parting make it clearly different from the Alpaca.

Head, eyes, ears and body type are as expected for the Lunkarya and Alpaca.

POTENTIALLY UNVIABLE BREEDS

The **Brindle** and the **Sable** are breeds that have in the past been exhibited in reasonable numbers, the former as a Full Standard cavy and the latter as a Guide Standard / NEB. However, examples of these breeds approaching the stated requirements have been sighted rarely, if at all, in recent years, such that there are doubts about the viability of the Full / Guide Standards / Guidance Notes previously agreed.

Accordingly, these Guide Standards and Guidance Notes have been withdrawn and examples of these breeds must be formally assessed via the RVCC Assessment process before they can be shown competitively. Because of prior knowledge of the possibilities of these breeds the RVCC may, after conducting such a process, choose to recommend a 'fast-track' process of moving to Guide Standard status immediately rather than NEB.

DEFINITION OF BREEDS AS GUIDE STANDARD, NEW / EMERGING OR UNRECOGNISED PENDING ASSESSMENT

- (1) The only breeds that may be shown in **Guide Standard** classes are those for which a specific Guide Standard has been agreed by the Council. At present these consist of: **Self** - Blue; **Ticked** - Normal and Solid Argente (with slate, lilac or beige base colour and golden, buff, cream or white ticking / tipping); **Marked Pattern** - Californian (with black or chocolate points and red, golden, buff, cream or white body colour), Chinchilla (with grey or chocolate base and cream or white banding); **Marked** - Tricolour, Bicolour, Harlequin, Magpie (in specified colours); **Semi-Longhair** - Swiss (any colour); **Longhair** - Lunkarya (any colour).
- (2) In addition to breeds for which detailed NEB Guidance Notes have been defined (consisting of Caramel; Belted, with black body and white belt; Ridgeback, in Self, Agouti or Argente colours; MiniPli in any colour); a cavy containing a Self colour or an Agouti or Argente pattern that has a Full or Guide Standard, but belonging to a Non-Self variety whose Full or Guide Standard does **not** recognise that particular colour / pattern, is deemed to be a **New / Emerging Breed**. The general requirements will be as stated in the Full or Guide Standard for the Non-Self variety but with colour requirements as in the Full or Guide Standard of the specific Self, Agouti or Argente. Examples might be American Crested Agouti, Crested Argente, Slate/Golden Californian, Blue/White Californian, Blue Dalmation, (true) Blue Roan etc.
- (3) A new colour variation of a Self cavy (e.g. the partial or full pink-eyed versions of the Self Blue, or Self versions of the blue-dilution gene with red or chocolate base colour) will be treated as an '**Unrecognised Breed Pending Assessment**' until such time as Guidance Notes for the colour are agreed.
- (4) Likewise, a Non-Self cavy (other than Solid Satin) containing a colour that as a Self would be regarded either as a 'New and Emerging Breed' or as an 'Unrecognised Breed Pending Assessment' will be treated as an '**Unrecognised Breed Pending Assessment**', since efforts should first be concentrated on defining the colour to at least Guide Standard level.
- (5) A Non-Self cavy containing a combination of features that are likely to interact in an inappropriate or unpredictable way will be treated as an '**Unrecognised Breed Pending Assessment**' (although in many cases the term 'Pet' might be more appropriate).

Examples of such combinations are:

- Crested versions of rough or harsh coated Non-Self varieties such as Abyssinian, Rex, Teddy, Lunkarya or Swiss;
- Combinations of Marked and / or Marked Pattern varieties, e.g. T/W Dalmation;
- Satin versions of Coated varieties other than Crested, e.g. Satin Abyssinian, Satin Rex, Satin Peruvian, Satin Sheltie.

Before being shown in competition any '**Unrecognised Breed Pending Assessment**' must be presented to an Assessment Process supervised by the RVCC for the purpose of defining Guidance Notes for those varieties considered to have the possibility of progressing to Full Standard.

In normal circumstances a Guide Standard variety that has not demonstrated its suitability to progress to Full Standard within five years will be returned to New / Emerging Breed status for re-evaluation by the Rare Varieties Cavy Club.

Likewise, a New / Emerging Breed that has not demonstrated its suitability to progress to Guide Standard within five years may be removed from New / Emerging Breed status pending further assessment by the Rare Varieties Cavy Club.