

Actions Agreed at British Cavy Council Meeting of 29th September 2018

1. **Challenge Classes for ‘Marked’ and ‘Ticked’ cavies:** The Council recommends that, where the number of entries are likely to be sufficiently large, the initial challenge classes for each age-group of Marked and Ticked cavies be split (1) Agouti, Fox, Tan, Otter and (2) AOV Marked (namely Himalayan, Dutch, T/W, Dalmation & Roan).
2. **Himalayan Breed Standard:** The Guidance Notes for the Himalayan will now read: “The Black Himalayan has a ‘crisper’ white body colour than the Chocolate. The Chocolate Himalayan should not be penalised for having this different tone of white body colour.’
3. **Full Standard for Self Blue:** The Self Blue will become a fully standardised cavy as of 1st January 2019, the Standard being for as for all other Selves with the exception of the Colour description, which is to read: “Top colour to be an even, dark blue-grey colour with no hint of brown. Eyes dark. Pigmentation of skin as well as ears and pads to match the blue-grey coat colour.” A Guidance Note to judges will state that: “It may be helpful to consider the colour of graphite as offering an indication of the colour of the Self Blue.”
4. **Implications of Standardisation of Self Blue for Other Breeds:** Blue versions of the following breeds that recognise all ESCC Full Standard colours (or all but DEG) will become Full Standard cavies as of 1st January 2019: Dutch, Dalmation, Roan, English Crested, American Crested. Blue-based cavies are already Full Standard cavies for breeds in which specific colours are immaterial, such as Satin (the requirement is to be ‘Solid’), Abyssinian, Rex, Teddy and Longhairs.

Blue versions of breeds whose Standards recognise only specific colours will continue to be regarded as New or Emerging breeds when the blue colouration is combined with white rather than red or golden, i.e. Blue / White Agouti, Blue Fox, Blue Himalayan. The Specialist Clubs concerned will monitor the development of these variants and report their recommendations on potential standardisation (or not) back to the Council. Where the blue colouration is combined with red or golden (e.g. blue versions of Tan and Golden Agouti), these will remain ‘Awaiting Assessment’ (not Guide Standard or NEB), since the effect of the blue dilution gene on both chocolate and red colouration is yet to be properly assessed.

In the case of blue versions of Guide Standard breeds that require ESCC Full Standard colours then these will become Guide Standard cavies so long as there is no red or golden colouration in the breed, in which case the breed will remain ‘Awaiting Assessment’ for the above reason.

5. **Prime Responsibility for Development of New Colours of Existing Standardised Breeds:** The ESCC is recognised as the Club that has prime responsibility for the assessment and development of new colours of Self from their initial assessment through to full standardisation. Fanciers seeking to develop a new colour of Self (for example, Mr Holmes’ Self Pinks and the many new hues that might result from the combination of the blue dilution gene with existing Self colours) should seek formal initial assessment of the colour from the ESCC, which will then report its recommendations to the Council.

Should the Council believe that a new colour should be recognised against the recommendation of the ESCC it will require a 2/3 voting majority at all stages of development, i.e. NEB, Guide Standard and Full Standard, as opposed to only

specifically requiring this for Full Standard as per the previous rule. The following Council Rules and Guidelines reflect this decision:

Council Rule 1.5 will now state (change in italics) that: “No Specialist Club may attempt to cater for any additional breed without the prior approval of the Council, with the exception of The Rare Varieties Cavy Club, which may cater for new varieties of cavy that are not already catered for by any other Specialist Club. *This does not include new colour variants of an existing breed, which are deemed to be the responsibility of the Specialist Club that caters for standardised colours of the breed unless this Club has declined such responsibility.*”

Council Rule 3.7 will now state (change in italics) that: “To allow creation, modification (other than in the case of minor modifications designed to improve clarity or remove ambiguity) or removal of a *Full Standard, Guide Standard or New / Emerging Breed Guidance Note* without the agreement of the relevant Specialist Club, the agreement is required of two thirds of the votes, as determined by 2.1 & 2.2, of those attending a meeting of the Council for which the Agenda specifically refers to the matter and so long as the total in favour represents at least half of the potential votes of the entire Council (i.e. including the potential votes of non-attendees).

Council Rule 3.9 will now state (change in italics) that: “In the case of a Guide Standard or *New / Emerging* colour variant of a standardised breed, the Specialist Club deemed to cater for such a variant for the purposes of Rules 1.5, 3.7 and 3.8 shall be the Club that caters for the standardised breed.”

The ‘Definition of Breeds as Guide Standard, New / Emerging or Unrecognised Pending Assessment’ will now include the statement (change in italics) that:

“Before being shown in competition any ‘Unrecognised Breed Pending Assessment’ must be presented to an Assessment Process supervised by the *Specialist Club that would cater for the fully-standardised breed*, for the purpose of defining Guidance Notes for any variety considered to have the possibility of progressing to Full Standard. *Breeds for which such Guidance Notes are agreed will be known as New or Emerging Breeds (‘NEB’).*”

6. **Showing of Guide Standard and NEB Cavies:** Whilst the development of Guide Standard and NEB colour variants of existing breeds (presently Self, Agouti, Fox and Himalayan, as detailed above) are the prime responsibility of the Specialist Breed Clubs concerned (respectively the ESCC, the NACC, the NFTCC and the NHCC in the cases above), the RVCC may put on classes for such varieties in its Stock Shows and promote them via appropriate awards.
7. **Recommended Process for Development of New Varieties to Full Standard:** The Council is committed to the identification and development of distinct and valuable new varieties and to determining their suitability for competition with existing breeds. It believes that the following processes represent the best means of achieving this and recommends that these be followed wherever possible
 - (1) Identify possibility of a new variety via fanciers approaching the relevant Specialist Club for colour variants of existing breeds or the RVCC in all other cases.
 - (2) The RVCC or Specialist Club (as appropriate to the above) to organise Assessments at suitable shows or events by Panel Judges and Executive Members of the Club.

- (3) Each year the RVCC or Specialist Club to advise the Council of the results of such Assessments and recommend any moves to NEB status, along with appropriate Guidance Notes.
- (4) Within two to five years the RVCC or Specialist Club to propose a relevant Guide Standard to the Council or, if it considers that the breed is not ready, advise the Council why this is not possible and what action should be taken, e.g. Revise Guidance Notes, Remove NEB status.
- (5) Within a further two to five years the RVCC or Specialist Club to propose relevant Full Standard to the Council or, if it considers that the breed is not ready, advise the Council why this is not possible and what action should be taken, e.g. Revise Guide Standard, Return to NEB status, Regard as Potentially Non-Viable.
- (6) At least once every two years the RVCC or Specialist Club to advise the Council of the progress or otherwise of each NEB or Guide Standard variety and of any issues.
- (7) Before proposing a Full Standard for a new variety the RVCC to hold discussions with any Specialist Club catering for cavies having similar characteristics, to ascertain the views of this Club on:
 - a) The distinctiveness and desirability of the variety as compared with its own;
 - b) The features, points allocations, clarity and challenge of the proposed Standard as compared with its own;
 - c) The desirability or otherwise of transferring the new variety to the Specialist Club in question.
- (9) The Council will be informed of any such views in order to inform its decisions, but will not be bound by them. In this respect it may regard the views of the following Specialist Clubs as being particularly relevant to the development of certain Guide Standard and New/Emerging Varieties:
 - NACC (Agouti, virtually identical in genotype and phenotype): Argente;
 - NFTCC (Fox/Otter, similar pattern of markings but different genotype): Chinchilla;
 - NHCC (Himalayan, similar pattern of markings but different genotype): Californian;
 - NTWCC: (T/W, similarly patched): Tricolour, Harlequin, Magpie; Bicolour;
 - PVCC and SVCC (Longhaired Coated): Lunkarya, Swiss, MiniPli;
 - CCC, ACC, RCC and TCC (Shorthaired Coated): Ridgeback;
 - DCC (Dutch, two-coloured in a defined pattern): Belted;
 - DRCC (Roan, a breed that has intermixed hairs): Silvered (?), Brindle (?).
8. **External Matters (NCC Judging Panel):** Should the NCC decide to set up a Judges' Training Scheme, Specialist Clubs will co-operate by providing suitably experienced judges to offer instruction in assessing their breeds. In this case the Council is likely to agree to fund some of the expenses incurred in providing such instruction.
9. **Internal Matters:**
 Whilst Club Representatives are, of course, able to argue for their views at Council Meetings, Member Clubs should ensure that their senior officials (particularly Chair, Secretary, Council Representative and Deputy Representative) do not make public statements that are excessively critical or downright derogatory of decisions taken at

Council meetings, since these could have the effect of discrediting both the Council and the Club's Representative at the meeting in question.

In addition, Clubs should ensure that all material intended to be considered by the Council is first be submitted to the Chairman, so that he may discharge his obligation to facilitate Council decisions by presenting matters in a clear, coherent and timely manner.

Bryan Mayoh has been re-elected as Council Chairman for a further two-year period.

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