

## **ELTHAM SHOW**

**12 February 2011**

**Judge: Sheila Sowter**

This was the first time I have judged at Eltham. It is a good venue for a rat show, good light, relatively easy to find, plenty of public transport and an adjacent shopping centre to entertain anyone who does not have to spend their time entirely with the rats.

There was an interesting spread of rats. The standards state that does should be 'long and racy' and there were too many does who were plump. Some of the bucks needed a slimming diet as well. This was one of the shows where as soon as I set eyes on the BIS I thought she might be the eventual winner, or at least well up in the challenges. Indeed there was nothing better than Ann Storey's squirrel. Congratulations on a lovely rat. The adults took all the places in the supreme challenge with Kate Ford's nice cinnamon RBIS. Many of the kittens were not old enough to have reached their variety standard. BOA went to Ann Storey for a promising agouti kitten. Congratulations to all.

Hearty thanks to my steward and the show secretary. Both of them were a pleasure to work with. It may not be apparent how much the judge depends on show secretary and stewards, They can sometimes make the judge's life a misery. Natasha Klus nominally as steward was also sitter-in and scribe and general righthand woman. (She had even baked cakes for the kitchen.) Jo Pierre was, for me, an ideal show secretary, providing an up-to-date set of standards, telling me at the start when we had to be out of the hall (and also when she hoped judging would be finished) and collecting the result slips in a relaxed manner so I could judge at the necessary speed without feeling under pressure. Thanks very much for your support Jo and Natasha.

### *Self section*

BRITISH BLUE AD (1): 1 (501) Tanya McComiskie. Good even colour. Nice head and eyes, good thick tail, good large ears.

BRITISH BLUE KIT (3): 1 (603), 2 (602), 3 (601) all Natasha Klus. (603) Creamy undercoat, Nice eyes, good tail, good back feet. (602) In moult centre line of back blue to skin but sides have white undercoat. Nice ears, good eyes, promising. (601) White undercoat, fair colour, rather narrow head, tail shortish.

BLACK AD (2): 1 (701), 2 (702) both Tanya McComiskie. (701) Good back colour but slightly rusty on belly. White toes. Lovely ears and eyes. Tail thick but shortish. (702) Enjoys his food. Rather silvered with slight rusting underneath. Fair eye. Head rather narrow for a buck. Good thick tail.

SELF ADULT CHALLENGE: 1 (501), 2 (701), 3 (702).

SELF KITTEN CHALLENGE: 1 (603), 2 (602), 3 (601).

SELF ALL AGES CHALLENGE: 1 (501), 2 (603), 3 (602), 4 (701).

### *Marked section*

HOODED AD (1): 1 (1701) Kropotkin. Enjoys her food. Saddle complete but too wide. Good thick tail. Fair eye.

SQUIRREL AD (1): 1 (2701) Rivendell. Good top colour, nice symmetrical blaze, demarcation between top colour and belly good, good forelegs, nice type.

MARKED ALL AGES CHALLENGE: 1 (2701), 2 (1701).

### *AOV section*

SILVER FAWN AD (1): 1 (4901) Rivendell. Beautiful back colour, lovely eyes. Good tail and feet, Head rather pointed.

SILVERED AD (1): 1 (5101) Kate Ford. Needs to spend less time at his food bowl and more time cleaning his lovely thick tail. Lovely ears, fair eye, nice broad head, has yellow buck grease. Fair silvering.

AGOUTI AD (1): 1 (5302) Rivendell. Rather dark colour. Nice tail and eye, Rather narrow head.

AGOUTI KIT (1): 1 (5401) Rivendell. Coat not fully adult yet, but promising. Good tail, lovely eyes, good large ears. Nice type.

CINNAMON AD (1): 1 (5501) Kate Ford. Colour good but somewhat uneven. Lovely eye, good tail, nice ears.

CINNAMON KIT (2): 1 (5601) Mark Sutton. Adult colour not developed but trace at back of neck shows promise. Nice eye and ear, good tail. 2 (5602) Kate Ford. Adult colour not developed. Good eye and tail, fair ear, head rather pointed.

BRITISH BLUE AGOUTI AD (2): 1 (5703), 2 (5702) both Natasha Klus. (5703) Enjoys her food. Lovely even colour. Lovely ears and eyes, Good tail, Nice condition. (5702) Spends too much time at her food bowl. Nice head, ear and eye. Tail thick but shortish. Good looking lad.

BRITISH BLUE AGOUTI KIT (1): 1 (5801) Natasha Klus. Not quite adult colour, blue band along back, very promising. Fair eyes and ears, good condition.  
LILAC AGOUTI AD (1): 1 (5901) Natasha Klus. Blue down black, fawn on sides, no pinky tinge. Good eye, nice ears. Needs to watch her waistline. Good condition.  
PEARL/CINNAMON PEARL AD (3): 1 (6103) Ann Clifton. Good colour on sides but back not quite full adult colour yet. Good tail. Lovely eyes. Nice head and ears. Placed first on colour.  
2 (6101) Kate Ford. Nice colour on sides and head but back not yet full adult colour. Gorgeous eye, lovely tail, nice ear, good condition. Good head, better than the first placed (which at present has better colour). 3 (6102) Natasha Klus. Unfortunately colour uneven. Lovely eyes, nice ears, lovely tail.  
PEARL/CINNAMON PEARL KIT (2): 1 (6202) Kropotkin. Good pearl colour, nearly even, nice eye and ear, tail thick but shortish. At present head rather narrow for a buck. Wins on colour. 2 (6201) Mark Sutton. Obviously will develop the cinnamon pearl colour but at present only slightly ginger along the sides. The rest had yet to appear. Lovely tail, fair eyes, nice eyes. Fair head though at present rather narrow.  
PLATINUM AGOUTI AD (2): 1 (6301), 2 (6302) both Natasha Klus. (6301) Pleasant platinum colour. Nice ear, fair eye, tail thick but shortish with tiny nubble at tip. (6302) Pleasant platinum colour. Nice ear and eye. Good thick tail, but kink at end.  
PLATINUM AGOUTI KIT (1): 1 (6401) Natasha Klus. Nice colour. Nice ears and eyes, Slightly irregular tail tip.  
AOV ADULT CHALLENGE: 1 (5501), 2 (4901), 3 (6103), 4 (6101).  
AOV KITTEN CHALLENGE: 1 (5401), 2 (5801), 3 (6202), 4 (5601).  
AOV ALL AGES CHALLENGE: As adult challenge.

#### *Rex section*

SELF REX AD (1): 1 (6501) Tanya Manuel-Warner. Nice curl on back. Good black colour. Nice eye and ear. Good thick tail.  
REX ALL AGES CHALLENGE: 1 (6501).

#### *Dumbo section*

MARKED DUMBO AD (1): 1 Kate Ford. Nice ears, lovely eyes, fair head, lovely tail. Husky with band edge well marked but alas the fading is uneven and face markings have faded too much.  
RUSSIAN DUMBO KIT (1): 1 (8001) John Day. Fair ear, fair eye, fair tail. Nice Russian colour.  
SHADED DUMBO KIT (1): 1 (8201) John Day. Slight crease in one ear, otherwise good ears. Nice nose and tail points, quite good back shading.  
DUMBO ADULT CHALLENGE: 1 (7701).  
DUMBO KITTEN CHALLENGE: 1 (8201), 2 (8001).  
DUMBO ALL AGES CHALLENGE: 1 (7701), 2 (8201), 3 (8001).  
GUIDE STANDARD AD (1): 1 (8703) John Day. Platinum Berkshire dumbo. Lovely colour on most of back, paler patches at rear. One dumbo ear has crease. Moderate amount of white on belly with drag on right side.  
GUIDE STANDARD KIT (3): 1 (8802) John Day. Nice almost even colour, good tail, lovely well set ears. Nice head and eye. 2 (8803) John Day. Nice colour, almost even. Small white belly spot. Good tail, nice ear, fair head and eye. 3 (8801) Natasha Klus. Nice back colour. Nice ear, fair eye, narrow head. Not enough belly white for a good Berkshire though symmetrical. Good front feet.  
ADULT CHALLENGE: 1 (2701), 2 (5501), 3 (4901), 4 (6501).  
KITTEN CHALLENGE: 1 (8802), 2 (8201), 3 (3001), 4 (5401).  
SUPREME CHALLENGE: 1 (2701) BIS, 2 (5501) RBIS, 3 (4901), 4 (6501).  
STUD BUCK: 1 (5702) Natasha Klus. 2 (6501) Tanya Manuel-Warner. 3 (5101) Kate Ford.  
NOVICE: 1 (5501) Kate Ford. 2 (501) Tanya McComiskie.  
JUVENILE: 1 (8802), 2 (8201), 3 (8001), 4 (8703) all John Day.  
NEW VARIETIES (2): 1 (01), 2 (02) both Tanya Manuel-Warner. These were both 'quick silver'. Quicksilver itself is a silver metal with not the slightest trace of blue. The standard defines it in terms of what it is not, it's a blue rat that is different from other blue rats. (01) was a quick silver dumbo rex who enjoys his food. His coat was blue but had yellow buck grease on his skin which made it difficult to judge the colour of his nice back curls against the yellow. Tail thick but shortish, ears had slight crease. Eyes very dark ruby. (02) a quick silver dumbo also enjoys his food. Undercoat colour noticeably different from top colour and buck grease also present giving the undercoat a yellowish tinge. Tail thick but short, Dumbo ears slightly creased.