

OXFORD SHOW

15 January 2011

Judge: Doug Connor

Judging this show came as a surprise because it was an 'emergency assignment' which I received the night before the show itself! It was, nevertheless, a great treat. I have a soft spot in my heart for the Oxford Show because in its first occurrence – in January of 2009 – ivories competed for the first time in their own variety, and an ivory won Best in Show! Judging this show was a true labour of love for me!

The 'new' Oxford venue is a lovely place to judge – there is plenty of space and the light is good. I want to thank Lisa Harries for her able show sec'ing and for the efficiency and good cheer of my steward, Jayne Warren, and my scribe, Natasha Klus.

Congratulations to Tanya McComiskie for her Best in Show black doe, who was truly stunning – very sleek and fit and in lovely condition. Tanya also won Best Opposite Age with her agouti buck kitten who already has great proportions and colouring and should have a strong show future ahead of him. Congratulations also to Ellie Goddard for her Reserve Best in Show Himalayan doe who was very fit and had a great head and eyes. Third place went to Ann Clifton for her lovely cinnamon pearl doe and fourth to Phil Neate for his equally lovely agouti doe. Congratulations also to Lisa Harries for her black silvered stud buck and, once again, to Tanya for her best novice win.

There were many good rats on the bench in this show and all those who won rosettes and stars can be proud of their achievements. Congratulations to all of you!

NEW VARIETIES (1): 1 (03) Mercury. Russian Burmese. D. Fair head and ear, very good eye. Good type and condition. Good tail. Good coat condition. Nose and tail points present but not strongly expressed. Foot points absent. Lovely temperament. Nice rat.

Self section

BRITISH BLUE AD (11): 1 (508) Aquarius. D. Good head though slightly narrow. Good eye. Fair ears. Good type and condition. Good tail. Good coat condition. Slightly silvered. Good colour. Wins on conformation to standard. 2 (510) Tanya McComiskie. D. Fair head, eye and ear. Good type and condition. Good tail. Good colour and coat condition. Very slight silvering. Very jumpy! 3 (511) Lucy Hunt. D. Fair head and ear. Good eye. Fair type and condition, a little bit baggy. Good tail. Good colour and coat condition. Very slightly silvered. Some moulting between shoulders. 4 (501) Emma Smith. D. Fair head and ear. Good eye. Fair type, lightly boned. Good condition. Fair tail. Coat a bit dark and heavily silvered. Colour a bit uneven in places.

BRITISH BLUE KIT (3): 1 (601) Natasha Klus. D. Good head, fair eye and ears. Good type. Good tail (slightly squared). Colour to standard but already heavily silvered. Small moult mark on back. Wins on fitness and condition. Nice kitten, keep putting her in. 2 (603) Natasha Klus. B. Head a bit narrow. Fair eye and ear. Good condition but lightly boned. Square tail. Good coat colour but heavily silvered. 3 (602) Natasha Klus. D. Slightly narrow head. Fair eyes and ears. Very lightly boned. Fair type. Good tail. Good colour but quite silvered.

BLACK AD (2): 1 (703) Tanya McComiskie. D. Good eye, Fair ear. Very good head. Lovely type and condition. Good tail. Lovely depth of colour. Very slightly rusted under. White toes. Lovely rat! 2 (704) Lucy Hunt. D. Fair head and ear. Good eye. Good type. Fair condition. Good tail. White toes. Slight rusting under. Very good depth of colour. Nice rat.

SELF ADULT CHALLENGE: 1 – 703, 2 – 508, 3 – 510, 4 – 704.

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

SELF ALL AGES CHALLENGE: 1 – 703, 2 – 601, 3 – 508, 4 – 510.

Marked section

BERKSHIRE/BADGER AD (2): 1 (1301) RCT. Black badger buck. Very good head. Good eye and ear. Very good type. Very fit. Good condition. Good tail. Head and foot markings to standard. Ragged drag lines on belly. Good coat condition. Good temperament. Very nice rat. Wins on fitness and condition. 2 (1302) Katie van Zyl. Agouti Berkshire buck. Very good head. Good eye and ear. Nice large type. Good condition. Good tail. Watch his weight. Head spot and foot marking to standard. Top colour good, slightly mottled. Drag lines on belly but fairly even. Lovely temperament. Nice rat.

HOODED AD (1): 1 (1701) Luisa Allen. Black buck. Very good head. Good eye. Fair ears. Good type and condition. Nice tail. Nice, even colour with symmetrical demarcation at shoulders. Saddle good width with drag near tail base. Tail stop to standard. Small groin spots. Lovely temperament. Nice rat.

VARIEGATED AD (1): 1 (1901) RCT. Black buck. Good eye. Fair ear. Good head but small in proportion to body. Good type. A bit baggy. Fair condition. Good tail. Demarcation at shoulder symmetrical. Markings good and evenly distributed but a bit splodgy.

MARKED ALL AGES CHALLENGE: 1 – 1301, 2 – 1701, 3 – 1302, 4 – 1901.

Russian section

RUSSIAN BLUE AD (3): 1 (3101) Mercury. D. Very good head. Good eye and ear. Good type. Lovely condition. Good tail. Colour to standard, very even, no heathering. Sweet temperament. Really nice rat! 2 (3103) Lucy Hunt. B. Fair head. Good ear. Very good eye. Good type. Fairly good condition. Good tail. Good coat colour but heavily silvered. 3 (3102) Mercury. B. Good head. Fair eye and ear. Good type and condition. Good tail. Good colour but quite silvered.

RUSSIAN DOVE AD (1): 1 (3301) Ellie Goddard. D. Fair head, eye and ear. Very fit. Good condition. Good tail. Very good colour and coat condition. Colour to standard.

RUSSIAN BLUE AGOUTI AD (4): 1 (3503) Mercury. D. Very good head. Good ears. Very good eyes. Small nick in right ear. Good large type for a doe. Very good condition. Nice even ticking across back and down onto sides. Would like more fire in undercoat but lovely overall. 2 (3502) Jayne Warren. B. Good head, eye and ears. A bit small but good large type and good condition. Watch his weight. Good tail. Nice even ticking carried well down onto sides. Colour a bit dense along spine. Good undercoat. Nice rat. 3 (3504) Mercury. D. Fair head and ear. Good eye. Good type. Slightly heavy. Good tail. Ticking quite even on back and sides. Undercoat colour fair. Clean under. 4 (3505) Mercury. B. Good head. Fair eye. Good ear. Good type but overweight. Good tail. Ticking largely absent from shoulder down to rump. Nice temperament. Maybe past his best as a varieties entry.

RUSSIAN ALL AGES CHALLENGE: 1 – 3101, 2 – 3503, 3 – 3301, 4 – 3502.

Shaded section

HIMALAYAN AD (1): 1 (3901) Ellie Goddard. D. Very good head. Fair ears. Excellent eyes. Good type. Very fit. Good tail. Good nose and tail points. Foot points not well expressed. Some mottling of colour across rump. Nice temperament. Nice rat.

SIAMESE AD (2): 1 (4102) Lucy Hunt. B. Good head. Fair ear. Good eye. Good type but slightly baggy. Good tail. Good nose and tail points. Good foot points. Good colour gradation from tail root. Slightly mottled across rump. 2 (4101) Mercury. B. Good head, slightly cobby. Good ear and eye. Good type but carrying more weight than he needs. Good tail. Good nose, tail and back foot points. Front foot points fair. Good colour gradation up from rump. Good temperament. Sweet guy.

SHADED ALL AGES CHALLENGE: 1 – 3901, 2 – 4102, 3 – 4101.

AOV section

SILVER AD (3): 1 (5101) RCT. Black Buck. Fair head, eye and ear. Head a bit small in proportion to body. Good type and condition. Good tail. Good silvering – quite even across back, sides and flanks but a bit weak at neck. Wins on condition and evenness of silvering. 2 (5104) Sue Neate. Black buck. Good head and eye. Fair ear. Good type and condition – watch his weight. Good tail. Good silvering along mid-back and sides. Not well expressed on shoulders and rump. 3 (5103) Lynn Bailey. Black buck. Good head and eye. Fair ear. Good type but overweight. Good depth of colour. Good tail. Silvering evenly distributed down shoulders, back and sides but patchy. Rusting on flanks.

AGOUTI AD (4): 1 (5305) Aquarius. D. Very good head and eye. Fair ear. Ticking a bit heavy down back and across rump. Undercoat good. Good tail. Good type and condition. 2 (5308) Ann Clifton. D. Good head. Fair ear. Very good eye. Good type and condition. Good tail. Good ticking on sides, heavy on spine. Good undercoat colour. Could do with more fire in undercoat which may still come in time. 3 (5304) Aquarius. B. Fair head, eye and ear. Good type and condition. Good tail. Ticking slightly dark along spine. Undercoat colour good. Could do with more fire. 4 (5306) Aquarius. D. Good head. Fair ear. Very good eye. Good condition, type and tail. Ticking quite heavy and mottled across rump, undercoat will probably improve with time.

AGOUTI KIT (1): 1 (5401) Tanya McComiskie. B. Good head, eye and ear for a kitten. Head a bit small for body at present. Proportions will probably improve with time. Good condition. Nice long type. Good tail. Nice even ticking over entire back and sides. Undercoat quite well expressed for his age. Very good potential. Keep putting him in!

BRITISH BLUE AGOUTI AD (6): 1 (5701) Ellie Goddard. D. Fair head. Good eye. Fair ear. Good type. Very good condition. Good tail. Good ticking, a bit dense down spine. Chew mark on back. Undercoat fair – would like richer colour. 2 (5705) Aquarius. D. Good head, eye, ear, type and tail. Very good condition. Ticking quite dense down spine and onto rump. Good colour. Undercoat colour not well expressed. 3 (5702) RCT. B. Good head. Fair eye and ear. Good type but heavy. Good tail. Fairly good condition. Ticking a bit mottled and dense down spine. Undercoat fair – could be richer colour. 4 (5704) Aquarius. B. Bite on tail. Fair head and eye. Good ear. Good condition, type and tail. Ticking a bit dense on back and light on side. Overall effect more fawn than blue.

BRITISH BLUE AGOUTI KIT (3): 1 (5801) RCT. B. Fair head, eye and ear. Head small for body but should come into proportion in time. Very good type (nice and long). Very good condition. Good tail – slightly squared. Lovely even ticking across back and onto rump. Undercoat good for age and should improve with time. Lovely exploratory temperament. Very nice little rat. 2 (5804) Tanya McComiskie. B. Fair head and eye. Good ear. Good type and condition. Good tail. Long type. Good overall colour. Ticking even across back. Slightly denser on rump. Pretty good undercoat for

age. Small knob near tail tip. 3 (5802) Natasha Klus. D. Good ears. Fair eyes. Narrow head.

Lightly boned. Good condition and tail. Good colour but lacks undercoat colour – may come with age. LILAC AGOUTI KIT (1): 1 (6001) Natasha Klus. D. Fair head and eye. Good ear. Good type, condition and tail. Good colour but ticking a bit dense down spine. Colour coming in on flanks. Keep putting her in!

PEARL/CINNAMON PEARL AD (5): 1 (6101) Ann Clifton. Cinnamon pearl doe. Good head. Very good eye. Fair ears. Good type, condition and tail. Lovely even ticking. Colour to standard. Some mottling on spine. Nice rat.

PLATINUM AGOUTI AD (2): 1 (6302) Natasha Klus. D. Good head and eye. Fair ear. Good type, condition and tail. Colour even and to standard. Undercoat colour good. Slight moult mark on back. Very nice rat. 2 (6301) Natasha Klus. B. Very good head. Fair eyes – a bit small. Good ears. Nice large type. Good condition. Good tail. Ticking now going across back and rump so overall effect more fawn than grey. No longer at his best for varieties but a nice rat with great temperament. Left rear foot has several toes bleeding – but nails are not sharp!

PLATINUM AGOUTI KIT (1): 1 (6401) Natasha Klus. B. Fair head and eye. Good ear, type and condition. Good colour. Some chew marks. Undercoat yet to appear. Give him time.

AOV ADULT CHALLENGE: 1 – 6101. 2 – 5305, 3 – 6302. 4 – 5701.

AOV KITTEN CHALLENGE: 1 -5401, 2 - 5801, 3 – 5804, 4 – 6001.

AOV ALL AGES CHALLENGE: 1 –6101, 2 – 5305. 3 – 6302. 4 – 5401.

Rex section

RUSSIAN REX AD (1): 1 (6902) Lynn Bailey. Russian blue buck. Good head. Fair eye and ear. Nice whiskers. Good tail and type. Rexing from shoulder to rump but often more wavy than curly. 2 (6901) Mercury. Russian blue buck. Good head and eye. Fair ears. Good type but overweight. Nice thick tail. Rexing well expressed from shoulder to rump, missing on neck. Some rexing under. Coat thinning.

REX ALL AGES CHALLENGE: 1 – 6902, 2 – 9801.

Dumbo section

SELF DUMBO AD (1): 1 (7501) RCT. Black doe. Good head, eye and tail, save for knob at end. Very good type and condition. Lovely intense black colour. White toes on front feet. Nice uncreased ears but slightly tulip-shaped.

MARKED DUMBO AD (1): 1 (7701) Angela Corrie. Roan buck – very faded. Good head. Very good eye. Good type, condition and tail. Ears a bit tubular and tulip-shaped.

MARKED DUMBO KIT (1): 1 (7801) Mercury. Black Berkshire buck. Fair head. Good eye. Good condition, type and tail. Belly demarcation very ragged. Silvered across back. Small tail stop. Nice uncreased ears except for small crease in right ear. Slightly tulip-shaped.

RUSSIAN DUMBO AD (3): 1 (7902) Mercury. Russian blue doe. Good head. Very good eye. Good condition and tail. Nice even ticking. Undercolour good. Good ears only slightly creased. Very symmetrical. 2 (7903) Mercury. Russian blue buck. Good head, a bit broad in the cheek. Good eye. Good large type. Good condition. Good coat condition and tail. Slightly creased ears. Nice rat. 3 (7901) Natasha Klus. Russian blue agouti doe. Fair head. Very good eye. Very gaunt through body – needs more substance. Lightly boned. Good tail. Ticking and undercoat good. Ticking a little mottled. Ears slightly tulip-shaped. Nick in right ear.

SHADED DUMBO AD (2): 1 (8101) RCT. Burmese doe. Good head. Very good eye. A bit lightweight but good condition. Good tail. Good points. Ears slightly creased but good size and position. 2 (8103) Lucy Hunt. Burmese buck. Good head, eye and type. Fair condition. Slightly chopped rump. Good tail. Good tail and nose points. Foot points fair. Ears slightly creased.

SHADED DUMBO KIT (1): 1 (8201) RCT. Himalayan buck. Good head. Very good eye for a kitten. Still quite small but good condition. Good tail. Good nose and tail points. No foot points. Ears creased and tulip-shaped.

AOV DUMBO AD (1): 1 (8301) Mercury. Silvered buck. Good head. Fair eyes. Good large type. Good tail. Slivering good across back and rump – not so good across neck. White front feet. Ears tulip-shaped. Slight creases in both.

DUMBO ADULT CHALLENGE: 1 – 7902. 2 – 8101, 3 – 7903, 4 – 8103.

DUMBO KITTEN CHALLENGE: 1 – 8201, 2 - 7801.

DUMBO ALL AGES CHALLENGE: 1 – 7902. 2 – 8101. 3 – 7903, 4 – 8201.

Guide standard section

GUIDE STANDARD AD (1): 1 (8702) Mercury. Russian topaz dumbo. B Good head. Very small eyes. Good type and condition. Slightly heavy. Good tail. Good coat condition. I colour to standard. Ears quite tubular and tulip-shaped. Nice temperament. Good attempt.

NOVICE: 1 (703) Tanya McComiskie. 2 (601) Natasha Klus. 3 (6401) Natasha Klus. 4 (6302) Natasha Klus.

STUD BUCK: 1 (5101) RCT – black silvered. 2 (3102) Mercury – Russian blue. 3 (7903) Mercury – Russian Blue Dumbo. 4 (1301) RCT – black badger.

KITTEN CHALLENGE: 1 (5401) Best Opposite Age. Tanya McComiskie – agouti. 2 (5801) RCT – British blue agouti. 3 (601) Natasha Klus – British blue. 4 (6401) Natasha Klus – platinum agouti.

ADULT CHALLENGE: 1 (703) Tanya McComiskie – black. 2 (3901) Ellie Goddard – Himalayan. 3 (6101) Ann Clifton - cinnamon pearl. 4 (5305) Aquarius – agouti.

SUPREME CHALLENGE: 1 (703) Best in Show: Tanya McComiskie – black. 2 (3901) Reserve Best in Show: Ellie Goddard – Himalayan. 3 (6101) Ann Clifton - cinnamon pearl. 4 (5305) Aquarius – agouti.