

THE FAWN REX RABBIT
By Roy Smart
Nofrra Newsletter Winter 1978

There are not many good Fawn Rex exhibited these days and I often wonder why this breed does not have the popularity of its Club partner, the Orange Rex. Some fanciers say that they are not attractive enough, other say that they stand no chance on the judging table against other rex colours.

In the 1970's the fawn rex was a consistent winner of Best in Show awards and often had the edge on the Orange rex. In those days they had superb type, dense short coats and exquisite texture, but above all they had the colour – GOLDEN FAWN- not dull, flat or muddy but shining and brilliant with a pronounced glow which was an instant attraction. Of course there are one or two breeders that still have the knack of breeding a good fawn – How do they do it?

The best coloured fawns are those with the genetical make up A-bb-C-dd-ee-PP-WW and, incidentally the best coloured. Orange are genetically the same but with the dilution factor being substituted for the dense pigment factor giving A-bb-C-D-cc-pp-WW,

Using this genetical make up neither the Orange or the Fawn Rex will suffer unduly from blue under even when mated together.

Why then you ask, do breeders get such poor results when mating the Orange with the Fawn? The reason is that there are eight genetical make ups which will produce the Fawn rex – they are:

1. A-B-C-dd-ee-PP-W
2. A-B-C-dd-ee-PP-WW
3. A-bb-c-dd-ee-PP-W
4. A-bb-C-dd-ee-PP-WW
5. at-B-C-dd-ee-PP-W
6. at-B-C-dd-ee-PP-WW

7. at-bb-C-dd-ee-PP-W

8. at-bb-C-dd-ee-PP-WW

and I suggest that the unsuccessful breeders have the wrong combinations.

How can one achieve the correct combination? There are two ways –either by buying the correct stock to start with or by out crossing to the correct stock and then by in-breeding or mating back to the best parent.

Breeding good stock is not short term, every mating must be a careful selection of a buck and a doe. Do not be hesitant of breeding brother to sister to fix a good point, then keep the best of the litter and dispose of the others.

To sum up in one sentence – continuous selection coupled with in breeding will produce winners.