Judging Rabbits

Parts of the Rabbit
Breeding Rabbit Scorecard

When judging rabbits, it is very important to run the hand over the animal to feel the bone structure, muscling and finish.

Breeding classes are judged for their breed characteristics – those traits that will be passed on to their offspring.

Perfect Score

Body Capacity ........................................................................................................................................35
- strong, broad chest
- wide, deep loin; smooth, well filled rump
- good depth to body

Head, Feet, Legs ..................................................................................................................................30
- broad head, round muzzle
- straight ears, carried according to breed
- bright, clear eyes; nose free from mucus
- small, strong feet with full pads of hair
- no signs of blindness

General Condition and Appearance ...............................................................................................20
- no broken toes or nails; no ear mites
- no broken or missing teeth
- correct fur for breed
- strong, straight front and rear legs
- straight, well furred tail

Condition ............................................................................................................................................15
- hard, solid flesh
- difficult to pick up by shoulder skin
- fur in good condition

Total .................................................................................................................................................. 100
Market Rabbit Scorecard

In a market class, the main concern is whether the animal is ready for market. As with breeding stock, rabbits are judged by running the hand over the animal to determine bone structure and muscle. Does should have medium to long bodies. Bucks should be shorter in length and blockier.

Perfect Score

Hindquarters ................................................................. 45

- hard, solid flesh
- wide, deep loin
- smooth, well filled and well fleshed rump

Body Capacity .............................................................. 25

- broad chest; deep body
- rib and hip bones close together
- well fleshed rib cage and rump

Head, Feet, Legs .......................................................... 20

- broad head, round muzzle
- straight ears, carried according to breed
- bright, clear eyes; nose free of mucus
- small, strong feet with full pads of hair
- no signs of blindness

Teeth, Nails, Tail .......................................................... 10

- no broken teeth or toenails
- tail should be straight up from rump

Total .................................................................................. 100

Source: 4-H Ontario Judging Tool Kit