





## THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PAL

The Palomino rabbit, a captivating breed renowned for its distinctive golden coat, made its debut on the stage of the American Rabbit Breeders Association Convention in 1952, hosted in Portland, OR. This breed's origin can be traced to the skilled efforts of Mark Youngs, a dedicated breeder hailing from Coulee Dam, Washington State. Youngs, an established figure in the rabbit hobby since 1910, harbored a deep aspiration to craft an entirely new breed of rabbit. In his pursuit, he introduced the concept of "Color Blend Breeding," a term that encapsulated his innovative approach to developing this breed.

As the journey unfolded, Youngs curated a unique methodology. During the breed's development, he chose to retain fryers that were initially destined for processing, transforming them into the foundational stock for the Palomino breed. These original rabbits primarily exhibited black or brown hues. In time, Youngs crossbred these "sports" with others obtained from various sources, giving rise to rabbits displaying tawny or "buckskin" coloring. Through strategic breeding, these tawny rabbits were paired, leading to the emergence of kits bearing the sought-after golden or tawny shades.

Determined and strategic, Youngs engaged in an array of breeding techniques; guiding the breed towards a distinct appearance. Over time, these efforts bore fruit, with litters consistently yielding light gold-colored (beige) offspring.

In 1952, Youngs initially dubbed these beige rabbits as the "American Beige." However, the breed continued to evolve. Variations of the gold hue began to emerge. Youngs carefully curated and nurtured these different color variations, ultimately leading to the adoption of the name "Palomino" in 1953.

Further refinements followed. In 1955, the name "Fawn Palomino" evolved into "Lynx Palomino." The breed diversified into two distinctive varieties: Lynx and Golden. The Lynx variety received official recognition in 1957, with the Golden variety following suit in 1958.

The dedication of Mark Youngs and early breed supporters proved pivotal in the breed's development. Despite its relative novelty, the Palomino rabbit exhibited remarkable breeding consistency by the late 1960s. The Palomino Rabbit Co-Breeders Association, established even before the breed's official acceptance, played a crucial role in fostering its advancement and ensuring support for those committed to breeding and showcasing this exceptional breed.

The history of the Palomino unfolds as a tale of innovation, strategic breeding, and community collaboration. Mark Youngs' techniques, coupled with the dedication of breed supporters, led to the emergence of a breed known for its distinct golden hue and lasting impact in the world of rabbit breeding.

# PALO

## Go For Gold!

Deb Morrison



### IN PURSUIT OF THE "PERFECT" COLOR

*For as long as I have been raising Palomino's, there has always been an age-old controversy surrounding the "correct" or "perfect" color. Breeders in a particular part of the country would raise and show a certain shade of golden or lynx, because judges were picking those shades. The problem was and is, when you take that shade to a different part of the country, say to a convention, that particular shade would be ridiculed for being too light, too dark, too red or too blue. After almost 20 years, it doesn't take long before this conversation gets old and breeding for that "correct" and "perfect" color gets very frustrating.*

*I personally think that judges and breeders alike can overthink Palomino color and make it way too complicated. Don't get me wrong, I completely understand that Palominos are a colored rabbit, but they are first and foremost a commercial type rabbit. When we look at the point schedule, there are more than twice as many points on body type as there are on color and the Palomino should be judged accordingly.*

*As a breeder, I must ask myself, "Am I breeding for a certain Palomino Color for a particular judge, or am I breeding for the Palomino Rabbit that the Standard of Perfection calls for?"*

*Let's keep it simple, the first area to consider on a Palomino is the body type. In my breeding program, type is always the first consideration. Next, look at color. If it is golden, call it golden. If it is lynx, call it lynx. Because Golden and Lynx are not "solid" self colors, there is not going to be one perfect exact color within a variety. What we do have is a "correct range" within that variety. In both varieties, it is a medium shade of golden or lynx. Once we have established that, then we can start to consider color faults and point deductions and judge that rabbit or class appropriately.*

*My thanks to the Judges Training and Education committee, who have made it possible to educate the membership and judges about the Palomino rabbit. My goal is that something that has been written or spoken will help to minimize any mystery or misunderstanding about this breed.*



**At the 2016 ARBA Convention in San Diego, CA a Palomino shown by Mike Raab of Indiana won ARBA Group 2**



# MINO

## GENERAL TYPE

The Palomino is a Commercial Type rabbit as defined by the American Rabbit Breeders Association and should be posed accordingly.

The Palominos body should be medium in length with well-developed shoulders and hindquarters. The top line forms a smooth arc, gradually rising from the nape of the neck along the back and then sloping gently to the tail, creating a well-rounded back, loin, and hindquarters. The depth of the body should approximate its width from shoulders through hips. The high point of the back should align with the back toes when properly posed.

It's important to be aware of potential faults such as a long or narrow body, cobby body, flatness over the shoulders, back, and rump, chopped or pinched hindquarters, very narrow shoulders, a rough rump, and protruding hip bones. These faults can impact the breed's overall appearance and adherence to the ideal standard.

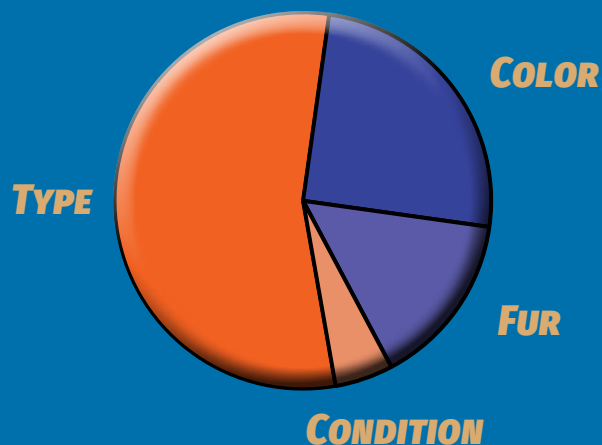
## TWO VARIETIES OF PALOMINO GOLDEN & LYNX

Color is judged with multiple factors to comprise a cumulative percentage of points:

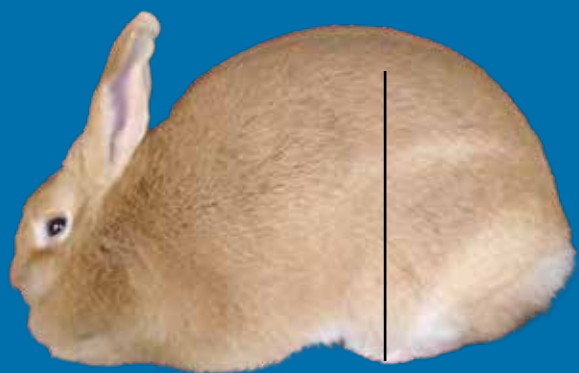
### SURFACE SHADE

- The body surface shade in both varieties is the most obvious and should have very little color variation.
- Both varieties should carry color down the legs and onto the feet.
- Color comments should always include uniformity comments.

## SCHEDULE OF POINTS



## POSING



The high point should be even with the back toes when the rabbit is properly posed.

## NORMAL EXPECTED SURFACE SHADE VARIATION - GOLDEN AND LYNX

Streak of lighter surface color at hip area

Lap marks and slight color at navel



Eye Circles





# PALOMINO

## Go For Gold!

### **GOLDEN VARIETY** *NORMAL EXPECTED SURFACE SHADE VARIATION*

- Bright, Glossy, uniform golden color over a cream to white undercolor at the base of the hair shaft.
- Jaws, belly, foot pads and underside of tail will be white to cream.
- Eyes will be brown.



### **GOLDEN VARIETY COLOR FAULTS - CUT SEVERELY FOR EXTREME COLOR RANGES**



- Brassy, red golden



- Washed out, mealy golden



- Ear-lacing & Smut

### **SURFACE COLOR FAULTS - BOTH VARIETIES**

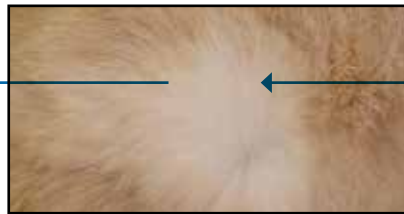
- Smut on head & body
- Very dark Ear lacing
- Excessively large Eye Circles
- White, pasty, mealy color on cheeks & face.
- Shadow Bars on feet.
- Uneven - Non-uniform Surface Color

## LYNX VARIETY **NORMAL EXPECTED SURFACE SHADE VARIATION**

- Medium, pearl-gray; blends to a dilute orange-beige intermediate color over a cream to white undercolor at the base of hair shaft.
- Jaws, belly, foot pads and underside of tail will be white to cream.
- There should be a dusty gold appearance.
- Eyes will be blue-gray.



## LYNX VARIETY **COLOR FAULTS - CUT SEVERELY FOR EXTREME COLOR RANGES**



**TOO DARK:**  
Blue/Black - tipped hides the dusty gold appearance

**TOO LIGHT:**  
washed out, lacks orange beige intermediate color (this is normally a factor in younger Lynx Palominos)



## SURFACE COLOR FAULTS - BOTH VARIETIES



Smut, ear lacing



Eye Circles, white pasty mealy color on cheeks and face



Shadow Bars



White Feet



Uneven - Non-Uniform Surface Color - Golden



Uneven - Non-Uniform Surface Color - Lynx

## COLOR DISQUALIFICATIONS - BOTH VARIETIES

- Toenails not matching on the same and corresponding foot.
- Black or Blue Undercolor.
- Wrong eye color.
- White Spots.
- Watch For – White Feet. (This can be judged as a white spot in a colored animal – an ARBA DQ for all breeds. Also mentioned specifically in the Palomino Standard.



*As a breeder, I must ask myself, “Am I breeding for a certain Palomino Color for a particular judge, or am I breeding for the Palomino Rabbit that the Standard of Perfection call for?”*

## FINAL THOUGHTS

- The Palomino is a commercial type rabbit and should be posed and judged accordingly.
- Type is worth 55 points and should be the primary consideration when Color is worth 25 points and is to be judged secondary to the 55 Type points.
- Surface Color Shade in both varieties is to be uniform, have very little variation of color and that color should carry down the legs and onto the top of the feet.
- Color Comments should always include uniformity comments.
- Color Faults include: Too dark or too light Surface Color.
- Cut Severely for extreme color ranges.
- Uneven – Non-uniform Surface Color. Body Smut and Ear-lacing. Large eye circles. White, pasty mealy color on cheeks and face. Shadow Bars on feet.
- Color Disqualifications include: Unmatched Toenails. Black or Blue Undercolor. White Spots. Wrong eye color.

**Photo credits:** Bonnie Burdick, John and Wayne Jaraczewski, Deb Morrison, Deanna Payne, Sharon Pellham and Kathleen Utter, ARBA Photography Committee



