

ASRBA Standard Committee Recommendations for Change Satin and Mini Satin Standards for 2011-2015

The ASRBA Standards Committee reviewed several suggestions for change in the Mini Satin and Satin standards generated since the publication of the last Standard of Perfection. Those suggestions came from the membership, our committee and the ARBA Standards Committee. Our committee has resolved to recommend the changes contained here for a vote of the membership.

SATIN RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **Blue Color Faults.** Change the Blue variety color faults

From: "White hairs; mealiness; frosting; brown cast; ticking; silvering or lilac shading"

To: "White hairs, mealiness and/or brown cast"

Rationale: Frosting, ticking, silvering or lilac shading indicates an improper variety and should disqualify the rabbit under the general disqualification for wrong variety. Listing these characteristics as faults implies that the animal should only be faulted rather than disqualified. We recognize that "excessive white hairs" is a general disqualification. Retaining that fault is intended to imply that any white hairs should be considered a fault and that an excessive amount of white hairs should disqualify the rabbit.

2. **Red Color Description and Disqualification.** This change has two interconnected parts. Both must be approved for either of them to take effect.

A. Change the Red color description

From "The richness of the surface color is enhanced by good depth of color. Under color on back and sides to be orange."

To: "The richness of the surface color is enhanced by good depth of color running deep toward the skin. The under color on back and sides is to be orange with creamy white allowed next to the skin."

B. Eliminate the Red color disqualification for "white under color".

Rationale: Reds frequently have cream or near white color next to the skin, which is not described in our standard. Further, the white under color disqualification, if strictly enforced, would disqualify a large number of the Red variety. The presumption of our committee was that this disqualification might have originally been intended for belly color rather than the under color on the back and sides. We believe that the change in the description as proposed more accurately reflects the Red Satin color that has always been shown.

Note that Reds that have blue, grey or lilac looking under color on their lower hips should be disqualified under the general disqualification for "wrong under color" (page 26 of current Standard).

3. **Fur Faults.** Change the fur fault section

From: "Short, thin, flat coat. Lack of guard hairs of proper length and texture. Cut severely for coarse or harsh texture. Coat that is soft and cottony, with texture so poor it will not return to its normal position. Coat that lacks finish and condition."

To: "Cut severely for fly-back return, coarse or harsh texture. Short, thin, flat coat. Lack of guard hairs of proper length and texture. Coat that is soft and cottony, with texture so poor that it will not return to its normal position. Coat that lacks finish and condition."

Rationale: This change adds “fly-back return” as a severe fault and moves the list of severe faults to the top of the paragraph. The discussion in our committee resulted in a view of excellent Satin coats that puts them somewhere between the fly back of normal fur and the rollback of good Dwarf fur. Excellent density coupled with proper texture, as described in our standard, should have excellent Satin coats return to their natural position more slowly than harsher normal furred coats but quicker than the rollback coat of better Dwarf fur. We hope that adding fly back as a fault and moving the severe faults to the top of the paragraph will emphasize the undesirable traits that are to be faulted but recognize that, in the end, judge’s education is the key to proper application of our standard.

MINI SATIN RECOMMENDATION

4. **Ear Length.** Change the maximum ear length of Mini Satins from 3 ¼ to 3 ½ inches.

Rationale: We recognize the attractive nature of the shorter ear but are concerned that the maximum allowed ear length does not allow a balanced appearance at the top end of the weight range. Discussions with breeders via email and at the Louisville Convention noted that maximum length ears looked too short on the upper end weight. Mini Satins that fall anywhere within the allowed weight range should be able to look balanced.

To achieve a balanced look throughout the allowed weight range and keep the current maximum ear length, we considered a proposal to reduce the maximum weight of seniors from 4 ¾ to 4 ½ pounds. This proposal was rejected by our committee members as an unnecessary barrier to the approval of new varieties.

For the sake of comparison only, note that Mini Rex have a maximum weight of 4 ½ pounds and allow a 3 ½ inch ear. Mini Satins have a higher maximum weight at 4 ¾ pounds yet call for a shorter maximum ear length at 3 ¼ inches. In effect, our current MS standard calls for a larger rabbit with a smaller ear than Mini Rex.

Our recommendation is to make this slight increase in ear length to allow Mini Satins at the upper end of the weight range to achieve a balanced appearance.

In addition to these recommendations, we considered additional changes to our fur and variety descriptions and rejected them as unnecessary at this time.

The remaining steps in the procedure for changing the standard are:

1. Publication of the recommended changes for review by the membership. Note that this information for the news, web site and back side of the ballot satisfies that requirement.
2. A vote on each proposed change by the club membership. In the near future, members will receive a ballot and be able to vote on each of potential changes. This task must be completed before March 31, 2009.
3. Changes that are approved by a simple majority of the club members will be submitted to the ARBA Standard Committee for their review prior to June 30, 2009.
4. Changes that are approved by the ARBA Standards Committee will be submitted to the ARBA Board of Directors.
5. Changes approved by the ARBA Board of Directors will go into effect in January 2011.

This information can be found on pages 21-22 of the ARBA Standard of Perfection for 2006-2010 and ARBA By-Laws, Article II, Section 4 (g).