



Chinchilla Satins

By Jim Wahls, Lexington, Illinois

The "Chin" Satin is a rabbit of, indeed, a sparkling blend of Agouti fur, which is a combination of black, pearl and gray hair structure. With a base color of blue, a light pearl ring and with black hair tips over the top and sides, we have an attractive variety that would be a nice addition to your herd of Satins.

We should discuss "definition of ring" which must be clearly defined between base and surface color. I've found, over the years, that base color (slate blue) should be roughly 1/2 the length of the fur shaft, ring 1/4 the length, and surface color/ticking the other 1/4 of the hair shaft. In my opinion, the hair length should be 1" to 1 1/8" a maximum. This length of fur will return and lie flatly over the body when stroked towards the head. Density and condition of the fur will determine the return speed and must be considered when culling the young or readying your animals for show. Definition of ring is the clarity of hair between base to ring to surface color. Ring color should be a light pearl and when the fur is blown into, a definite separation between the three areas of hair shaft should be visible to the eye. Ring width too wide will look washy/blurry, brown ring color, too long of fur, fair type, fine bone and poor surface color should be criteria for culling the animal from your herd.

As for proper type, when the young first exit from the nest box, wait a couple *of* weeks and watch the movement of them as they acquaint themselves to their new world. As I view the young in their 4-6 week age range, I can determine the most healthy, with good vitality and proper body structure. I see type, feel condition and check physically for faults, eliminations or disqualifications. One of the most important considerations should be your knowledge of the growth factor and development stages of your herd. If you don't feel comfortable culling your herd as a new breeder, have a respected Satin breeder help you determine proper type, fur and body condition. Don't be afraid to ask!

In closing, join the A.S.R.B.A. and receive your *Satin Guidebook*, which will help you better understand the Satin Rabbit. "Chins" really are a shining star of the Satin breed.