



White Satins

By Bill Scott, Northfield, CT

Between the eighth and ninth guidebook, the Satin rabbit has arrived and is here to stay! Including our youth, the Satin rabbit has won four Best In Shows and four other Best 6-8 Class awards at our A.R.B.A. Conventions. Three of these wins have been with White Satins (pictured later in this article). At the present time, the Satin is equal to any

commercial 6-8 class rabbit and has been for the past five or so years. The White Satin forefathers should be real proud along with our present White breeders. The competition between White Satin breeders is as high today as ever before, and there is a great show of camaraderie when the losers shake the winner's hand. With the life of the show rabbit being so short, there is no one person that is winning best White Satin at national shows with any commanding lead. In fact, with our large entries, and our present B.O.B. method of voting, it takes five or six judges to pick the best Satin. All other commercial breeds at this time have only two or three judges to pick their best rabbit. The last four presidents and our current president all have shown White Satins with a great deal of success.

When preparing your White Satins for a show, this article may help you. Before making out your entry blank, take your Standard of Perfection out to your rabbitry and spend a few minutes checking out your rabbits. If you have any doubt at all about their weight, you should weigh each one. Get out your junior does that you are showing and check each animal carefully for any disqualifications and eliminations. Be sure of the sex of your rabbits. In the past, I have seen top White Satin breeders have the wrong sex in a class, and this is very embarrassing for them. Cull your rabbits down to the best three for a class and this will give you a nice entry. If you do not have the time the morning of the show, do this the night before. Wet your hands with water and stroke each animal's coat. Be sure to rub it dry. This treatment will remove loose fur and electricity from the coat and add life to it.

Culling your White Satins: In the 20 years that I have been raising White Satins, I tried all sorts of ways to cull my rabbits. From one day old to 16 days old to eight weeks old - the first cull is the easiest. But, over this time period I have found out that the best time to cull is at eight weeks, when I wean. I set the rabbit up according to the Standard by Oren Reynolds. Being right handed, the rabbit's loin is on my right side and the head of the rabbit is on my left side. I judge the rabbit accordingly to determine whether I should save or cull the rabbit. I also have a mirror set on my table so I can check the rabbit for undercut problems or pinched hips which, I can see from the rear view. Now I set the rabbit up as if I am left-handed with loin on my left side and the head of the rabbit on my right side. You will be amazed at the difference some rabbits have. You have heard of the expression "Don't take my picture on my bad side." Well, I have found this also applies when culling your rabbits. I feel you must check both sides. It's surprising, but some rabbits actually have their good side and their bad side. If the rabbit is bad on both sides, naturally it's culled. But, if one side is better than the other, 114 mark it a "maybe" at this time. White Satins have to be near perfect to win, so with my small cage supply there are not too many "maybe" rabbits!.

Here's the problem: When you have a hot White Satin and it wins Best of Breed, four out of four times and you go to a double show and win again - then ten minutes later you show it again-it's off the table fast! You know the rabbit was being judged by five judges who were right handed. The judge that eliminated it from the class was left-handed and you know he saw the rabbit differently than the other judges. That's why you

keep a few "maybe" rabbits that just look good on the right side and others that just look good on the left side because you do not know who the judge is going to be.

When you show White Satins, with the fierce competitions, it seems to make a difference. Try it yourself and see. Also, keep a list of the judges that are left handed and the ones who are right handed because you will know pretty quick which rabbits will do well that day.

My barn of White Satins are bred from rabbits I acquired through the years from I Oregon to Wisconsin. They have been inbred and line bred to form my present herd. When I acquired them, 95% of the pedigrees had Al Lunde's name on them and we all I know what a great showman Al is with his White Satins. Some have normal fur three generations back. But, a good White Satin can jump out of any variety and show well. A good White herd buck will also make your broken variety very competitive.

White Satin Fur: In my opinion, White Satin fur, with its ivory coat, is the most beautiful fur and really makes the White Satin. The fur with its finest texture and dense coat must be uniform. I like a rabbit that is molting and you don't know it with a prime line all the way up the loin and a good roll back. The White Satin fur usually wins best Satin fur overall. With good sheen on the fur, your rabbit generally will gain a couple of more places on the Satin table. Hope to see you at the Satin table!