

PaSRBA Convention

The Pennsylvania State Rabbit Breeders Association's Convention was held February 3-4, 2007 at the Lebanon Expo Center in Lebanon, PA. Some results of the rabbit judging, Youth Royalty Contests and pictures of various events are as follows. Congratulations to all!

2007 Royalty Contest Winners



Queen
Piper Smith

Hello Everyone! My name is Piper Smith and I am honored to be your 2007 PaSRBA Queen and Commodity Representative! I am 17 years old and currently a senior at Pleasant Valley High School. I have been actively raising and showing Mini Rex rabbits for nine years now. I raise Black, Blue, Broken, Castor, Chocolate, Lilac, Opal, Tortoise, and White Mini Rex rabbits. I joined 4-H when I was eight years old and it is hard to believe that nine years have now passed since I attended my first rabbit show. Rabbits and Mini Rex in particular are one of the most important things in my life. I have made innumerable friends and fantastic memories through the rabbit hobby,

and I hope to continue raising Mini Rex.

In addition to showing rabbits, I also greatly enjoy participating in all of the youth events at the local, state, and national level. It is a great way to learn all about the rabbit industry as well as a wonderful way to meet new people and develop friendships. In the fall of 2005 I was a member of Pennsylvania's Senior Judging Team, and it was absolutely amazing when we took 1st place in the entire country! I have also been able to visit so many interesting parts of the country through showing rabbits. This past fall I attended the 2006 ARBA Convention in Fort Worth, Texas and it was absolutely amazing! In addition to showing rabbits I am very active in different school clubs and activities. I am a member of Marching Band, Concert Band, Pep Band, Brass Caroleers, Wind Ensemble, and Brass Quintet where I play both Baritone Tuba and Tuba. I also take part in Key Club, Future Business Leaders of America, Speech and Debate Club, Mock Trial, Ski Club, and Tri-M Music Honor Society. Lastly, I love showing my Welsh Springer Spaniels with my family. All of these things keep me very busy, but I wouldn't have it any other way!

In fall of 2007 I plan on attending a four year university with a double major of Pre-Law/Political Science with a minor in English. I also plan on continuing to raise and show Mini Rex as I make the leap into solely open competition!



DUKE

Richard Vaerewyck



I am really proud to be the PaSRBA 2007 Duke. I am also the American Cavy Breeders 2006 Prince. My name is Richard Vaerewyck and I live in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

This was my sixth time competing for royalty. I competed in Wisconsin this past spring for the ACBA Prince and went as part of the PA team to Fort Worth. That was my second national show and it was a real experience to be in the hall with 20,000 animals. I am very active in 4-H where I am the only cavy breeder in my club. I raise Abyssinians,

Silkies, and Hotots. The Abyssinians have always been my favorite. I love the way they jump around, bounce and squeak. I have other animals including cats, hamsters, chickens and ducks, but none of them are as personable or interactive as an Abyssinian.

I attend ninth grade at St. Joseph's High School where I occasionally make the honor roll. It is a small school with only 300 students in ninth thru twelfth grade. It's a great school and the principal encourages me to do well and allows me to be absent from school to attend rabbit and cavy competitions. I won first place in the Pittsburgh Regional Science fair this year for my project on Vitamin C Levels in Guinea Pig Feed. I can tell you, if you raise cavies, don't buy your feed at the grocery store, buy it from a good feed store.

I have had to do lots of studying and spent a lot of time to achieve the position of Prince and Duke. I would encourage anyone to try for a royalty position because you meet lots of new people, learn a lot and have fun. It also gave me a better understanding of how shows are run and judged, which made them much more enjoyable. I now understand what judges are looking for and why they choose on animal over another.

I like to do a lot of other activities as well. I am active in the Boy Scouts and I have my Eagle, I play soccer for my school and scuba dive. Whenever I visit my grandparents in Colorado, I volunteer at the Pueblo Raptor Center. Since I have lots of experience with small furry things, the center usually has me take care of the mice and rats. I love going into the cages and interacting with the raptors, particularly, Hurley, a vulture and Libby and Griffin, who are kestrels.

I want to thank my 4-H leaders, Kathy Kummer and Karen Cain, who have been great leaders and have helped me, encouraged me and put up with me at every turn. I also want to thank our teen leaders, for being so active with the younger members of our club, teaching us and being patient. We were fortunate to have Jessie Kummer, the Pennsylvania State Rabbit Queen in our club. She is off to college and I hope to see her name in the "ask the vet" column in a few years.

I just passed my registrar's exam and hope to be a registrar soon and to raise rabbits and cavies for many years to come because it's just so much fun. One last piece of advise, always give your piggies a hug every day, it's good for you and it's good for them.





DUCHESS

Becky Forney

Hello, I am Becky Forney, and I am the 2007 PaSRBA Duchess. I live in a small town next to Pittsburgh called Irwin. I go to Trafford Middle School where I just love telling my friends about rabbits and showing them. I am involved in the Alwine 4-H Club where I have been a member for 4 years. I belong to Westmoreland County Rabbit Club, where I am the secretary for youth. I have 3 rabbit breeds; Holland Lops, American Fuzzy Lops, and Jersey woolies. My favorite breed is the Holland Lops because they have perfect personalities. I used to have Polish, but they were just too hard to sell. When you are a breeder with only so many cages, you cannot wait for a buyer. I am 14 and I am old enough to be involved in Rabbit Bowl. I plan to continue a career in small animals, or rabbits. I want to become a judge or a vet when I become an adult. I want to excel in the Holland Lop breed and plan to go to nationals next year in Michigan. I want to thank my mom, Cathy, and my tutor, Jessica Turner for the help they have given me in this success. Without Jess, I would not understand the term, "When life gives you lemons, make lemonade." Without my mom, I would have not had a chance to do what I am doing today and I love her. I love teaching the younger members about rabbits because it opens doors to the rabbit world for them. So next time you are at a show, do not forget to look for a girl with a tiara. I am always willing to help with any problems. Please, someone pinch me, I think I am dreaming!!! Thank you all who has helped me!!



PRINCE
Robert Vagzewyck



I am really proud to be the PaSRBA 2007 Prince. I attend fifth grade at Transfiguration school where I like math, science, art and music. It is a small school with only 75 students in preschool through eighth grade. It's a great school and the principle encourages me to do well and allow me to be absent from school to attend rabbit competitions. I raise Florida Whites. I also raise chickens. My brother and our family has 3 cats and a hamster.



PRINCESS
Hailey Wolfe

Hi! My name is Hailey Wolfe and I live in Myerstown, Pennsylvania. I am proud to represent the Pennsylvania State Rabbit Breeders Association as the 2007 Princess. I joined PaSRBA in 2004 along with my family. I am nine years old, in third grade and I am home schooled. I live with my parents Russell and Robin Wolfe and my older brother Kyle Allen who is currently attending our local community college. We live on a

small farm and raise rabbits, goats, chickens and hogs. I also have two ponies named Princess and Dakota. The name of our farm is Hop-N-Hoof Farm. The breeds of rabbits that we raise are Jersey Wooly, Mini-lop and White New Zealand's. I also own 7 goats in our herd and 20 chickens in our small flock.

I really love to raise animals. I have had my own rabbits since I was five years old. My first rabbit was a Jersey Wooly named Buddy. He still lives with us here on the farm. Jersey Wooly's are the main breed I raise and show. I currently have 20 of them. This past year I have also added white New Zealands and a cavy to my rabbitry. Our rabbit barn has 65 cages. My family and I also belong to the American Rabbit Breeders Association, National Jersey Wooly Rabbit Club, Lebanon County 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Club and Lebanon Valley Rabbit Breeders Association. Since the spring of 2004 I have attended Rabbit shows in Pennsylvania, Maryland and West Virginia. I've had a lot of fun and enjoy going to the shows with my family. I look forward to attending more shows and having fun!

In October of 2005, my Parents and I attended the ARBA National Convention in Indiana where I placed 2nd runner-up Lady. This was my first national convention and I had a great time. I had fun in the contests and I was on the PA Judging and Breed ID team. We did not make it to the 2006 convention in Texas but we already have our plans set to attend the 2007 convention in Michigan. If you ever have the opportunity to attend a national convention, I recommend that you go.

During the past three years I have participated in several judging and showmanship contests. I have attended the Pennsylvania State Rabbit Breeders Association Convention since 2004. I also attend our local fair every year to show my rabbits. This past year was my first year in 4-H and I really enjoyed showing at the Fair.

I would like to say "Thank You" to the Pennsylvania Rabbit Breeders Association for allowing me to represent the organization as the 2005 Lady, 2006 Lady and also as the 2007 Princess and for giving us the opportunities to learn about rabbits and cavies.



LORD
Matthew Nock



My name is Matthew James Nock. I am 7 years old, in second grade and homeschooled. My family moved from Ohio to Jamestown, Pennsylvania 5 years ago.

My family has had rabbits for a long time, so I have been going to rabbit shows since I was a baby and was signed up as an American Rabbit Breeders Association member as soon as I was born. My mom is a judge, my sister Stephanie is a registrar and my oldest brother Billy has been showing rabbits for a long time.

I raise Dwarf Hotots and have a lot of other breeds including Polish, New Zealands, Belgian Hares, Mini Rex, English Angora, English Spot, Lionheads, Himalayan and Holland Lops.

My Dad drives us to a lot of the shows and I have fun staying in hotels when we travel to the shows. I have always liked showing and working with my rabbits. I also enjoy meeting new friends at shows. We always have a lot of fun and I have gotten to go to many places on our rabbit show trips like Washington DC and trips to the ocean. I also like to help at rabbit shows selling raffle tickets.

I am a member of many rabbit clubs including ARBA, PaSRBA, Lake/Geauga Rabbit & Cavy Club, Ohio Holland Lop Rabbit Fanciers, American Dwarf Hotot Rabbit Club, Mid-Atlantic Dwarf Hotot Club, American Polish Rabbit Club, American Belgian Hare Club, American Cavy Breeders Association and associate member (clover bud) in the Bodacious Bunnies 4-H Club.

I would like to get a registrar's license and hope to be a rabbit judge when I get older. I would also like to learn more about cavies.

I like fishing, bike riding and attending fun camps at the recreation center. I also like swimming in the summer and taking arts and crafts classes. I also have a lot of fun at

my Church activities. I am in my first year of Cub Scouts.

I am very excited to be competing in the PaSRBA Royalty contest this year and really learned a lot when I competed last year. I had a lot of fun and met a lot of new friends.



LADY Veronika Rodriguez

My name is Veronika Rodriguez. I am in third grade at Cornwall Elementary School in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. I really like school and I like all of my teachers. I live with my mom and dad and my sister and brother. I like to spend time with my family and my friends. I love playing outdoors and with my brother and sister. I really like to see my best friend Hailey. I met her when I was showing my rabbits. I also joined a girls club at my church. I go to Gingrich's Mennonite Church in Lebanon. We do lots of fun activities together.

When I grow up I want to be an art teacher. I have lots of interests. I like to go out to the movies. I take dance lessons and piano lessons. I also am a member of the Lebanon County 4-H Rabbit and Cavy Club, the Lebanon Valley Rabbit Breeders Association, the Mid-Atlantic Dwarf Hotot Club and The American Dwarf Hotot Rabbit Club.

Right now I have twelve Dwarf Hotots and an orange cat named Garfield. I have been showing rabbits since I was four years old. I started out with Mini Lops, but they were too heavy for me to carry. I started showing Holland Lops. I had them for three years, but my sister and my dad have them and I wanted something different. I now have Dwarf Hotots, and they are my favorite breed. My favorite rabbits that I have are Bobby and Christina. They have done the best for me at the shows. Bobby is named after my brother and Christina is named after my sister.

I have made friends at all the shows I have gone too. I like to meet new people and tell them about my rabbits. I like to give presentations and tell people about the Dwarf Hotots. When I was in second grade I gave a presentation to my class. I told them how I

get my rabbits ready for shows and how I take care of them. I can't wait to learn more about my breed of rabbit and how to take care of them better.

