

Proposal of standard for the judgement of the exhibition Transylvanian Giant Rabbit

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Abstract. In 2009 we published for the first time our intention to create a first Romanian rabbit breed (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) based on Transylvanian rustic genes. However, that paper was not the first official report on the creation of our breed as long as we were still working to finish it. This note is not either the first official report on creation of Transylvanian Giant Rabbit, but we estimate this year we finish the breed improvement and research and publish our work as a first report. This event will mark a special day in the history of Romanian rabbitry. Our current short note was edited as a standard proposal for judgement of the exhibition Transylvanian Giant Rabbit (before its homologation). We respected the general rules presented by European Association of Poultry Pigeon and Rabbit Breeders (2003) and fit them to the specific characteristics of our breed in formation. Points distribution were presented as follows: 1) Type and the body shape 20 pts., 2) Weight 10 pts., 3) Fur 20 pts., 4) Head and ears 15pts., 5) Color 15 pts., 6) Markings 15 pts., 7) Condition 5 pts.

Key Words: Transylvanian Giant, rabbitry, new breed in formation, standard, judgement, 6.5 kg.

Introduction. In 2009 we published for the first time our intention to create a first Romanian rabbit breed based on Transylvanian rustic genes (Petrescu-Mag et al 2009). However, that paper was not the first official report on the creation of our breed as long as we were still working to finish it. This note is not either the first official report on creation of Transylvanian Giant Rabbit, but we estimate this year we finish the breed improvement and research and publish our work in a non-self journal (e.g. World Rabbit Science journal, or Zoobiology) as a first report. This event will mark a special day in the history of Romanian rabbitry. The present short note was edited as a standard proposal for judgement of the exhibition Transylvanian Giant Rabbit (before its homologation).



Figure 1. Transylvanian Giant Rabbit (produced by Bioflux, Cluj-Napoca).

Material and Method. We followed the general rules presented by European Association of Poultry Pigeon and Rabbit Breeders (2003) and fit them to the specific characteristics of our breed in formation, Transylvanian Giant.

Competition - Admission. For the competition and for the evaluation at rabbit shows, animals which are exclusively suitable for breeding and are healthy will be admitted.

Conditions of Exclusion. Castrates, hermaphrodites and rabbits without testes are to be excluded from evaluation under position one. Animals which are obviously sick or infested with insects of any kind are to be immediately removed from the show management or by instruction by the judge. The evaluation certificate of such animals contain the remark *without assessment*. This will be written across the evaluation certificates. In the lowest column, at the condition, the reason should be inserted.

Points Distribution (see Table 1)

	Table 1
1. Type and the body shape	20 points
2. Weight	10 points
3. Fur	20 points
4. Head and ears	15 points
5. Color	15 points
6. Markings	15 points
7. Condition	5 points

No 1. The body is stretched slightly, elegant and strong. The back shape is slightly arched and nicely rounded at the rear (see Figure 1). The legs are of medium length and strong. Transylvanian Giant should exhibit strength and have a lively and smooth movement. A small well formed dewlap is permissible in does but not in bucks.

No 2. Index for the weight evaluation (Table 2).

	Table 2		
<i>Kg</i>	5.50	6.00	6.50 and more
Score	8	9	10

No 3. The fur is of medium length and dense.

No 4. The head is strong and broad in bucks, does are somewhat finer. The ears are of a strong structure, long, but not very long. However, the ears must correspond in their length to the body size. Index for the ears length evaluation (Table 3).

	Table 3		
<i>Ear length (cm):</i>	20 or more	18-20	16-18
Score	3	4	5

No 5. The eyes are red or pink (albino), and the basic body color is white. The markings are black, havana, brown, blue or grey, but the score is proportionally with the intensity of the pigmentation (see Table 4).

	Table 4		
<i>Color of the nose, ears, legs and tail:</i>	<i>blue or grey</i>	<i>havana or brown</i>	black
Score	8	9	10

No 6. The markings are blackish and include nose, ears, legs and tail. Their dark shade eases into the white coat color.

No 7. Only animals in a faultless condition and health can be permitted for judging. Clean legs, ears and sexual organs, well manicured nails, shiny, well carried fur and liveliness mark a high quality animal.

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