

Posing the Dwarf Hotots
By Tonna Thomas, ARBA Judge

First let's start by stating a Dwarf Hotot is not posed like a Netherland Dwarf. There are similarities in the breeds, but not in posing. There are 65 points allocated to the general type of the Dwarf Hotot, 70 points to the Netherland Dwarf. Both breeds have 35 points allocated to the body. The Dwarf Hotot standard states "The body should be short, compact, and well rounded." The Netherland Dwarf states, "The body is to be short and compact". Short and compact are two similarities. Under head, our standard states, "the head should be attached to the body with no visible neck". The Netherland Dwarf states, "the head should be set high, and close on the body as possible". The term close on the body and no visible neck are similar. That is about as far as I am going to take the comparisons in types.

The Dwarf Hotot should be posed with it's back feet directly under the hindquarters and the front feet should be under the jaw. The head should be carried in a natural position to the rabbit. Some rabbits will hold it high, some will hold it lower. It is the placing of both the front and the hind feet that is important. The Dwarf Hotot should not be allowed to pose with it's front feet extended like a Britannia Petite.

When properly posed, look at the top line. Stand back and look at the profile to see the top line. It should rise gradually from the ear base to the highest point over the hips. This is unlike the top line of the Netherland dwarf which states "it is to show that the depth of the shoulders is carried through to a deep, well rounded, and well filled hindquarter".

Now the head, ears and eyebands are all allocated 15 points respectively. While posed and looking at the top line, look at the head. It should be well rounded from a side view. It should not be elongated. When looking from above, the head should also show good curvature of skull. If you see the nostrils, it is too long. A straight on view should show plenty of width between the eyes and a good full muzzle and jowls.

The ears should be short and well furred with good substance. Substance meaning thickness of ear, not a paper thin ear. They should balance with the body.

The eyebands should be a narrow well defined outline of the eye. Ideal width is to be the thickness of 2 pennies.

Dwarf Hotots are a very curious and energetic animal. It is next to impossible to have a several out posed to compare type. In some instances, you may have to control the animals by holding it's head. We often do this to several breeds while judging. But be sure to reverse the holding so you can properly evaluate the head, ears and eyebands.

Now, go work with your Dwarf Hotots so they readily pose for the judges!



Left: Posed too much on front toes. Back feet to forward.



Left: Flat and long in body type.



Left: Back feet to far forward causing the rabbit to appear undercut.



Left: Properly placed front and hind feet, showing a good top line.