



Judges' Handbook

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Judges Handbook

(compiled by Monika Yost)

This Handbook is meant to be a study tool and reference book for potential and current judges. It is translated from the ZDK Judges Handbook, leaving out all but the points for the German Angora rabbit.

The Judge's Handbook has been written in a Question-Answer format, since the questions in the judges test will be from this book.

The Handbook starts with general disqualifications and eliminations and then continues with questions concerning the interpretation of the German Angora Standard.

1. *Question:* Name 20 general disqualifications.

Answer: Snuffles, tumor, rupture, blindness in one or both eyes, off colored eyes, wall eyes, moon eyes, unmatched eyes, lop ears, torn ears (when it distracts from the general appearance of the animal), malocclusion, missing teeth, crooked front legs, bowed legs, wry tail, screw tail, broken tail (permanently out of line), bob tail (if more than 1/2 of the tail is missing), dewlaps in bucks and young does, bucks not showing both testicles, colored toenails in white rabbits, white toenails in colored rabbits, missing toenails (dewclaw is permitted to be missing).

2. *Question:* Name ten disqualifications concerning the German Angora rabbit only.

Answer: Very thin wool, too little undercoat, wool length under 11/2 inches, large bald areas that are not covered by the wool when the rabbit sits in its natural position, large mats, weak wool, cottony wool, complete lack of crimp, large quantity of guardhair, complete lack of furnishings.

3. *Question:* Name ten general eliminations.

Answer: Colds, ear canker, slobbers, pot belly, pregnant does, sore hocks, vent disease, abscesses, infected eyes, running eyes if severe, illegible or missing ear number tattoo, mites, mange, overweight, underweight (seniors only).

4. *Question:* What is the difference between disqualification and elimination?

Answer: A disqualification is permanent. An elimination is temporary.

5. *Question:* What do you do with a rabbit that has one or more disqualifications?

Answer: You judge the rabbit according to the standard. Then, instead of totaling the points at the bottom, you write DQ and the reason for the disqualification.

6. *Question:* What do you do with a rabbit that has one or more eliminations?

Answer: You judge the rabbit according to the standard. Then, instead of totaling the points at the bottom, you write EL and the reason for the elimination.

7. *Question:* How do you detect abnormalities on the body of the rabbit?

Answer: You feel with both hands along the body, feeling for lumps and indentations. When finding either a lump or an indentation, further investigation is necessary to determine if you are dealing with a disqualification or elimination.

8. *Question:* What are lop ears?

Answer: Lop ears do not stand erect but instead hang down.

9. *Question:* What is a malocclusion?

Answer: Malocclusion occurs when the front teeth do not meet properly, therefore causing either top or bottom teeth to grow to abnormal lengths.

10. *Question:* What are foreign spots?

Answer: Foreign spots are either colored spots on a white rabbit or any color spot (including white) other than the color of the rabbit on a colored rabbit.

11. *Question:* What is wry tail?

Answer: A wry tail is permanently bent or curved to one side or the other.

12. *Question:* How do you determine ear canker?

Answer: Ear canker is caused by a tiny mite that burrows into the skin inside the ear. It generally leaves a waxy substance behind. As the case progresses, there will be sores and small scabs.

13. *Question:* How do you determine fur mites?

Answer: An Angora rabbit with excessive flaking (dandruff) is almost always certain to have mites.

14. *Question:* What is the minimum weight for the adult German Angora rabbit?

Answer: 2.5 kg (5 1/2 lbs)

15. *Question:* What is the maximum weight for the adult German Angora rabbit?

Answer: 5 kg (11 lbs)

16. *Question:* What is the point distribution for the weight (including wool)?

Answer: 2.5 kg (5½ lbs) - 15 points
2.5 kg - 2.75 kg (5½ lbs - 6 lbs) - 16 points
2.75 kg - 3.00 kg (6 - 6½ lbs) - 17 points
3.00 kg - 3.25 kg (6½ lbs - 7 lbs) - 18 points
3.25 kg - 3.5 kg (7 - 7½ lbs) - 19 points
3.5 kg - 5.5 kg (7¾ lbs - 11 lbs) - 20 points

17. *Question:* What do you do with a rabbit that weighs less than 2.5 kg (5½ lbs)?

Answer: You eliminate it if it is an adult.

18. *Question:* What do you do with a rabbit that weighs more than 5 kg (11 lbs)?

Answer: You eliminate it.

19. *Question:* How many points can be given total for the type?

Answer: 20 points

20. *Question:* How are the points distributed for type?

Answer: Balance - 4
Taper - 3
Loin - 3
Flesh Condition - 3
Skin Attachment - 3
Head - 2
Ears - 2

21. *Question:* What does a well balanced German Angora look like?

Answer: The animal should look well proportioned, with a proper height/width/length ratio and should appear pleasing to the eye with a head of proportionate size to the body. The body should be cylindrical. The animal should have a meaty loin with strong, muscular hindquarters not showing any signs of fat.

22. *Question:* What is the height/width/length ratio?

Answer: 1:1:3 (as high as it is wide and about 3 times as long)

23. *Question:* How do you determine the points for balance?

Answer: There are a total of 4 points for balance. 1 point is deducted if the head is disproportionately much too large or small in comparison to the body. 1/2 point is deducted if the head is disproportional in size to a lesser degree. 3 points are allotted for the balance of the body, allowing 1 point for the legs and the other 2 points for the body itself.

24. *Question:* How many points are allotted to taper?

Answer: 3 points

25. *Question:* How much taper is desirable?

Answer: As little taper as possible. The animal whose body resembles a cylinder should receive the allotted 3 points.

26. *Question:* How should points be determined for the taper?

Answer: 1/2 point is to be deducted for a slight taper, graduating to a 3 point deduction for a highly noticeable taper.

27. *Question:* How many points are allotted to the loin?

Answer: 3 points

28. *Question:* When, and how many, points should be deducted (related to the loin)?

Answer: The loin should be wide, deep, long and smooth over the back. When you feel a definite ridge along the spine, a narrow or shallow loin, a sway-back or a carp back, you need to deduct points depending on the severity of the condition. You may only deduct 1/2 point for a narrow loin. However, you may decide to deduct another 1/2 point for a carp back or a short loin, etc. The back should be straight.

29. *Question:* What is a carp back?

Answer: Arching of the back upwards with the ability to clearly feel the spine under the skin. (Picture a carp.)

30. *Question:* What is a sway-back?

Answer: Opposite to the carp back, the sway-backed rabbit's back dips down between shoulders and hindquarters. This is generally caused by weak loin muscles and often gets a deduction of 1 to 2 points due to the combination of shallow and narrow loin and the sway-back, depending on the severity of the condition.

31. *Question:* How can you tell the smoothness of the back?

Answer: Run one or two fingers along the spine. You can always feel the spine. However, some rabbits have such poor musculature that the spine may feel like a roller-coaster ride.

32. *Question:* What are cowhocks?

Answer: In the case of cowhocks, the hind feet of the rabbit do not track parallel. Instead, the toes are pointed outward. Points should be deducted according to the severity of the condition.

33. *Question:* What are chopped hips?

Answer: With chopped hips, the hip or rum are cut off abruptly and fall vertically to the tail.

34. *Question:* What are undercut hips?

Answer: Undercut hips are hips that tuck under at the lower hindquarter.

35. *Question:* How many points are allotted to the flesh condition?

Answer: 3 points

36. *Question:* How can you tell the flesh condition of an animal?

Answer: Feel the animal all over the body with your finger tips. The rabbit should be covered by a generous amount of muscle and a small amount of fat. It should feel well-nourished.

37. *Question:* How do you determine the points for flesh attachment?

Answer: After feeling the body of the rabbit, you should have a general knowledge of its build and whether it is too fat or too skinny. Either one of these conditions is a fault and should receive a point deduction according to the severity of the condition.

38. *Question:* How many points are allotted to the skin attachment?

Answer: 3 points

39. *Question:* How do you judge skin attachment?

Answer: All rabbits have a certain amount of play in the skin. This is a benefit when searing because the skin can be moved to your advantage. however, loose skin making folds along the body and sides of the rabbit is a disadvantage. Place your hand firmly on the back of the rabbit and, without sliding, move it down the side. Repeat the same along the spine on both sides. Next, check for skin folds - vertical as well as horizontal.

40. *Question:* How do you determine points for skin attachment?

Answer: You need to use your own judgment and deduct points according to the severity of the condition. If the rabbit resembles a Shar Pei, you need to deduct all 3 points.

41. *Question:* How many points are allotted to the head?

Answer: 2 points

42. *Question:* How do you determine the points for the head?

Answer: If the head is not shaped properly, you need to deduct points.

43. *Question:* What is a good German Angora head?

Answer: The head should be well-rounded with a broad forehead, narrowing down towards the nose. The large and expressive eyes should be placed on the sides of the forehead. The upper lips should be well-rounded. The jaw bones should show a strong curve, more expressed in bucks than in does. There should be a definite difference in appearance of the buck and the doe, with the doe exhibiting finer features and a narrower head than the buck. Neither doe nor buck should have a pointed nose or a bulldog-type head. The features should be well proportioned.

44. *Question:* How many points are allotted to the ears?

Answer: 2 points

45. *Question:* What are some of the ear faults that require a point deduction?

Answer: Weak ear base, poor carriage, thin ears, disproportionately thick ears, and ears too short or too long.

46. *Question:* What is the desired ear carriage?

Answer: The ears should be carried erect in a V-shape.

47. *Question:* What should be the qualities of a good ear?

Answer: The ear should be well fleshed with a firm ear base that is able to support the ear in its proper position. Due to heavy furnishings, a slight tipping at the tip is permissible.

48. *Question:* How many points are allotted to wool length and density?

Answer: 15 points

49. *Question:* How many points are allotted to wool length?

Answer: 2 points

50. *Question:* What is the point distribution of wool length?

Answer: 1 3/4" - 1/2 point
2" - 1 point
2 1/4" - 1 1/2 points
2 1/2" or over - 2 points

51. *Question:* What are the minimum points for density?

Answer: 11 points

52. *Question:* What are the maximum points for density?

Answer: 13 points

53. *Question:* What is the point differential between minimum and maximum points (for density)?

Answer: 3 points

54. *Question:* How do you determine the points for density?

Answer: Feel the wool all over the body between your fingers and blow into the coat in different area to determine how much skin shows. The more skin shows, the less density. deduct points depending on the severity.

55. *Question:* What are the minimum points for uniformity?

Answer: 11 points

56. *Question:* What are the maximum points for uniformity?

Answer: 15 points

57. *Question:* What is the point differential between minimum and maximum points (for uniformity)?

Answer: 5 points

58. *Question:* How do you determine uniformity?

Answer: There are three points of uniformity: density; length; and texture. Again, you need to feel the wool for density and texture and check the wool length in different areas of the body. Wool should be evenly long, texture should be even throughout and density should be even throughout. Deduct points according to the severity of the faults in those areas.

59. *Question:* What are the minimum points for texture?

Answer: 11 points

60. *Question:* What are the maximum points for texture?

Answer: 15 points

61. *Question:* What is the point differential between minimum and maximum points (for texture)?

Answer: 5 points

62. *Question:* How do you determine texture?

Answer: Texture is determined by feeling the wool between your fingers and checking crimp.

63. *Question:* What is coarse texture?

Answer: When too many guard hairs are present in the fleece, the wool feels "gritty" between your fingers. It may even feel "prickly" when you place your hand on top of the fleece. This type of fleece is undesirable.

64. *Question:* What is a soft or cottony texture?

Answer: When there are not enough guard hairs in the fleece, the undercoat does not get proper support and lends itself to matting. This texture is undesirable due to the loss of potential commercial value.

65. *Question:* What is the proper balance between guard hair and undercoat?

Answer: This is a difficult answer to give, since you have to be able to feel the difference and find the happy medium ... enough guard hair to support the undercoat and avoid the problem of matting, yet not so many guard hairs that you lose the soft feel of luxury.

66. *Question:* How many points are allotted to the furnishings?

Answer: 10 points

67. *Question:* Where are the furnishings located?

Answer: On the ears, cheeks, forehead, front feet and hind legs.

68. *Question:* How many points are allotted to the furnishings on the ears?

Answer: 2 points

69. *Question:* How do you determine good ear furnishings?

Answer: There should be some amount of fringing on the ears with both ears looking the same.

70. *Question:* How do you judge ears with extremely heavy furnishings?

Answer: At this time, there is no point deduction for extremely heavy furnishings. However, if the furnishings are heavy and cause the ear to hang or tip, there will be a point deduction in the ear under "Type".

71. *Question:* How do you judge ears with very little furnishings?

Answer: At this time, there is no point deduction for extremely light furnishings.

72. *Question:* Is there a preference of heavier furnishings over light ones or vice versa?

Answer: No.

73. *Question:* When do you deduct points for furnishings on the ears?

Answer: Points are deducted when there is a complete lack of furnishings on the ears or when they are matted or uneven.

74. *Question:* How many points are allotted to cheek furnishings?

Answer: 2 points

75. *Question:* What are cheek furnishings?

Answer: The wool that covers the cheek from below the eye down to the jaw bone and from behind the mouth to the line between the ear base and the end of the jaw bone.

76. *Question:* How do you determine the points for the cheek furnishings?

Answer: The wool must be even on both cheeks for a balanced appearance, uniform in length and density and be without mats. You deduct points according to the severity of the unevenness, mats, or complete absence of these furnishings.

77. *Question:* What are the forehead furnishings?

Answer: The wool on the forehead between the eyes also called a forelock at times.

78. *Question:* How many points are allotted to forehead furnishings?

Answer: 2 points

79. *Question:* How do you determine the points for the forehead furnishings?

Answer: Check for mats or bare spots, uniformity and even length. Deduct according to the severity of mats, bare spots, uniformity, or complete absence of these furnishings.

80. *Question:* How many points are allotted to furnishings on the front feet?

Answer: 2 points

81. *Question:* How do you determine the points for the front feet furnishings?

Answer: Check for mats or bare spots and presence or absence of wool fibers and their uniformity.

82. *Question:* How many points are allotted to furnishings on the hind feet?

Answer: 2 points

83. *Question:* How do you determine the points for the hind feet furnishings?

Answer: Check for mats or bare spots and presence or absence of wool fibers and their uniformity.

84. *Question:* How many points are allotted to condition?

Answer: 5 points

85. *Question:* What is "Condition"?

Answer: The way the animal has been kept and cared for determines Condition. This is a rather exterior judgment, but even parasites (internal or external) will influence the condition of the rabbit. The animal needs to be clean and free of stains except in the genital area, where staining is permitted. The toe nails are to be trimmed and the ears, eyes and nose clean. The animal should appear healthy and vigorous. The points allotted under Condition are not to be confused with flesh condition, which is judged under Type.

86. *Question:* What are the five major areas to check for Condition?

Answer: Legs, ears, vent area, front claws, back claws.

87. *Question:* How many points are allotted to the condition of the legs?

Answer: 1 point

88. *Question:* How do you determine the points for the legs?

Answer: Check for mats, stains, sores and bare spots.

89. *Question:* How many points are allotted to the condition of the ears?

Answer: 1 points

90. *Question:* How do you determine the points for the ears?

Answer: Check for mats, stains, bare spots and cleanliness of the inside of the ears.

91. *Question:* How many points are allotted to the condition of the vent area?

Answer: Check for cleanliness and sores. The wool is permitted to be stained. However, points need to be reduced if the vent area appears to be sore or extremely stained or dirty.

92. *Question:* How many points are allotted to the condition of the front claws?

Answer: 1 point

93. *Question:* How do you determine the points for the front claws?

Answer: Check for cleanliness, stained wool or mats. Check the condition of the toe nails. The bottom of the front feet is permitted to be stained.

94. *Question:* How many points are allotted to the condition of the back claws?

Answer: 1 point

95. *Question:* How do you determine the points for the back claws?

Answer: Check for cleanliness, stained wool or mats. Check the condition of the toe nails. The bottom of the hind feet is permitted to be stained.

96. *Question:* What are the maximum points an animal can achieve?

Answer: 100 points

97. *Question:* How does the judge determine the winner in the show?

Answer: The animal with the highest score wins.

98. *Question:* What happens if two animals have the same score?

Answer: The animal with the highest score in the top position of the standard will win.

99. *Question:* What are the positions of the standard?

Answer: Weight
Type
Wool Length
Wool Uniformity
Texture
Furnishings
Condition

100. *Question:* What happens if two animals with the same score also score the same in all seven positions?

Answer: The buck takes preference over the doe.

101. *Question:* What is the minimum score for the German Angora rabbit to qualify for a First-Place award?

Answer: 80 points

102. *Question:* How do you need to set up the rabbit for judging?

Answer: The German Angora is placed sitting squarely on the back feet with the toes about even with the knee joint. the front feet are even with the neck, extended partially so that the chest does not touch the table and the head held high.

103. *Question:* How many teeth does a rabbit have?

Answer: 28 teeth

104. *Question:* How do you handle the rabbit when judging?

Answer: Gently check the rabbit all over for disqualifications and eliminations, then set it up for judging type and wool.

105. *Question:* How do you hold the rabbit to check the underside?

Answer: Hold the ears and neck in one hand, support the backside with your other hand and gently turn the rabbit over. Place the rump on the table while checking for toenails and abnormalities on the belly and underside.

106. *Question:* What do you do if the rabbit struggles?

Answer: If the animal struggles, allow it to sit in its natural position and let it calm down before continuing to judge.

107. *Question:* As a judge, how are you to treat people and animals?

Answer: You are to be courteous and polite to the people you work with and be gentle with the rabbits you handle.

108. *Question:* What do you do when you judge a rabbit that is evidently sick?

Answer: You eliminate the rabbit and advise the show committee. Then you clean your hands and disinfect if possible.

109. *Question:* What is the minimum amount of wool that a German Angora needs to produce in order to receive points?

Answer: 1300 grams

110. *Question:* How do you determine wool production?

Answer: Animals entered into wool shows have to have been sheared 3 months prior to the show date. There has to be a written statement undersigned by another breeder stating the date of the shearing. The rabbits entered in the wool show are to be shorn by their exhibitors. The judge is present to weight the graded wool and enter the amounts on the wool report.

111. *Question:* How do you determine the WRZ or average wool value?

Answer: First Grade x 100; Second Grade x 75; Third Grade x 25. All figures are to be calculated by multiplying the amount in the grade by 4 to get the yearly production.

112. *Question:* How do you determine the yearly wool production?

Answer: Yearly wool production is four (4) times the total wool produced within the 3 months between shearing and show.

113. *Question:* Up to how many points can a rabbit receive for wool production?

Answer: 40 points

114. *Question:* What is the minimum wool production to receive 40 points?

Answer: 1600 grams or over

115. *Question:* What is the point distribution for wool production?

Answer: 1299 g or less - no points
1300 - 1399 g - 37 points
1400 - 1499 g - 38 points
1500 - 1599 g - 39 points
1600 g or over - 40 points

116. *Question:* How long is the wool for first grade?

Answer: Over 21/2 inches, clean and white.

117. *Question:* How long is the wool for second grade?

Answer: 1 to 21/2 inches long, clean and white.

118. *Question:* What wool is graded third grade?

Answer: Anything shorter than 1 inch long, matted or webbed wool.

119. *Question:* How is stained wool to be handled?

Answer: Stained wool is to be discarded and not counted into the figures for wool production.