

Texas Rabbit Breeders Association
Youth Contest Guidelines
Royalty Contest Guidelines

TRBA Royalty and Youth Contests are designed to provide an opportunity for youth to demonstrate what they know about the rabbit project and to be an opportunity for new learning. Contest content is taken from the ARBA Official Guidebook to Raising Better Rabbits and Cavies, the ARBA Yearbook, the ARBA Standard of Perfection, the ARBA Domestic Rabbit Guide, current issues of the *Domestic Rabbit* magazine, the TRBA Yearbook, and current issues of the *TRBA News*. Guidelines have been established to help clarify the format of each contest. Adult volunteers and monitors will help whenever possible without giving answers. Contests will begin at 7:00 a.m. of the state show and participants are to remain available until 3:00 p.m. for tiebreakers, unless dismissed earlier by announcement over the intercom.

Contest Age Divisions – Participant age is determined by the age of the individual on the closing day of the annual state show. Participants who would like to be considered to qualify for Texas teams at the ARBA Convention will be asked to compete in the next age division in addition to their current age division for Hands-On Judging if the participant will change age divisions before the ARBA Convention.

Senior	King/Queen	Ages 15 to 18
Intermediate	Duke/Duchess	Ages 12 to 14
Junior	Prince/Princess	Ages 9 to 11
Pre-Junior	Lord/Lady	Ages 8 and under

Written Knowledge Test – Participants will complete a written test that may include any of the following: matching, completion, listing, multiple choice, true/false. The written test is not timed. Younger participants or those with special needs may request an adult to assist or read for them. Participants may ask questions of test monitors for clarification. An age appropriate tie breaker or “bonus” question is built into the test and will determine placement only in the event of a tie. Callbacks are not necessary for this contest.

Breed Identification – Participants will identify rabbits and cavies by breed, showroom color classification (group/variety), 4 or 6 class, and registration variety. Approximately 20 senior show animals will be presented. Each cage will be numbered. Participants will complete the breed identification information on an answer sheet, matching the cage number to the corresponding number on the answer sheet. Juniors and pre-juniors will identify fewer breeds as designated by the answer sheet. The full ARBA Standard of Perfection name for the breed and classification must be used or credit will not be given. Abbreviations will not be accepted (for example, Californian must be spelled completely; “Cal” is not accepted). Spelling should be as accurate as possible, but credit will be given if the answer can be discerned. The breed must be correct or no credit will be given for the classification or remaining information. Breeds which have no showroom classification will be recorded as “Standard.” A participant may not touch or blow on a rabbit. However, a participant may ask an adult monitor to reposition a rabbit that is laying down. Monitors may answer questions about the contest rules but may not answer rabbit questions. Contestants must participate in the TRBA state show contest to determine eligibility as a Texas team member for the ARBA national youth contests. This contest is not timed. Participants must keep their answers covered at all times. Participants will be disqualified for sharing answers or looking onto another’s answer document. A tie breaker will be included in the contest format and will determine placement only in the event of a tie. Callbacks will not be necessary. Participants should turn in answer documents and clipboards before leaving the contest. **Participants are not to discuss the rabbits for identification until everyone has finished the contest.**

Hands-On Judging – Participants will evaluate and place up to two classes of four animals each. These animals have been previously evaluated and placed by an ARBA Judge. Contestants must participate in the TRBA state show contest to determine eligibility as a Texas team member for the ARBA national youth contests.

Participants who will change age divisions before the ARBA Convention and would like to be considered for the judging team must also compete in the higher age division to determine team membership. A list of breeds will be posted prior to the start of the contest. Participants may use the ARBA Standard of Perfection during the contest. Before the contest begins, participants will be notified to prejudge the animals or to regard the animals as sound. Participants will be allowed seven minutes to judge a class. Rabbits will be identified by a number in the right ear. A standardized Hormel Scoring Guide will be used for scoring judging contests. Callbacks may be necessary to break ties. Note: Pre-juniors will participate in the Showmanship contest instead of Hands-On Judging.

Showmanship – Showmanship is for pre-juniors and Lord or Lady contestants in place of Hands-On Judging. In Showmanship, the participant will professionally examine a rabbit as a judge would do in competition. Judges may ask several questions about the rabbit and showing that are age appropriate. ARBA Showmanship Guidelines will be used for scoring.

Royalty Competition – Royalty Contest Applications are available on the TRBA website, or from the TRBA Youth Chairperson. Texas youth completing in the Royalty competition must meet eligibility guidelines and submit the completed application to the Youth Chairperson postmarked on or before the contest deadline. Forms postmarked after the deadline will be returned. Royalty contestants will participate in all contests. The high point male and female of each of the four age divisions will be designated TRBA Royalty. High point is determined by combining the scores earned on the Royalty Contest Application, Written Knowledge Test, Breed Identification and Hands-On Judging or Showmanship. The contestants must be current members of the TRBA and residents of the state of Texas when entering and competing in the contests.

Awards – All contest results will be announced and awards presented at the TRBA Banquet on Saturday evening. Trophies and awards not claimed at the banquet may be picked up at the Youth Secretary's table after 9:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. Awards will not be mailed. Contest materials will be placed in the participant's packets along with their comment cards and show reports. Materials may be picked up along with comment cards and show reports at the conclusion of the state show.

Thanks - Addresses for those contributing award money and services will be included. All participants are expected to thank those individuals who supported the youth contests.