



NCS

An Explanation on How the Shows Work

(Please feel free to take a copy)

An explanation of the Show System

Definition of Young and Adult classes (applies to standards and mutations)

The rules on age defines a “young” chinchilla to be 4 calendar months or over on the day of the show but less than 7 months, while “adults” are 7 months or over. Four months is the minimum age a chinchilla can be when exhibited at an NCS show. The dates of birth have to be given to the registrar but an exhibitor can choose whether or not to ask the registrar to put the date of birth on the back of the cage card, so the judge can see it. Note: The exhibitor is not allowed to write on the cage card. At any stage, the judge can ask the date of birth.

Standards Show System

Colour Phasing: -

Every standard chinchilla is colour phased, normally at the start of the show. The 5 colour phases are light, medium, medium dark, dark and extra dark. The decision on which colour phase an animal comes into is decided by the judge.

Classes: -

With the standards, there are 4 major classes for both the main bench and novice sections - Young Standard Females, Young Standard Males, Adult Females and Adult Males. They are normally judged in that order, with main bench animals in the class being judged first, followed immediately after by the novice animals.

Each class is judged by its colour phase. This means there can be between 0 and 5 sub classes for each major standard class (e.g. there could be up to 5 young standard female classes). There needs to be a minimum of 3 chinchillas in each colour phase class, if not, an animal goes into the “Any Other Colour” class and the multiple ribbon award system applies. This means the animals are judged purely on their merits and not against others in their colour phase (e.g. two 1st ribbons, three 3rds etc. could be awarded if none of the animals are in the same colour phase).

With a colour phased class of three or more animals, multiple Highly Commended awards can be given, but only one 1st, 2nd or 3rd. There are no guarantees that any awards will be given in any class. The judge will not give an award to an animal unless they believe they are worthy of it (e.g. the best animal in a class may only get a 3rd).

Once all the main bench and novice animals have been judged, again using the example of the Young Standard Females, all the 1st ribbon winners from each colour phase (main bench and novice) then go forward for the special award of Best Young Standard Female. The Best Young Standard Female is chosen and then the chinchilla who came second to it (assuming there was one) is added to the group of remaining 1st ribbon winners. It is from these, that the Reserve Best Young Female is picked. (Note: In the scenario that no first ribbons are awarded, then no special award is given for that class).

The same process is then repeated for the Best and Reserve Young Standard Males. The Best and Reserve Young animals (i.e. both sexes) then compete against each other for the Best and Reserve Best Young Standard.

When the young standard classes have finished, the exact same process is completed for the adult classes.

The Best Young Standard and the Best Adult Standard then compete for the Best Standard award. Once the Best Standard award has been given, the Reserve to the winner in that age group and the “Best” chinchilla in the other age group compete for the Reserve Best Standard title.

The Mutations

The mutation classes work in a similar way to the standard classes, there are main bench and novice animals, young and adult classes etc. The main difference being there are no male and female classes, males and females compete against each other in every class. As with the Standards, the Young animals are normally judged first. The mutations are split into classes based on their mutation colour, for example, you could have separate classes for Black Velvet, Brown Velvet, Pink White, Wilson White etc.. As with the Standards colour phasing, there needs to be at least three animals of the same mutation to make up a class. If not, the remaining mutations colours are judged in an “Any Other Colour” (AOC) class where the multiple ribbon system applies in the same way as the AOC Standard classes.

The Special Award winners are chosen in a similar way to the Standard classes. The 1st ribbon winners (main bench and novice) from each mutation class competes for Best Young or Adult Mutation, and the Reserve Young or Adult Mutation is chosen from the remaining 1st ribbon winners in that age group and the animal that came second in the same class as the winner of the “Best award” .

The Best Young Mutation and Best Adult Mutation are then compared to find the Best Mutation. With the reserve to the winner and the winner of the other age group, then competing for Reserve Best Mutation.

The climax of the show is at the very end, when the Best Standard and Best mutation are judged to find the Grand Show Champion (also known as Best in Show). The Reserve Grand Show Champion is then chosen from the Reserve to the winning animal and the Winner of the other class.

Novice Classes

You can remain in the novice class for 5 showing seasons (the season normally being September to early April of a membership year). The 5 seasons start from the 1st season you show, irrespective of whether you show each season. You are automatically promoted (you have no choice) to the Main Bench if you win 3 specials awards with chinchillas you have bred. If you win a special award with animals that you have not bred, it does not count. (Note: if an animal wins multiple special awards in the same show it counts as 1 but if the same animal wins a special award in two shows it counts as 2).

Each novice is given one exemption card which allows them to enter the main bench classes without losing their novice status (Note: it is one exemption in total, not per season). With one exception, if a Novice shows on the Main bench without an exemption card, thereafter, they have to exhibit on the Main bench since they lose their novice status. The exception is the National Show (which is usually the last show of the season). This is because there are no Novice classes and Novice and Main Bench Exhibitors chinchillas are all judged together. This does not affect novice status or count as your exemption.

You can give up your Novice status at any stage (in fact you can choose never to go into the Novice classes), but once you do, there is no turning back and thereafter, you always have to enter the main classes.

In the novice classes, judges tend to be more detailed in their commentary on an animal, giving additional comments and advise that will help progress the Novices' understanding of their chinchilla and how to move forward to improve on quality. All novice 1st ribbon winners go on to compete with main bench animals for the special awards, however, this does not mean you lose your novice status unless you win 3 special awards with an own bred chinchilla as explained above.

The NP Class

The NP class is for non-owner bred animals, standards or mutations, for either main bench or novice bench exhibitors. Depending on numbers, these will be judged as a class or a "any other colour class". The NP animals are not eligible to be put forward for Special Awards.

Breeders Awards

This is split between Standards and Mutations awards, points are given for each award for up to 10 animals entered by a breeder (the best performing animals count). Only own bred and main bench awards count (this does include all Specials awards irrespective if the exhibitor is novice or main bench). The points given are listed in the Constitution and Show Rules Booklet.

Exhibitors Award

The exhibitor's prize is a "cut down" version of the breeder's prize, with points being awarded on the same basis. The rules regarding the animals entered are that they must be own bred and unlike the breeder's award, must be nominated by the exhibitor during registration if they have entered more than 5 animals. Only main bench exhibitors can enter. A maximum of 5 chinchillas can be nominated which can be standards or mutations or a combination of both. If you have more than 5 animals entered and you do not nominate your chosen five, then you are not eligible to win.

Assessment Classes

Remember you can always enter an animal in an assessment class and have a one-to-one discussion with a judge on its merits, best pairings etc. Animals in the assessment class are not awarded ribbons.

The Exchange Class

Finally, the X class! This is for chinchillas that are being exchanged/sold at the show but have not been entered into any of the other classes. The normal entry fee applies and animals need to be registered with the registrar and given to stewards so they can be put somewhere safe during the proceedings of the day. Please note NCS rules prohibit members exchanging/selling/keeping animals anywhere on the premises of a show (including the car park) unless they have been entered into a class.

Happy showing!