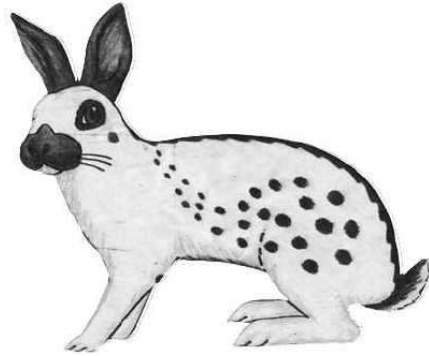
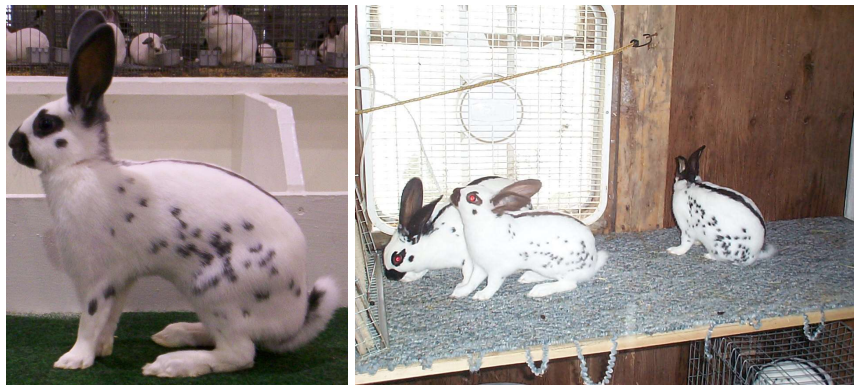


# The English Spot



The English Spot is one of the oldest breeds of fancy rabbit. It is believed that they were first developed in England in the 1800's. They were first imported to the United States in 1910. English Spots are shown in seven recognised colors, black, blue, chocolate, gold, gray, lilac, & tortoise (tort). Juniors can weigh between three and six pounds. Seniors can be between five and eight pounds.

When judging the English Spot, they should be allowed to run the table, preferably several times to allow them time to relax and get into their stride. I've found that letting the juniors (and does, if they behave) run together helps them gain confidence on the table and really show off. The less they are handled/poked/prodded while judging, the more likely they are to show off their body type to their advantage.



Being a full arched breed, Spots should have long limbs and long bodies. There

is no such thing as a Spot that is too long. They should show plenty of daylight underneath. They should be well rounded over the hindquarters. They should be faulted for short bodies, chopped hindquarters, lack of arch, and flatness. The head and ears should be in proportion to the body. Bucks will have a more broad head than does, who tend to look feminine. "Bulldog" heads should be faulted, and usually come with a short coupled body. Excellent body type is shown on the left and chopped hindquarters are shown on the right.



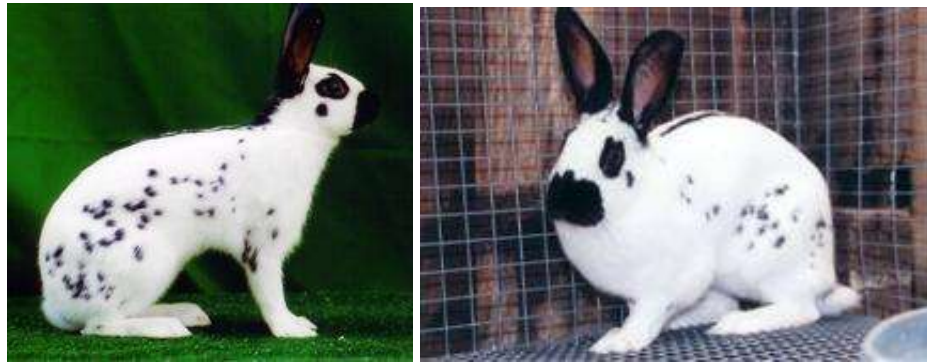
Type should be taken heavily into account when placing English Spots. The body itself has 25 points in the Standard of Perfection. You can't paint the Mona Lisa until you have the canvas.

English Spots should have flyback fur. Shorter fur is desired, because it helps make the markings stand out. If the rabbit has long hair, it's likely to have feathered markings.

## Color

Black: This color should be an intense, glossy black and should run deep down the hairshaft, blending into slate blue undercolor. Fault for white hairs, mealiness,

rustiness, brown (or any other color) tint, or wrong undercolor.



Blue: This color is to be a rich clear, glossy, dark blue that runs deep down the hairshaft, blending into a slate blue undercolor. Blues should be faulted for faded or light color, mealy, and cut severely for brownish tinge or stray white hairs.



Chocolate: This color is to be a glossy, dark chocolate brown. The chocolate should run deep down the hairshaft, blending into a dove undercolor. It should be faulted for faded, mealy, or lighter color than described. Chocolate should be faulted severely for a rusty or sunburned tinge, and stray white hairs.



Gold: This color is one of the toughest to get right. It should be a glossy, bright, clean gold color. All of the markings are supposed to be the same color, except the eye circles, which may be lighter. All markings should be free of smut or shading. The gold color should run deep down the hairshaft to an off-white undercolor. Be on the lookout for chocolate, blue, or lilac torts being shown as golds. These should be disqualified for being the wrong color. Excellent gold color is shown below.



Gray: Gray is unique in the English Spot. They should have a dark slate under color on the body markings with a hint of definition found in the neck area and head markings. The color should be dark and uniform. There are three distinct hairshafts. The first is solid black, the second is black with a narrow tan tip, third is black with a narrow tan band near the tip. The result is a dark ticked color which should not have



ring color or bands when blown into. The head markings, inner ears, eye circles, nostrils, and neck, will be a lighter tan with slight definition that is found in the typical agouti coloration. Grays should be faulted for sandy, brassy, or brownish cast, and ring color in the body portion of the markings. They are to be disqualified for guard hair color other than black.



Lilac: The lilac color is to be a medium dove gray and should have an even delicate pink tint on the surface. The color is to be carried deep down the hairshaft to a slightly paler undercolor. They should be faulted for showing blueness, mealiness, white silver tipping, and patches of rust color.



Tortoise (Tort): The tort color is supposed to be a bright orange on the markings on the topline and halfway down the flanks. It should be a smoky gray color on the markings on the lower flank and haunches. The head markings should have the darkest shading, especially on the butterfly and ears. The eye circles and cheek spots should be lighter in shading. All of the shading should allow the orange undercolor to show through to avoid intense dark markings. Torts should be faulted for shading with no orange color coming through and faded color on the topline rather than the orange color. They should be disqualified for having shading other than black (ex: blue, chocolate, lilac), or lack of shading. Excellent tort color is shown below, not too dark, not too light.

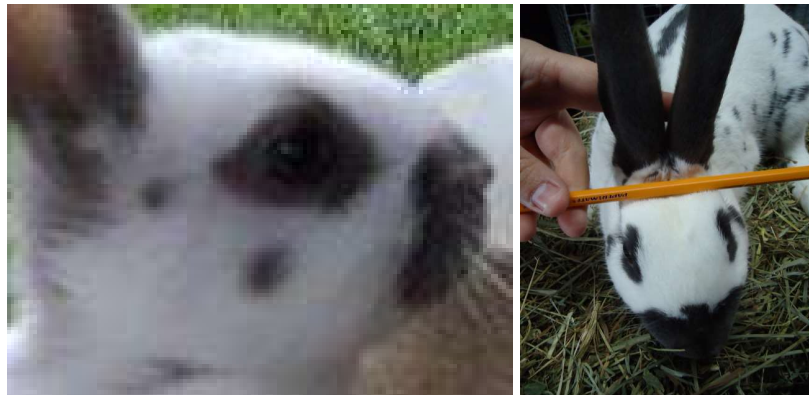


## Markings

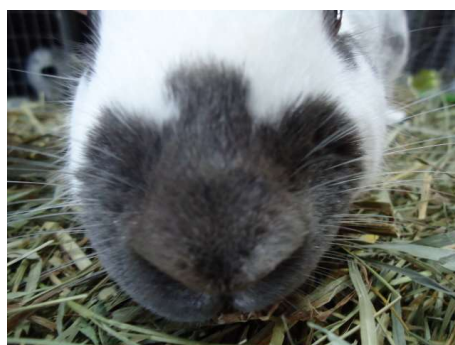
Markings count for a total of 44 points in the SOP. All of the markings should be clean, clear, and distinct. They should be free from white running into the color, or color drags into the white.

The head should be free of any stray spots. They are allowed to have one stray

spot, but will be disqualified for more than one. To differentiate between a dirty ear base and stray spots close to the ears, use a pencil and place it at the base of the ears. Any spots forward of that pencil are considered stray spots. They should also be disqualified for connection of any of the head markings. A stray head spot is shown below on the left. The “Pencil Method” is shown on the right.

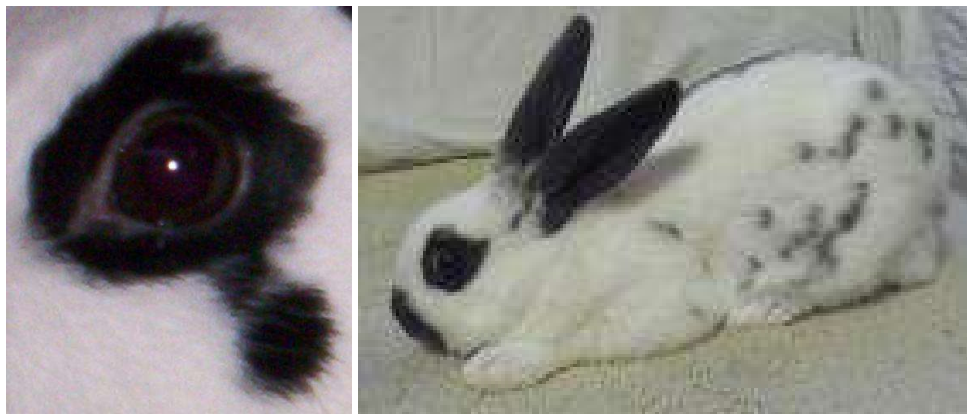


The wings of the Butterfly, or nose marking, are to be well rounded and circle the nose from lip to lip. The nose fork, should be in proportion to the wings and extend about a ½ inch toward the forehead. They should be faulted for irregular shaped wings, drags, nose fork out of proportion to the rest of the Butterfly, and blunt, crooked, or off centered nose forks. Disqualifications are split butterflies and white spots. The nose fork shown below is blunt and biased.



The eye circles should be an even band of color around each eye. They should balance from side to side, and should balance with the other head markings. Ideally the eye circle should be the size of a quarter. A feather over the eye circles should not be considered a fault. They should be disqualified for the absence of either eye circle.

The cheek spots are round spots of color below the eye on each side of the head, on the whisker bump (if it's located anywhere else, it should be considered a missing cheek spot). The ideal size of the cheek spot is to be  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch in diameter. The cheek spots should balance with the other head markings and be separated from the eye circles. Disqualify for double cheek spots, split cheek spots, or missing cheek spots. Shown below on the left is a double cheek spot. And can you "spot" what's wrong on the right?



The ears should be fully colored, with a sharp cut at the ear base, not ragged. They should be faulted for white running up the ears, mealiness, frostiness, or the ears being too light in color. They should be disqualified for white in the upper half of the ears.

The herringbone, or spine marking, is a stripe of color running from the ear base

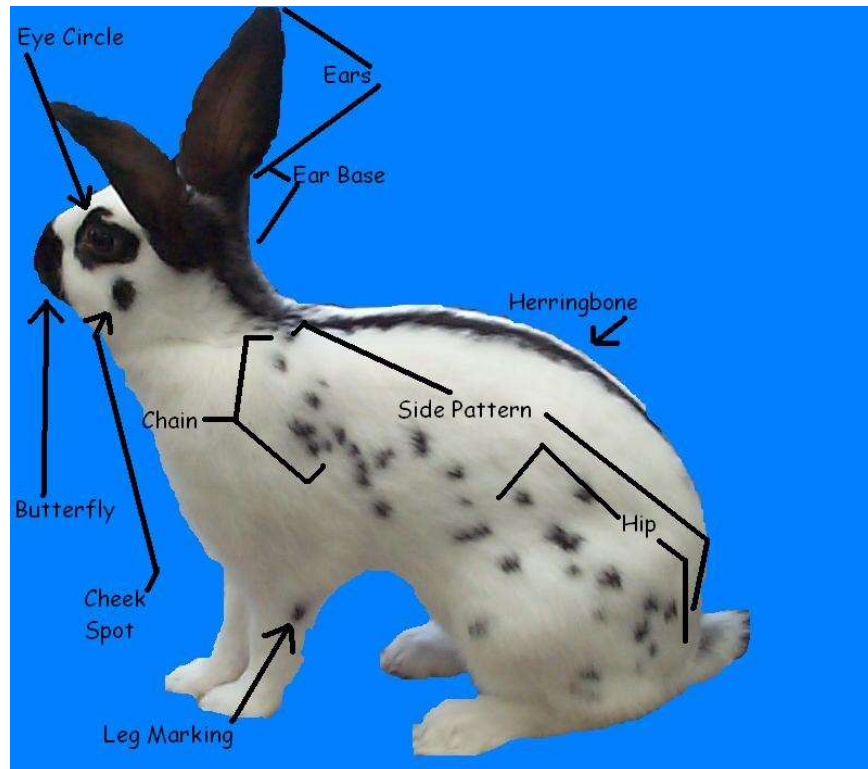


to the tip of the tail. It should be broader beginning at the saddle, with the widest portion just about the hips, then narrow toward the tail. The edges should show a herringbone effect, or ragged spikes. The width of the herringbone should be in proportion to the rest of the markings, wider on a heavily marked animal, thinner on a lighter marked animal. The ideal width, for a senior of ideal weight, should be  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch at the widest part of the herringbone, not including spikes. They should be faulted for any break in the marking, faded tail color, and smooth or even edges. They should be disqualified for more than one break, or a break that is bigger than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long. Break in the herringbone is shown below, but it does have an excellent herringbone effect.



The side markings are the most striking part of the English Spot's markings. The Chain, starts at the neck, with spots  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch in diameter, and flows down toward the stomach, increasing in number and size. The largest spot should be  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch. The Body markings connect the Chain and Hip markings. They should follow a line along the stomach, leaving a clear demarcation line along the stomach. The Body markings should sweep up toward the Herringbone and join the Hip markings. The Hip markings are found on the hindquarters and should come up toward the Herringbone, but not touch it. The largest spot should not be bigger than a penny.

The side markings should show graduation in size of the spots, starting small at the neck, and getting larger toward the hips. The pattern should also flow or sweep through the side of the animal. Both sides should be marked alike, or balanced. They should be disqualified if they are missing all spots on one or both sides.



The doe shown below is what we all should strive for. This is KY Fancy's Marie. She was shown in the mid 1980's. She won 18 Best In Shows, the 1984 & 1985 Spot Nationals & ARBA Convention. She has it all, pattern, graduation, color, a nice clean head.....everything where you want it.



The most important part of judging or showing English Spots is to have fun!  
Spots and their Breeders are crazy...in a good way! Don't be afraid to ask questions,  
we're always happy to help people out.

~Heather Dunaway

WE.B.C.N.SPOTS RABBITRY

\*Photos courtesy of Heather Dunaway, Karen De Groot, Tiffany Krause, Mandy  
Schloneger.