

FILING A CERTIFICATE OF DEVELOPMENT

Briony Smith, ARBA Rabbit Standards Committee Chair

“A proposed new breed, group or variety must possess qualifications of individual merit, unique to itself, identifying it as a separate and distinct breed, group or variety. These animals shall not be a breed, group or variety already recognized in the SOP with only a changed coat structure or altered ear carriage. A proposed new group or variety of an existing breed must possess the same type and coat requirements of the existing breed, differing only in color from the existing standard for the breed.” – ARBA Standard of Perfection, page 18

Presenting a new breed or variety is a serious commitment requiring significant amounts of time, money, and cage space as well as emotional investment. Too often, miscalculations, misfortunes, quality of animals and circumstances beyond our control impact hard work and efforts. The following information is provided for those members who are interested in pursuing Certificates of Development in order to help them establish realistic expectations as well as clarifying misconceptions. An outline of the process is also provided to help you begin the process and plan next steps. **Before you go any further, it is advised that you carefully read pages 18-29, 33 and 41 of your 2021-25 ARBA Standard of Perfection.**

General Notes for all CODs:

- It is recommended by past successful presenters that COD holders plan to dedicate a minimum of 40-60 cages to the new breed or variety. Up to 5 applicants may be listed on a COD, and animals bred and owned by any of these applicants may be part of a presentation to the ARBA Standards Committee. Multiple applicants may reside at the same household, however all must be listed as individuals.
- At presentation time **all** animals **must** have complete 3-generation pedigrees. There are no exceptions to this rule. Presentations that are not accompanied by complete 3-generation pedigrees will be assessed one fail. Presentations may also be rejected for genetic improbabilities listed on pedigrees.
- All breeders/sponsors on the application must have been members of the ARBA for a minimum of five *continuous* years and maintain membership in good standing throughout the process. Applicants who do not maintain continuous membership will be dropped from the COD and cannot be reinstated.
- All breeders/sponsors must be adult ARBA members at the time of application.
- All breeders/sponsors must commit to raising the new breed or variety for the duration of the COD and must be able to prove this should the need arise.
- After the two year wait period is completed, presentations **must** be initiated at the next ARBA Convention. COD holders who do not make a presentation will be assessed one failed showing. A second consecutive “no show,” will void the COD. All applicants listed will be removed from any other CODs held and unable to apply for another COD for a period of five years. Filing a COD indicates a commitment to attend ARBA Conventions that are not yet awarded to host groups and sites.

NEW BREEDS

Certificates of Development should only be pursued if you have been raising this new breed for a number of years. If your herd consists of F2 and F3 crosses or you are still planning to import animals to establish your herd, this is not the time to file a COD. A Certificate of Development should only be pursued once you have identified that the breed is unique and will breed true, and if a foreign breed, has adapted to your climate and management practices. You should have studied, culled, and have a herd that can *replicate its characteristics from generation to generation with consistency and quality*. Up to 5 varieties may be proposed on a New Breed Certificate of Development. Each of these varieties will require a separate presentation of 8 animals for a first presentation and 10 for a second and third presentation. The first variety or varieties to pass a third showing at an ARBA Convention will constitute a new breed, with any additional varieties on the original COD or subsequent CODs eligible to convert to new variety Certificates of Development.

Please note that applications for Broken patterned animals will not be accepted for a proposed new breed until after other colors/varieties have been accepted in the breed. If an application consists of multiple varieties, these must all be solid varieties.

NEW GROUPS/VARIETIES

Certificates of Development should only be pursued if you have been raising this new variety for a number of years. If you have just discovered that your herd can produce the variety or just begun making the necessary crosses to develop the variety, this is not the time to file a COD. A Certificate of Development should only be pursued once you have identified that the variety will produce consistent color and have worked past any potential problems such as eye color, toenail color, undercolor, etc. These animals should also meet all breed standards and be good to excellent examples of the breed. *Additionally, all applicants for a New Variety Certificate of Development must be members of the National Specialty Club from the time of application through the duration of the COD.*

Only these varieties as listed on page 21 of the Standard of Perfection are eligible to apply as groups. Presentations may include any or all of the varieties, but only one is required:

- Broken: To consist of any one already recognized breed color(s) in conjunction with white
- Tri-Color: To consist of the following colors: Dense Black and Golden Orange, Dark Blue and Golden Fawn, Dark Chocolate Brown and Golden Orange, and Dove Gray and Golden Fawn.
- Himalayan, Otter, Silver Marten, Tan, and Tortoise/Tortoiseshell/Tortoise Shell: Black, Blue, Chocolate and Lilac.

If you have determined that your new breed, group or variety meets these requirements, the steps to file a COD are outlined below:

- 1) Fill out the New Breed or New Variety Application Form. The primary breeder/sponsor should enter their information on this form.
- 2) Fill out the Additional Breeder/Sponsor Form if necessary.
- 3) Attach a copy of the proposed standard:
 - a. **New Breed:** This standard must be in English. It must include a Schedule of Points, showroom classes/weights, and full descriptions for type, fur, etc including faults and disqualifications. It should also describe each proposed color and list applicable faults and disqualifications.
 - b. **New Group/Variety:** This standard must include a complete color description that includes all faults and disqualifications.
- 4) Send **by certified mail** a copy of the Application Form, Additional Breeder/Sponsor Form (if used), proposed standard and a check or money order for \$100 to the ARBA, P.O. Box 400, Knox, PA 16232.
- 5) Send **by certified mail** a copy of the Application Form, Additional Breeder/Sponsor Form (if used), and proposed standard to Briony Smith, Rabbit Standards Committee Chair, P.O. Box 48772, Wichita, KS 67201.
- 6) Once payment is processed and membership(s) are verified, the ARBA Office will notify the Standards Committee Chair who will submit it to the committee for approval.
- 7) Approved CODs will be mailed along with detailed instructions and paperwork.
- 8) Working Standards will be published on the ARBA web site.
- 9) Once a COD is approved, the two year wait period for the breeder/sponsor(s) will begin.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me:

Briony Smith

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