



AMERICAN RABBIT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Devoted to the Interest of Rabbit Raising for Fancy and Commercial
Parent Body of All Chartered Local and Specialty Clubs / One National Judging and Registration System
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YOUTH COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

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ARBA 2026 NATIONAL YOUTH ROYALTY CONTESTS

PURPOSE

To acknowledge excellence among ARBA youth members in attendance at the ARBA National Convention and Show; To allow these members to demonstrate a working knowledge of the rabbit and cavy industry; To explore critical thinking skills, demonstrate personal initiative and provide problem-solving, decision-making and goal-setting activities for these youth members. The ARBA considers the entrants and participants in this Royalty Contest to be our "Best & Brightest" for the continued strength and growth of our organization.

RULES

1. Any ARBA youth member is eligible to compete, however, attendance at the National Convention is required and contestant must be available for events as scheduled.
2. All answers must be the words of the contestant. Parental help is acceptable in terms of proofreading and formatting **ONLY**.
3. Royalty applications are limited to seven (7) pages, one side only.
4. DO NOT put your name, ARBA number or any other headings on your application. Do not use cover sheets.
5. The two most popular (and readable) fonts are Times New Roman and Ariel using 10 or 12 point font.
6. Picture of yourself should be a photo of head/shoulders or waist up. You may be with your animal, but remember that you are the center of attention. This picture will be used in the Domestic Rabbits and the ARBA year book if you are a royalty winner.
7. Domestic Rabbit Bio: See instructions at the end of the application questions. This must be separate from your application.
8. If entering through the youth portal you will need to: Upload your application in PDF format. Upload your bio separately, also in PDF format. Your photo must be uploaded in JPG format.
9. If you choose to mail your application, you will need to send: Contest Entry Form, ONE COPY of your answers -printed on one side only, your photo (no larger than 3x3) with your name, age, city and state written on the back and your Bio.

CATEGORIES

Divisions are: King (Boys, Ages 15-18 years), Queen (Girls, Ages 15-18 years), Duke (Boys, Ages 12-14 years), Duchess (Girls, Ages 12-14 years), Prince (Boys, Ages 9-11 years), Princess (Girls, Ages 9-11 years), Lord (Boys, Ages 5-8 years), Lady (Girls, Ages 5-8 years). Age is determined by the contestant's age on the last day of the National Convention. Winners will be announced at the Youth Banquet at the ARBA National Convention.

CONTEST COMPONENTS

Pre-Convention: Applications will be judged on the following criteria: Introduction & Background(30); Involvement & Leadership(40 points); Plans and Goals(30 points); Management(40 points); Achievement(40 points); Clarity & Thoroughness of Answers, Neatness of Application & Followed Instructions(20 points). Applications that do not follow the rules listed above will be assessed a penalty of 10 points per infraction, except for late applications which will be assessed a penalty of 20 points for up to one week late and disqualification for later than one week.

Saturday, October 24, 2026: Each Royalty contestant will compete in the Individual Contest that is age-appropriate, with the exception of Lord and Lady Contestants. Prince and Princess Contestants will participate in the Showmanship Contest (*please see the individual contest rules for more information*). Contestants will be scored on their ability to handle and evaluate an animal. A sample score sheet is available on the ARBA website Duke, Duchess, King and Queen Candidates will participate in the Judging Contest (*please see the individual contest rules for more information*). Each contestant will judge four classes of four animals. This is a timed event of 7 minutes per class. Placements will be made on special forms provided. The use of the *ARBA Standard of Perfection* at the judging table is encouraged. The use of judging aids or placing markers should be of very minimal size.

Each Royalty contestant will compete in the Breed Identification Contest (*please see the individual contest rules for more information*). Contestant will be required to identify 25 animals, both rabbits and cavies, listing the complete breed name as printed in the *ARBA Standard of Perfection*. They will also identify the showroom variety, whether a 4 class or 6 class breed, and the registration variety of each of the 25 animals. No abbreviations are accepted.

Sunday, October 25, 2026: All contestants will take a Written Examination at the convention. The questions for this test will be taken from the *ARBA Official Guidebook*, the *ARBA Yearbook*, the *ARBA Standard of Perfection*, the *ARBA Domestic Rabbit Guide*, issues of *Domestic Rabbits* from the previous two calendar years, and the ARBA Web Site. Reading/writing assistance will be provided to those who request it, regardless of age. Test answers will be recorded on bubble answer sheets.

Monday, October 26, 2026: Selected contestants will participate in an Oral Interview. By 5:00 p.m. on examination day, the order of oral interviews will be posted. Contestants for interviews should be in proper showroom attire with a show coat, apron with long sleeved shirt or, at minimum, a long sleeve white shirt. If the Youth Committee determines that it is not feasible to interview every contestant in a category, the total points received for the other four components will be used to determine those contestants that will be interviewed.

Tuesday, October 27, 2026 Results will be announced at the Youth Banquet. Results packets will be available from your ARBA Director, or their representative, following the awards presentations.

CONTEST SCORING

Final Scores for the Royalty Contests will be the sum of the scores for each of the five components of the contest. The components are: Application (200 points), Written Examination (200 points), Oral Interview (200 points), Breed Identification (200 points), and the age-appropriate Individual Contest (200 points).

ENTRY PROCEDURES

Entry must be made **online** or on the form provided by the ARBA Youth Department. This form is available from your ARBA District Director, the ARBA office, the ARBA Youth Website, and the ARBA Youth Committee. **NO EMAIL ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

All online entries, including the uploading of completed forms must be completed by 11:59:59 p.m. on September 1, 2026 EST. Mailed entries not using the online portal must be postmarked by August 15, 2026 and should be mailed to the ARBA Youth Chairperson.

ARBA NATIONAL YOUTH ROYALTY CONTEST APPLICATION

PLEASE WRITE/TYPE QUESTIONS PRECEDING YOUR ANSWERS

1. When did you join the ARBA and how many consecutive years have you belonged? Explain any lapses in membership.
2. Explain how and why you got started in your project. Include the year, breed(s), and who helped you get started.
3. List the breed(s) you currently raise and how many animals you have in each breed. Why did you choose this (these) breed(s)? Tell us what other breed(s) you have raised in the past and give a brief explanation of why you are no longer raising them.
4. List your current memberships in rabbit &/or cavy related organizations. Include the name of each club (no abbreviations), the number of years you have been a member, and any offices or committees that you hold within those organizations.
5. How have you been a leader in your project?
6. What have you done to promote your breed(s) and make others aware of your project?
7. Give 2-3 examples where you've personally helped another exhibitor at a show or rabbit/cavy event. Describe the circumstance and what you learned in the process.
8. Describe the housing & equipment for your animals. Be very specific.
9. What specifically do you do to help with the care and upkeep of your project?
10. Describe the records you keep and how you keep them.
11. Do you register your animals? Why or why not?
12. Make a table or a list of outstanding awards and achievements your animals have earned since January 1, 2024. Pick two from your list and explain why they are important to you.
13. Make a table or a list of outstanding awards and achievements you have earned in this project since January 1, 2024. Pick two from your list and explain why they are important to you.
14. What are your goals for your project and what are your personal goals? What goals have you achieved to this point?
15. What are some setbacks or struggles that you have faced within your project(s) or goals? What have you done to overcome those setbacks? Do you plan to make any changes in your project to achieve your goals?
16. How do you feel your project will help you in your future endeavors?

Domestic Rabbit Bio: If you win this award, a short description of your achievements will be printed in the Domestic Rabbit (DR). In a separate document, write what you would like (in first-person narrative) to be printed in 300-600 words and upload it separately from your application. Please note: This does not count toward your page count. Failure to include this bio will result in a 20-point deduction.

• FOR INFORMATION ON COMPLETING THE ARBA CONTEST APPLICATIONS, PLEASE SEE THE SUPPLEMENT "APPLICATION TIPS", AVAILABLE ON THE ARBA WEBSITE AND THE ARBA ENTRY FORMS PACKET.