



Learning the Rabbit Fur Types

Angora/Wool. Wool is long hair (usually 1½ to 5 inches). It may be coarse or silky. The breeds in this category are the Giant Angora, Satin Angora, English Angora, French Angora, Jersey Wooly, and the American Fuzzy Lop.

Rex. Rex fur is short (ideally 5/8 inch), plush, dense, springy, and very smooth. It stands up perpendicular to the skin. The breeds in this category are the Rex and Mini Rex.

Satin. The hair shell is translucent, allowing light to shine through and giving satin fur a brilliant sheen. The hair shaft is also finer in diameter than on other breeds. The breeds in this category are the Satin, Mini Satin, and Satin Angora.

Normal. Normal rabbit fur is anything not described above. All breeds not mentioned fall under this category. Normal fur can be further divided into flyback, rollback, and standing coats. Flyback coats are short and slick. When rubbed against the grain (from tail to head) they snap back into their normal positions. Rollback coats are longer than flybacks and return more slowly to normal position when stroked against the grain. There is only one breed with a standing coat, the silver fox. Silver Fox fur is very long and should stand perpendicular to the body when stroked from tail to head.

The Five Rabbit Body Types

Semi-arch Type. The breeds in this group have more length of body than other types. They have low or flat shoulders and the arch begins at the back of the shoulders, carrying through to the top of the hips. The breeds included in this group are the American, Beveren, English Lop, Flemish Giant, and Giant Chinchilla.



Commercial Type. These breeds are considered to carry the ideal meat type. They are round of body and firm of flesh. The hips are slightly wider than the shoulders. The breeds included in this group are the French Angora, Giant Angora, Champagne d'Argent, Californian, Cinnamon, American Chinchilla, Crème d'Argent, French Lop, Harlequin, Blanc de Hotot, New Zealand, Palomino, Rex, American Sable, Satin, Silver Fox and Silver Marten.



Compact Type. Most all of these breeds under 8 pounds and shorter in length than the Commercial Type. The breeds included in this group are the American Fuzzy Lop, English Angora, Standard Chinchilla, Dutch, Dwarf Hotot, Florida White, Havana, Holland Lop, Lionhead, Jersey Wooly, Lilac, Mini Lop, Mini Rex, Mini Satin, Netherland Dwarf, Polish, Thrianta, and Silver.



Full Arch Type. Breeds with this type show an arch starting at the nape of the neck, running over the body, to the tail, with daylight beneath. They stand up on their forelegs. The breeds included in this group are the Belgian Hare, Britannia Petite, Checkered Giant, English Spot, Rhinelander, and Tan.



Cylindrical Type. The breed in this group has a long, slim head and body with fine bone. The only breed in this group is the Himalayan.

