## NFRS Standards of Excellence From Jan 2007

Genetics: Full genetic formulae not given, only the salient loci. Where unrecognised loci are given, this has been indicated with an  $^{\star}$ .

Variety	Standard		Class
Pink Eyed White	To be as white as possible, devoid of creamy tinge or staining. Eyes pink. <b>Genetics:</b> Normally c/c but other possibilities exist		1 & 2
	Points: Top colour Belly Colour - to match top colour, no thin patches Remainder - general conformation	25 25 50	
Champagne	To be an evenly warm beige, with no suggestion of dullness or greyness. Eyes Red.  Genetics: a/a p/p or a/a b/b p/p		3 & 4
	Points: Top colour Belly Colour - to match top colour, no thin patches Remainder - general conformation	25 25 50	
Black Eyed White	To be as white as possible, devoid of any creamy tinge or staining. Any coloured hairs to be severely penalised. Eyes black.  Genetics: P he/he		5 & 6
	Points: Colour of eye - black Coat colour - white, no dark hair or patches Remainder - general conformation	20 30 50	
British Blue	To be a deep steel blue without any brown coloration. Colour to be even with the belly colour matching the top. The colour of the fur when parted to be blue grey down to the skin.  Genetics: a/a d/d		7 & 8
	Points: Top colour Belly Colour Feet (5 points per foot) Remainder - general conformation	20 10 20 50	
Chocolate	To be a deep, rich chocolate, as even as possible, devoid of any dinginess and white hairs or patches. Foot colour to match top. Eyes black.  Genetics: a/a b/b or a/a B/B R/r or a/a b/b R/r		9 & 10
	Points: Top colour Belly Colour Feet (5 points per foot) Remainder - general conformation	20 10 20 50	

Black	To be a deep solid black, devoid of dinginess and white hairs or patches. Base fur to be black. Foot colour to match top. Eyes black. <b>Genetics:</b> a/a		11 & 12
	Points: Top colour Belly Colour Feet (5 points per foot) Remainder - general conformation	20 10 20 50	
Russian Blue	A medium to dark grey - blue with a metallic sheen. Faint, light speckling or a subtle ticked effect (heathering) is normal for this variety and is not to be faulted unless excessive. Colour to be even, undercolour dark blue down to the skin. Foot and belly colour to match top. Eyes black.  Genetics: Due to unproven gene rb* (d in USA). a/a rb/rb*		13 & 14
	Points: Top colour Belly colour Undercolour Feet General conformation	25 15 5 5	
Mink (shown as AOC self)	To be an even mid-grey brown, devoid of dinginess, silvering or patches and having a distinct bluish sheen. Foot colour to match top. Eyes black. <b>Genetics:</b> a/a m/m		15 & 16
	Points: Top colour Belly Colour Feet (5 points per foot) Remainder - general conformation	20 10 20 50	
Buff (shown as AOC self)	To be an even, warm magnolia with no sign of dullness or greyness. Belly colour to match top. Eyes to be dark ruby.  Genetics: a/a r/r or a/a b/b r/r		15 & 16
	Points: Top colour Belly Colour - to match top colour Eye Colour Remainder - general conformation	25 15 10 50	
Russian Dove (show as AOC self	To be a warm pinky grey. Faint light speckling or a subtle ticked effect (heathering) is usual for this variety and is not a fault. Colour to be level throughout. Not to be confused with platinum or lilac. Belly colour to match top, undercolour pale grey to the skin. Eyes Black Genetics: a/a m/m rb/rb* or a/a b/b rb/rb* or a/a rb/rb* + unrecognised brown gene known as mock mink.		15 & 16
	Points: Top colour Belly colour Feet Remainder - general conformation	20 10 20 50	

Berkshire	To be symmetrically marked, with as much white on the chest and belly as possible. The white shall not extend up the sides of the body; the edges shall be clear cut and devoid of brindling. Back feet to be white to the ankle, forelegs to be white to half the leg. Tail to be white to half its length. The body colour shall conform to the recognised colour variety. The white area shall be pure and devoid of any colour or staining. A white spot on the forehead is desirable.  Genetics: H/h or H/he + other marked genes  Points: Top colour Belly Markings Tail Stop Foot Stops Head Spot Remainder - general conformation	15 15 10 5 5 5	17 & 18
Irish	White equilateral triangle on chest with front feet white and back feet white to half their length. The triangle to be of good size, clear cut and devoid of brindling, not to extend in a streak down the belly but to occupy all the space between the front legs. The body colour shall conform to a recognised colour variety.  Genetics: H/h or H/h <sup>i</sup> + other marked genes  Points: Triangle Top Colour Foot Stops Belly Colour Remainder - general conformation	20 15 10 5 50	19 & 20
Hooded	The hood shall be unbroken, covering the head, throat, chest and shoulders, except in the case of light coloured hooded varieties where a pale coloured throat and chest is permissible. The hood shall be continuous with the saddle spinal stripe which should extend down the spine to the tail, with as much of the tail as possible being coloured. The saddle width shall be ½ to ½ an inch - it must be as even as possible and unbroken. The edges of the hood and saddle shall be clear cut and devoid of brindling. The white area shall be pure and devoid of any yellowish tinge or staining.  Genetics: h/h hm  Points: Saddle (pattern) Colour of hood and saddle Colour of white parts - no spots or staining Hood (pattern) Tail Remainder - general conformation	15 10 10 10 5 50	21 & 22

Variegated	The head and shoulders to be of a distinct colour with a white spot or blaze on the forehead. Where a spot is present this should be centrally placed on the forehead, round or oval in shape and no bigger than the rat's eye. Blazes are a wedge shaped symmetrical blaze of white starting at the nose and extending up the face to the forehead. The blaze to cover the whisker bed and taper to a fine point midway between the eyes and the ears. Markings not to extend onto the cheeks or the eyes. The rest of the upper portion (back, sides and tail) of the rat's body to be white, evenly marked with patches and flecks of distinct colour, the colour to conform to a recognised colour variety. Underside (including belly, chest and throat) to be white, devoid of creamy tinge or staining. <b>Genetics:</b> h/he or he/he		23 & 24
	Points: Variegation Colour Head spot or blaze Tail-variegated Head and shoulders Remainder - general conformation	25 10 5 5 5 5	
Capped	The colour not to extend past the ears and to follow the line of the lower jaw bone, it should not extend under the chin. A white blaze or spot on the face, and the rest of the body white. Colour to conform to a recognised colour variety. White area should be pure and devoid of yellowish tinge and staining.  Genetics: he/he possibly h/he hms		25 & 26
	Points: Cap Body Colour Blaze (or spot) - open blazes penalised by 5 points) Colour of cap Remainder - general conformation	20 15 10 5 50	
Essex	To be recognised in any standard colour, remembering that the effect of the gene responsible is to lighten the top colour. The darkest area is along the spine, becoming less intense down the sides of the animal. The gradual fading of colour continues onto the belly which is off white, with no spotting of darker colour. When viewed from above, the fading effect should be symmetrical, having no clear demarcation. The fading effect also to be seen on the legs so that the feet are also off white. There should be no obvious patches of contrasting colour. Pied tails not to be penalised. A head spot is essential; this must be well defined, centrally placed on the forehead and symmetrical.  Genetics: Unproven lethal dominant on H locusi, tentatively named H <sup>ro</sup> *		27 & 28
	Points: Top colour Shading Belly Headspot General conformation	15 20 10 5 50	

Badger (shown in AOV Marked)	As much of the underside of the rat as possible to be white, including belly, chest, throat and underside of the legs, the white not to extend up the sides of the body. Back feet to be white to the ankle, forelegs to be white to the elbow. Tail to be white to half its length. The body colour shall conform to a recognised colour variety. The white area shall be pure and devoid of any colour or staining. The defining feature of this variety is the blaze. This is to be a wedge shaped symmetrical blaze of white starting at the nose and extending up the face to the forehead. The blaze to cover the whisker bed and taper to a fine point midway between the eyes and the ears. Markings not to extend onto the cheeks or the eyes. Genetics: many possible		29 & 30
	Blaze Body markings Top colour Tail stop Foot stops Remainder-general conformation	15 15 10 5 5	
Chinchilla (shown in AOV Marked)	Top colour grey, caused by the intermingling of black guard hairs over a pearl white ground. The whole to give a sparkling appearance. Undercolour dark slate blue, intermediate portion pearl, tips black. All the underside to be white with a clear demarcation between top colour and belly. Head markings may be present or absent. Where present either a blaze or a spot to be acceptable. The standard for both is as follows: Head spot. Head spots to be centrally placed on the rat's forehead and no bigger than the rat's eye.  Blaze. This is to be a wedge shaped symmetrical blaze of white starting at the nose and extending up the face to the forehead. The blaze to cover the whisker bed and to taper to a fine point midway between the eyes and the ears. Markings not to extend onto the cheeks or the eyes.  Forelegs to be white to half their length, back feet white to the ankle (hock or tarsal bone). Tails to be pied.  Faults: drags, yellow or brown tinge to the top colour, skewed or misshapen blazes, uneven or over large head spots.  Genetics: Not known but probably caused by the interaction of at least two marked genes, at least one of which is a lethal dominant.		29 & 30
	Points: Top colour Demarcation Belly Undercolour Head markings General conformation	20 10 10 5 5	

Roan (Husky) (shown in AOV Marked)	A strikingly marked bi-colour variety, with roan colouration, symmetry and contrast being important impressions. Clearly distinct from existing marked varieties. Roans are born solid coloured, but from the age of about 4-6 weeks they start to exhibit roaning. This is a steady increase in the amount of white hairs intermingled with the solid colour, starting with the face, sides and tail root on the juvenile, then working its way up to the nape of the neck with the moult. With each moult the rat becomes progressively lighter, the final effect not really complete until the rat is well into adulthood. The roan effect is most pronounced on the face, around the rump and the sides. Pattern: The Roan shall have as symmetrical markings as possible. The underside should be completely white.  Head: A wide inverted V shaped blaze, including the whisker bed, coming as close to the eyes as possible without touching the eyes, and coning to a point between the ears. Jaw line and underside of the head must be white. Eye colour to conform to base colour standard.  Body: From the head, the colour runs back covering the ears and continues along the body extending down the sides. Belly to be white.  Tail: Unmarked tail preferred.  Faults: White spots in coloured fur/ coloured spots in white fur. Brindled demarcation line. Lack of white on face and head or a completely white face or head.  Genetics: Due to unproven recessive gene not on the H locus. Amount of colour controlled by modifiers	20	29 & 30
	Top Colour Belly Colour Demarcation General Conformation	30 10 10 50	
Striped Roan (banded Husky) (shown in AOV Marked)	A strikingly marked bi-colour variety with roan colouration, symmetry and contrast being important impressions. Clearly distinct from existing marked varieties.  Pattern: The striped Roan shall have as symmetrical markings as possible. The chest, belly, sides and all the legs to be completely white.  Head: A wide inverted V shaped blaze including the whisker bed, coming as close to the eyes as possible without touching the eyes, and coming to a point between the ears. Jaw line and underside of the head must be white. Eye colour to conform to the standard for the base colour.  Body: From the head, the colour runs back covering the ears and continues along the body with no suggestion of a hood, in an unbroken horizontal stripe, symmetrical and as straight as possible. The stripe to be approximately 5cm wide. Demarcation shall be as clear cut and even as possible.  Tail: Unmarked preferred.  Faults: White spots in coloured fur/coloured spots in white fur. Brindled demarcation line, demarcation line too low. Lack of white on face or a completely white face. Stripe too narrow or broken, any suggestions of a hood.  Genetics: Due to unproven recessive gene not on the H locus. Amount of colour controlled by modifiers		29 & 30
	Top Colour Belly Colour Demarcation Tail General Conformation	25 10 10 5 50	

Rex	The coat to be evenly dense and not excessively harsh, with as few guard hairs as possible. Coat to be evenly curled and also to a lesser extent on the belly. Curly vibrissae (whiskers) are normal for Rex. Colour to conform to a recognised colour or pattern variety. Where Silver or ticked rats are rexed, allowances should be made for the lower number of guard hairs present than in normal varieties. $ \begin{aligned}                                  $	30 15 30 5 5 5 5 5	31 & 32
Topaz	To be a rich, golden fawn evenly ticked with silver guard hairs.  Undercolour to be pale blue/grey carried down to the skin. Belly fur to be creamy silver. Top colour to be even carried well down the sides with clear differentiation between belly and top colour. Any tendency to sootiness or greyness of the top colour to be penalised. Eyes to be dark ruby (as dark as possible).  Genetics: A/- r/r or A/- b/b r/r  Points: Top colour Ticking Undercolour Belly colour Eye colour Remainder - general conformation	20 10 5 5 10 50	33 & 34
Silver Fawn	To be a rich orange fawn, evenly ticked with silver guard hairs. Belly fur to be white. The demarcation between the top colour and white belly to be sharp and clear cut, devoid of irregularities and brindling. Eyes red.  Genetics: A/A p/p  Points: Top Colour Ticking Demarcation Belly Colour Remainder - general conformation	15 10 15 10 50	35 & 36

Silvered	To be of a recognised coat colour, the coat containing equal numbers of silver and non-silver guard hairs. Each silver hair to have as much of its length white as possible, a coloured tip to be allowed. Silvering to give an overall sparkling appearance. It should not be possible to confuse Silvered with a Pearl or a Self. Foot colour to match top.  Belly colour on silvered agoutis or cinnamons to be adjusted as per agouti and cinnamon standards. Belly colour on other silvered varieties to match top.  Genetics: This is not due to a silvering gene, but selection for white hairs.  Points:		37 & 38
	Top colour including head Belly Colour Feet Remainder - general conformation	30 10 10 50	
Himalayan	Body colour to be white, free from stains and even throughout, with points a rich dark sepia. Eyes red. Note - Colour areas: 1. face - not to extend upwards from eyes. 2. ears - not to extend downwards from the base. 3. forelegs - not to extend upwards beyond the elbows. 4. hind legs - not to extend upwards beyond the ankle. 5. tail - not to extend beyond the tail root. 6. feet - to be solid colour throughout, devoid of any white. <b>Genetics:</b> a/a c <sup>h</sup> /c or a/a c <sup>h</sup> /c <sup>h</sup> selected for pale body colour and no shading.		39 & 40
	Points: Body colour Feet (sepia brown) Tail (sepia brown) Nose and ears (sepia brown) Remainder - general conformation	20 10 10 10 50	
Siamese (to include black and ruby eyed)	Body colour to medium beige, gradually and evenly shaded over saddle and hindquarters towards the belly, being darkest at the base of the tail. There should be no white or very pale areas anywhere on the body, feet or tail. Tail colour to extend down the length of the tail. Belly to be light beige. Points to be rich dark sepia and shade evenly into the body colour. Eyes black or ruby.  Genetics of ruby eyed: a/a ch/ch  Genetics of black eyed: genetics currently unproven and being researched		41 & 42
	Points: Shading Colour of points Colour of body Remainder - general conformation	20 15 15 50	

Agouti	To be a rich ruddy brown, evenly ticked with black guard hairs. Base fur dark grey to black. Belly fur to be silver grey. Foot colour to match top. Eyes black.  Genetics: A B C D P R M. Rats heterozygous for B, M and P sometimes have better colour. Rats heterozygous for R may be insipid while rats heterozygous for D are dull.  Points: Top colour Ticking Belly Colour Undercoat Feet Remainder - general conformation	15 10 10 5 10 50	43 & 44
Cinnamon	To be a warm russet brown, evenly ticked with chocolate guard hairs. Base fur mid-grey. Belly fur as Agouti but of a lighter shade. Foot colour to match top. Eyes black.  Genetics: A/- m/m  Points: Top colour Ticking Belly Colour Undercoat Feet Remainder - general conformation	15 10 10 5 10 50	45 & 46
Blue Agouti (Opal)	An attractive blend of mid-blue ticking over a medium fawn ground. Undercolour to be blue down to the skin. Belly colour silver. Feet dove grey. Ears and tail to be covered with blue hairs. A brown tinge will be judged as a fault. Eyes black.  Genetics: A/- d/d		47 & 48
	Points: Top colour Ticking Belly Colour Undercoat Feet Remainder - general conformation	15 10 10 5 10 50	
Lilac Agouti (Lynx)	To be an attractive blend of dove grey ticking over a medium fawn ground. Undercolour pale grey down to the skin. Belly colour silver. Feet dove grey. Ears and tail to be covered in grey hairs. Pinky tinge desirable, blue tinge a fault. Eyes very dark ruby to black.  Genetics: A/- b/b R/r m/m		49 & 50
	Points: Top Colour Ticking Belly Colour Under colour Feet Remainder - general conformation	15 10 10 5 10 50	

Russian Blue Agouti	A blend of dark blue ticking over a fawn ground. Heathering of the blue ticking is normal for this variety and is not a fault. Undercolour to be dark blue down to the skin. Foot colour to match top. Belly colour silver. A brown tinge to the ticking to be considered a fault. Eyes black. Genetics: A/- rb/rb*		51 & 52
	Points: Top colour Ticking Belly Colour Undercoat Feet Remainder - general conformation	15 10 10 5 10 50	
Pearl	To be palest silver, shading to creamish undercolour. Each hair to be delicately tipped with grey evenly over the whole animal. Belly fur to be creamy silver. Foot colour to match top. Eyes black  Genetics: a/a m/m Pe/pe (pearl is dominant lethal gene)		53 & 54
	Points: Top colour Belly colour Feet Remainder - general conformation	25 15 10 50	
Cinnamon Pearl	Coat to consist of three bands of colour from the base up - cream, blue and orange, with silver guard hairs, to give an overall golden appearance with a silver sheen. Belly fur pale silver grey. Foot colour to match top. Eyes black.  Genetics: A/- m/m Pe/pe (pearl is dominant lethal gene)		55 & 56
	Points: Top colour Ticking Feet Belly Base coat (cream) Remainder - general conformation	15 10 10 10 5 5	

Dumbo	To be judged as standard rats with the following differences: The ears to be set low on the sides of the head, their base at the back of the cheeks wider and more open than a standard rat. The ear is slightly furled at the top and will appear to be rose petal shaped, but gently pressing a finger to the back of the ear will show the ear as being perfectly rounded.  Head shape to follow the standard for normal eared rats, though may appear to differ due to the ear position. A prominent occiput (back of skull) is normal but should not present a 'hunchback' appearance.  Faults: creased, bent and wrinkled ears to be considered a serious fault. Also ears being too narrow and pointed and tubular rather than rounded to be considered a serious fault Colour to conform to a recognised colour or pattern variety Genetics: Due to a recessive gene with altered ear shape and position, tentatively named du		57 & 58
	Points: Ear set & shape Colour/pattern/condition Body type and size Fur Head Eyes Tail Feet	20 40 15 5 5 5 5	
Argente Crème (shown in Guide Standard)	The back of the rat to be a delicate shade of apricot, ticked with silver and shading to cream on the sides and face. Head markings may be present or absent. Where present, they must conform to the requirements of the chinchilla standard. Undercoat white, belly white. Eyes Red. Genetically a chinchillated silver fawn.		59 & 60
	Points: Top Colour/Ticking Shading Side Colour Belly Eyes General Conformation	15 10 10 10 5 5	
Burmese (shown in Guide Standard)	To be an even, rich mid-brown, devoid of dinginess, silvering, or patches, with darker points of the same shade. There is to be a strong contrast between the points and body colour. Eyes black.  Genetics: genetics currently unproven and being researched		59 & 60
	Points: Body Colour Feet Tail Nose & Ears Remainder - general conformation	20 10 10 10 50	

Ivory (shown in Guide Standard)	Body colour to be very pale creamy white all over with no odd coloured hairs or patches. Ears and tail to be pink. Eyes Black. Genetics: genetics currently unproven and being researched  Points: Coat Colour Eyes Ears Tail General Conformation	20 20 5 5	59 & 60
Lilac (shown in Guide Standard)	A pinky dove grey throughout, from tips of fur to skin, bluish tinge a fault. Foot and belly colour to match top. Ears and tail to be covered with grey hairs. Eyes very dark ruby to black.  Genetics: a/a b/b d/d R/r m/m.  Points: Top Colour Belly Colour Feet General Conformation	20 10 20 50	59 & 60
Russian Silver (shown in Guide Standard)	To be a pale blue-grey. Faint light speckling or a subtle ticked effect (heathering) is usual for this variety and is not a fault. Colour to be level throughout. Belly colour to match top. Undercolour to be as pale as possible. Brown, yellow or pinky tinges to be faulted. Eyes Black. Genetics: a/a d/d rb/rb* or a/a b/b d/d rb/rb* or a/a b/b d/d m/m rb/rb* or any other combination.  Points: Top colour Belly colour Feet Remainder - general conformation	25 15 10 50	59 & 60
Russian Silver Agouti (shown in Guide Standard)	A blend of light blue grey ticking over a warm creamy fawn ground. Undercolour light silver grey down to the skin. Belly colour pale silver. Pinky tinge to be a fault. Eyes black. Genetics: Agouti version of above.  Points: Top Colour Ticking Belly colour Undercolour Feet Remainder-general conformation	15 10 10 5 10	59 & 60

Platinum agouti (shown in Guide Standard)	A bright blend of pale grey ticking over a rich cream ground, with a distinct ice-blue hue. Undercolour pale blue down to skin. Belly colour pale silver. Feet pale grey. Eyes red to ruby. Strong blue or brownish tones a fault.  Genetics: Combination of an unrecognised brown gene (called mock mink) with blue and another unrecognised pink eyed gene. This is the Agouti based version		59 & 60
	Points: Top Colour Ticking Belly Colour Undercolour Feet General Conformation	15 10 10 10 5 50	
Squirrel (shown in Guide Standard)	Top colour silver blue, caused by the intermingling of blue guard hairs over a pearl white ground. Undercolour slate blue, intermediate portion pearl, tips blue. Underside to be white with a clear demarcation between top colour and belly. Head markings may be present or absent. Where present either a blaze or a head spot to be acceptable. Blazes to conform to the standard for a blaze, head spots to be centrally placed and not to be larger than the rat's eye. Forelegs to be white to half their length, back feet white to ankle (hock). Tails are pied. Faults: drags, yellow or brown tinge to the top colour, skewed or misshapen blazes, uneven or overlarge head spots. Genetics: Chinchillated blue agouti.		59 & 60
	Points: Top colour Demarcation Belly Undercolour Head markings General conformation	20 10 10 5 5 5	