

Book review: Standard Românesc pentru iepuri de rasă. Vlad M., Filip V., Vasile B., Bălan M. (eds) & FNCPPAMR. 2017. FNCPPAMR, 189 p.

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Front cover (left) and back cover (right). The back cover illustrates the three Romanian rabbit breeds (up- Rabbit of Cluj, middle – Szekler Rabbit, down – The Transylvanian Giant Rabbit).

National Federation of the Pigeon, Poultry and Small Animal Breeders from Romania [in Romanian: Federația Națională a Crescătorilor de Porumbei, Păsări și Animale Mici din România (FNCPPAMR)] published in November 2017 the Romanian standard for rabbit breeds.

Even if this volume is actually a translation of the Entente Européenne d'Aviculture et de Cuniculture rabbit breeds standard, the title is motivated by the fact that not all the breeds are included from the European standard (because they are not present in Romania), and as a national and international premiere, a distinct chapter is included, presenting the three Romanian rabbit breeds, namely the Rabbit of Cluj, Transylvanian Giant Rabbit and Szekler Rabbit, which were recently (in March 2016) recognized and certified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development through the National Livestock Production Agency "Prof. Dr. K. G. Constantinescu".

This standard is the "Bible" of every rabbit judge, according to which the animals are evaluated during exhibitions. The present work is very useful both for judges and

amateurs (hobby breeders) in order to contribute to the improvement of the rabbit genetic stock.

The book comprises comprehensive descriptions of 92 rabbit breeds which are reared in Romania, including the three Romanian rabbit breeds. The book illustrates the described breeds in more than 100 color photos, on high quality paper, all in 189 pages.

Within the introductory part, there are described:

- the general rules for rabbit exhibitions as terms and conditions;
- breeds classification;
- characteristics and stages of the evaluation process;
- detailed description for each criterion followed;
- detailed description of the minor and sever faults for each feature (with illustrations);
- description of the recognized colors and their evaluation.

The main part of the standard consists in presentation of the ideal morphology, size and color for each breed, divided as follows:

- Giant breeds;
- Middle sized breeds;
- Romanian breeds;
- Breeds with short hair;
- Breeds with special hair structure;
- Breeds with long hair;
- Small breeds;
- Dwarf breeds.

For each breed there is a precise and detailed description comprising specific features as presented in the Table 1.

Table 1

The evaluation chart for each breed

<i>Criteria</i>	<i>Feature</i>	<i>Maximum score</i>
1	Body shape and type	20
2	Body weight	10
3	Fur	20
4	Breed specific feature	15
5	Breed specific feature	15
6	Breed specific feature	15
7	Care and health	5
Total		100

The final value of each specimen is established after the obtained points are converted in ratings according Table 2.

Table 2

Rating chart

<i>Points</i>	<i>Rate</i>
97-100 points	Excellent
96.5 points	Remarkable
94-96 points	Very good
92-93.5 points	Good
90-91.5 points	Satisfactory
Under 90 points	Unsatisfactory

As closing chapter, the standard provides a comprehensive table along six pages providing breed specific requirements concerning minimum and maximum accepted body weight, normal (desirable) weight, and the ideal ear length.

The references list included in the end of the standard review the earlier elaborated Romanian standards as well the European standard according to Entente Européenne d'Aviculture et de Cuniculture and some scientific papers which describe the three Romanian rabbit breeds and their evaluation.

References

Vlad M., Filip V., Vasile B., Bălan M. (eds) & Federația Națională a Crescătorilor de Porumbei, Păsări și Animale Mici din România (FNCPAMR), 2017 Standard Românesc pentru iepuri de rasă. Federația Națională a Crescătorilor de Porumbei, Păsări și Animale Mici din România (FNCPAMR), 189 p.