



Cavy Comment

The Newsletter of Cavy West (Inc)
Volume 17 Issue 1 Jan/Feb 2011

Cavy West (Inc)



CAVY OF THE YEAR 2010

Ch. Tabella Breaking Dawn
(Self Black)
K Walter



Cavy West Membership

Family	\$55
Adult	\$45
Junior	\$35

Inquiries and subscriptions to:

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Advertising Costs

For Members of Cavy West (Inc) or any ANCC affiliated club
1/8 page - \$10 per year (business ads per issue)
1/4 page - \$18 per year (business ads per issue)
1/2 page - \$30 per year (business ads per issue)
Full page - \$50 per year (business ads per issue)
Classified adverts – 2 column lines are free, extra lines \$1 each.
Non members negotiable.
No cavy to be advertised for less than \$25

Committee Meetings

Cavy West (Inc) committee meetings are open to all members to attend and are held monthly with a break over summer.

PLEASE NOTE:

YOU CAN FIND CAVY WEST ON THE NET!
Go to
<http://www.cavywest.com>

Why don't you visit the ANCC
<http://ancc.asn.au/index.html>
and join the forum.

A very warm welcome to

**Alannah Smith
Nathaniel Draper
James Black**

also to

Tania Anestoudis

(who we all know well, now has her own membership!)

Welcome back to

Kelly, Sam Pilgrim-Byrne and Charlotte (Pikipsee Stud)

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Committee:	Nicole Kelly
Committee:	Tania Anestoudis
Committee:	Elana Ettridge
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Donors

Ettridge Family

Many thanks to all those who have donated goods
 Just a big thank you also to Tania for all the wonderful work she does in the shop.
 Thanks to Liz for all her hard work in the kitchen. Many thanks also to those who have helped in the kitchen.
 Also for Elana for making the lovely trophies for the Junior members.
 To those many people who have helped in so many different ways, thank you.

Deas Cavy Stud

Tortoise and White
 Tortoiseshell
 Tri-colour
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 Self Slate
 Black Roan
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Sharon Deas
sharondeas@inet.net.au
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UPCOMING SHOWS

Sunday 27th March
Young Stock Show
Liddlelow Hall

Cannington Ag Society
Judge: Susan Pelleymounter & Sharon Deas
9:30 start

Sunday 17th April
WA State Open Show
Liddlelow Hall
Cannington Ag Society
Judge: Leonie Dickerson
9:30 start

Please note that no cavy is to be sold for less than \$25. Please bring boxes for your cavies to go to their new home in.

Benching fee of \$3 for every cavy sold, there will be no fee for unsold cavies.

Please attach detail tags to your cages BEFORE placing cages on the For Sale table. This will help prevent so much congestion at the table.

Only the person in charge of the For Sale section, or their authorised assistant, can sell cavies. Your money will be available from 3:45 onwards.

No straw, hay, sawdust or shavings or other loose bedding, are allowed at shows and this includes the For Sale section.

Apart from a quick last minute 'brush up' and Longhairs, NO GROOMING allowed at shows. If it is not groomed before the show you will have to put it on the table ungroomed!

What a lot of hard work!

On the Tuesday before Christmas my Lilac sow, Dream Time, gave birth and then passed away. Orphaning 4 babies. I was at work and Devon came home to find the sow in the last throws of her life and the 4 babies all dry and moving about. She gave them some probiotic. And placed them with another sow that is pregnant. About 30 minutes later Tania came over and fed them for the first time for me with Wombaroo Guinea Pig Milk replacer. About 1ml. That first night I fed them every 2 hours until about midnight and then again at 5am. Also cleaning their face and bottom with a wet cloth every time I fed them. The first day I fed them every 3 hours and I noticed that the sow was cleaning them after every feed so I stopped doing this.

Over the next 4 days they all grew stronger and seemed to be gaining weight well. On Boxing Day it was extremely hot so I supplemented their feed with a dose of probiotic and one 2 hours after their second feed and they all seemed fine. At midday when I went to feed them again the largest sow of the litter (2 sow's and 2 boars) had passed away presumably from

the heat. I found this very upsetting as they were one day short of a week and I thought they would have been less fragile and they certainly had seemed more robust.

They have not started to eat solid foods as quickly as I have noticed other normal litters doing. But before a feed I have been giving them fresh grass and other treats like carrot and cucumber peel and parsley. They will often have a little go at this before I give them



their milk supplement. Over the last two days I have noticed them eating the guinea pig muesli and making an effort to eat the lawn when they have lawn time. I am still giving them 4 or 5 feeds a day of about 3 ml each. Sometimes a bit more or less according to if they will take it. They also seem to prefer the replacer mix prepared fresh rather than refrigerated and re heated.

I have attached some photos so you can see our progress.

Leeanne & Devon



The products used to raise the orphaned cavies.



Ketosis (Pregnancy Toxaemia)

by Sharon Deas
(Deas Cavy Stud)

Ketosis (also called Acetonaemia) is what most people call Pregnancy

Toxaemia, but as we all know, your cavy does not need to be pregnant, or even be female, to die of Ketosis. Many a boar has died of "pregnancy toxaemia!"

Ketosis is the result of the glucose levels in the blood dropping too low, resulting in many internal organs, especially the liver, to become damaged and start to degenerate.

Symptoms include, depression, lack of appetite, lethargy, slobbering, and the sickly sweet smell to the breath we know so well, followed by muscle spasms and death. Usually in a very short period of time. In many cases by the time the cavy owner knows anything is wrong, they already have a dead, or dying, cavy.

Glucose and calcium are often given as a preventative, and can also be used as a cure, but seldom have the time to work before the cavy passes away. Also so much damage is done to the internal organs, there is often little chance of recovery.

Stress of any kind and hot weather seem to make it more likely to occur. Obesity, lack of exercise, low protein, and/or low carbohydrate diets and of course pregnancy, all have a part to play in the problem.

Some lucky cavies live in air-conditioned comfort, mine do not. They only have water bowls and frozen bottles to help keep them cool. I do have my pregnant sows running around on the floor of a stable, so they should be able to get plenty of exercise. However there are plenty of fat sows in there who do not do much in the way of exercise, they waddle from the feed dish to the water and into the nearest "house" to rest. They do not even run off, as many do when I open the door. Why run off when by staying they get first pickings of whatever they are getting that day!

I began to think what is it about being pregnant, and hot weather, that would make it more likely for a sow to suffer from Ketosis, and why is it that most sail

through pregnancy in hot weather without a problem? They all live in the same area, they are all fed the same. What is the difference? Both pregnancy and hot weather cause stress, but the stress is the same for everybody. The biggest difference I have found in any sick cavy, for whatever the reason for its illness, is if it keeps eating it has a good chance of recovery, but if it loses its appetite and eats little, its chances are very low indeed.

A pregnant sow, particularly, with a large litter, which will press against a sows stomach, making it difficult for her to be able to eat enough to support both herself and a large litter, which is why some pregnant sows can suffer from Ketosis.

How many times have I heard. "My cavy died, he was very fat but I had him/her on a diet." **Did they, in their very effort to avoid Ketosis, actually cause it?** In some cases, yes I believe it is very possible, particularly in hot weather.

Why in particular in hot weather?

One, because people often remove all dry feed in hot weather. So their diet may now be low in both protein and carbohydrates, one of the causes of Ketosis.

Two, it seems easier to put a cavy on a diet in the hot weather than the cold weather.

Three, hay is often fed in small amounts, or not at all in hot weather.

Fourth and most of all, a cavy does not like eating in hot weather. If fed in the heat of the day, a cavy will often eat little or not at all, by the time it feels like eating, the food is often spoiled or at least unappetising. Not feeling hungry is common when it is hot but we all know what it is like when it is cold, we are always hungry. When we feel cold and hungry, we make sure that our covies are fed well, but when in it is hot, we often think that they can wait, and we will feed them later. But for a cavy, particularly a pregnant cavy, a few hours without eating can be enough to bring on Ketosis. They have a very small muscle mass for their size, there is nothing to "fall back on" when they are without food.

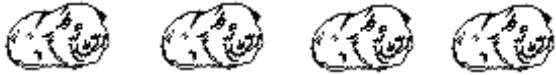
For a cavy, being on a diet, with little or no food it likes eating, the stress of hot weather making it not want to eat much anyway, can be enough to push it over the edge into Ketosis.

My covies, regardless of how fat they are, all have 24 hour access to pellets, in a feeder that can not be knocked over or emptied by the time I feed them again. They have lots of good quality hay, in hay racks so it is not trampled or peed on. These hay racks are never allowed to run out. Feed that has been tipped out onto the floor, or hay that they have been walking on, is no longer considered edible by a cavy. It may look like there is plenty of feed there but it is no use if the cavy will not eat it.

Once a day, they get LOTS (and I do mean lots) of grass, vegies and fruit. I have not found anything covies like better than fresh grass to eat. It is fed early in the morning, often times, very early, on hot days. They stuff themselves, literally, as they all look like balloons, then they lay around for most of the rest of the day, having the occasional munch on something, but generally doing nothing more than relaxing in the heat. Their stomachs are full and their bodies are getting the glucose it needs. There is still plenty of pellets and hay for them to eat when they want.

Apart from this, there is no extras, like glucose, or calcium or any other thing, that I feed my covies, yet I rarely have any problem with Ketosis. I believe the reason for this is that they have **lots of food available AT ALL TIMES, but also that they can eat their fill when it is cool**, that I believe, helps make a big difference in the prevention to Ketosis. Feeding in the afternoon or evening is convenient for us, but not the best for our covies. I know it is hard to get up early in the morning but it is for the best. Fortunately covies do not mind having the lights turned on, or off for that matter, so it is no trouble to feed them even if the sun is not up yet!

If you need to put your cavy on a diet, it might be better to do so in the cooler months of the year, when their appetite is high, and they are wanting and willing to eat any time of the day.



CAVY OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2010

CAVY OF THE YEAR
Ch. Tabella Breaking Dawn - K Walter



RESERVE CAVY OF THE YEAR 2010
Ch. Piggylicious Crystal - Satin Self PE
White - S Rudrum



BEST MARKED
Ch. Polytelis Daedalus - T&W - M & P Ricci

RESERVED MARKED
Polytelis Grey - Choc Dutch - M & P Ricci

BEST TORTOISE & WHITE
Ch. Polytelis Daedalus - M & P Ricci



BEST SATIN
Ch. Piggylicious Crystal - Self PE White - S Rudrum

RESERVE SATIN
Ch. Canberry Ivana - Self DE White - S Rudrum



RESERVE SELF "Joint"
Ch. Piggylicious Nahree - Self DE White - S Rudrum



Ch. Glengrove Bella Nero - Self Black - M & P Ricci

BEST SELF
Ch. Tabella Breaking Dawn - Self Black - K Walter



BEST CRESTED
Ch. Kenmar Merlin - Black - J Abbott
(Not present)

RESERVE CRESTED
Ch. Piggylicious Pepita - Buff - S Rudrum



RESERVE TICKED
Ch. Suneagle Annissa - Golden Agouti - T Rudrum



BEST COARSECOAT
Ch. Rosemary - J Abbott
(Not Present)

BEST TICKED
Gnarojn Juggler - Silver Agouti - Hart Family



RESERVE COARSECOAT
Ch. Deas Jazzman - S Deas



BEST LONGHAIR
 Ch. Suneagle Carmen - Coronet - A
 Hazelgrove



BEST JUNIOR OVERALL
 Tabella Breaking Dawn - Self Black - Kirsty
 Walter



RESERVE LONGHAIR
 Quarter Acre Penny - Texel - Ganon Family



Joint SECOND PLACE
 Tabella Jette - Self Black - Rebecca Ganon



Ch. Canberry Bel Canto - Crested PE White -
 Emily Abbott
 (not present)

THIRD PLACE
 FluffnStuff Artemis - Self PE White - Kaitlin Scott



Joint SECOND PLACE
 Rebecca Ganon - Self Black



BEST JUNIOR OF A SINGLE BREED
 Kirsty Walter - Self Black



Emily Abbott - Crested PE White
 (Not Present)

THIRD PLACE
 Kaitlin Scott - Self PE White



BEST CAVY STUD 2010
Tabella Cavy Stud, Self Black

RESERVE CAVY STUD 2010
Hyjinx Cavy Stud, Self Red

Best American Crested – Hart Family
(Trophy donated by Glennys Blinco)



The Juniors with their loot

