



Circle of Excellence



2023 ARBA National Convention Best of Breed

Cody's Sissy That Walk

I've always thought Sissy was special, and she's definitely proven that in her short life so far. She is currently bred back to her sire, Topher, and due any day. I'm really excited and hope all goes well. I plan to have many Sissy descendants in the future, her worth in my breeding program is going to be much more valuable than on the show table. Her lineage can be traced back to animals from both Linda Jinings and Matt Helfrich.

It's an honour to have one of my animals win Best of Breed at this prestigious event, and I am beyond humbled by it. Thank you to the judges for finding my girl and appreciating her quality.

-Cody Taylor

2023 ARBA National Convention Best Display

Dawn Guth

It still seems surreal to have won Holland Lop Best Display at the 100th ARBA Convention in Louisville, KY 2023! As we all know, these big shows with such deep competition are a game of chance. I went in with only the expectation to have fun and hope the rabbits did well. We'd had an unseasonably warm week the week preceding Convention and the big event was a couple of weeks earlier than originally planned so my entries coats weren't as nice as I'd hoped but most everyone else was in the same boat. I am truly humbled to have won two classes, place ten in the top ten and earn over 7,000 display points!! There were also nine others that earned numbers and as we all know, even getting just a number in classes as large as ours were, is a blessing!! Both the 1st Place SJB Bastet's Seymore and the 1st Place BJD Bastet's Bessie were sold at Convention prior to the show and have moved on to their new homes with two Youth breeders. I hope they do great things for them!

During the "Great Covid Pause", a lot changed in my life. Half of my weekends freed up, I reduced my numbers by less than half and I was able to keep the does bred and not have to plan around shows. I saw more progress during that time than any other. For me, less was truly more. My life is now less committed and I'm able to attend more shows and the bunnies have been rocking it! I'm focused on continuous improvement and sharing pieces with others as I am able. As always, I'm looking forward to the next show, seeing friends, sharing stories and experiences and watching to see how the next generation does! With that said, if you've never been part of a club putting on a show, please consider joining a local club. We are all what we make of this fun exciting hobby, and it wouldn't exist without numerous dedicated volunteers!! Carpe diem my friends.



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2023 ARBA National Convention Best Opposite Sex of Breed

Murphy's Kevin

As Holland breeders we are taught to wait for our juniors to come out of their uglies. It has definitely been true for many Hollands I've raised, especially those in the summer months where their ears grow to their full length so they can dispel heat and then have to catch up to them as their heads and bodies continue to grow. That has not been the case, however, for my absolute best I've produced. I remember looking at Bruno and Spanky, for example, and liking them at a young age. The same was true for Kevin. He has a brother that was normal sized for his age, but Kevin just seemed to blossom quicker than his brother. He filled in faster and I even took him from his mom to show him earlier and left his brother behind for a few more weeks. Kevin attended his first show at PaSRBA in February as a super young junior who was still molting out his baby fur. He won 3 out of 4 of the SJB classes up against some much older competition.

He will turn 1 closer to the end of November and at this point he has amassed 34 grand champion legs, more than any of my previous rabbits at this point in their show career. Of those 34 legs, 18 were BOB wins and he has had 7 Best in Show wins so far. Of course, his most notable win so far is the Best Opposite of Breed he won at ARBA Convention this year, despite not being in the best coat and condition due to molting. All of this before he turns one is mind blowing to me. I was told by my mentor Krys Simmons that many of us will have that "Once in a Lifetime" rabbit that will be the epitome of our breeding career. I met her because of my instant love for her "Once in a Lifetime" Holland buck What About Bob who I was instantly drawn to as a newbie attending my first show. I thought that rabbit for me was Bruno until I thought it was Spanky, but now I'm thinking it is Kevin. My niece MolliLyn has had that with Murphy's Gavin who has won two Best of Breeds at back to back Holland Nationals for her. Interestingly enough, Gavin and Kevin share the same dad. Uno is a Spanky son who is his doppelganger. I was saddened when Uno as an older junior somehow hit his head and caused swelling of his eye that led to scarring that made him unshowable. At the time, I had envisioned him being the next Spanky and following in his dad's footsteps. Instead, he's created two sons that are able to follow in their grandfather's footsteps and even surpass his accomplishments. I almost hate to say "I can't wait to see what Kevin matures into" as Hollands have a propensity to die when we grow deeply attached to them. Instead, I'll be grateful for the wild ride he's already taken in his first year of life and feel blessed if that ride continues. Kevin is the result of many years of line breeding. There isn't much I'd change about him as he epitomizes to me the best that my herd has had to offer. Keep line breeding those parts together and hopefully one day you'll be blessed with your own Kevin too.