

Judging Holland Lops

Chris Zemny
Chris Zemny
Chris Zemny



Overview Of The Holland Lop

The Holland Lop is a short-coupled rabbit and the body length to head ratio should be approximately 2:1, unlike a commercial rabbit which is approximately 3:1. When evaluating the size of the head there are two important factors to consider. First, the size of the head is proportional to the size of the body and will be smaller on a 3-pound Holland than on a 4-pound Holland, which is why the ratio method works well. Second, a junior head will not be as developed as a senior animal in curvature, but should still have proper proportional size. As a postscript on head size, I have never seen a Holland with too large of a head, but have seen lots of Hollands with heads that were too small.



Hailed the "Holland Lop Diva," Chris Zemny has helped make the Holland Lop the powerhouse breed it is today. During her 29 years in the rabbit world, Chris has toured the world and made an indelible mark as one of the most respected judges in the ARBA. Chris is frequently voted by the membership to select Group at the ARBA level and is a recipient of the ARBA Distinguished Service Award.

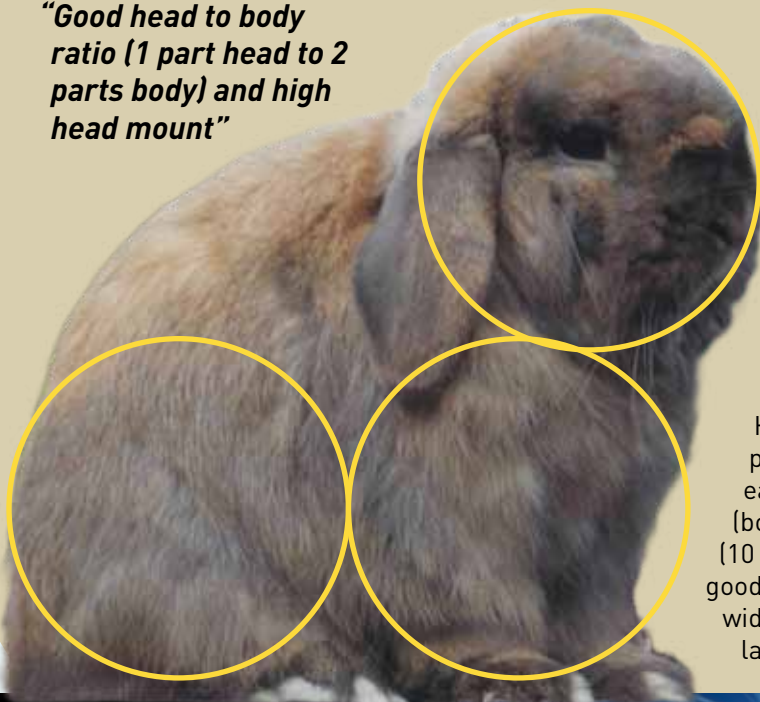
Head To Body Proportion

When you are evaluating head to body proportion, it is also a good time to evaluate head mount. The head should be mounted high upon the shoulders of the animal. The "Pose," as many call it, is the result of a short deep shoulder, rather than training the animal to sit a particular way. Animals with their

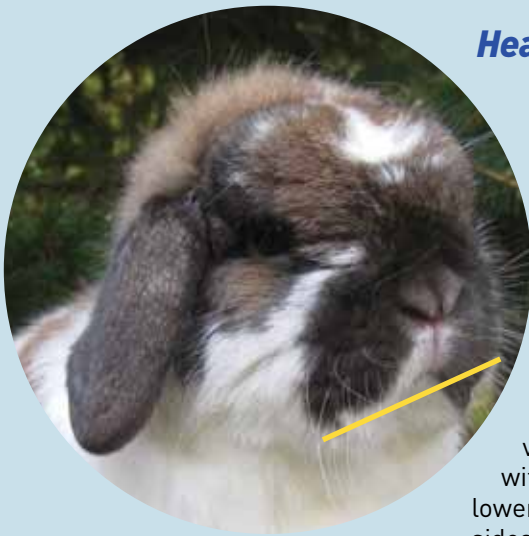
heads resting down on the show table are usually long and low in the shoulder. The body should start right at the back of the crown, with no apparent neck. It is extremely important to evaluate head mount without holding up the head. If the rabbit is built correctly, the head will stay mounted high on the shoulders without assistance.

Be aware that according to the Holland standard, there are 42 points in front of the neck (head, ears and crown,) and only 32 points (body) behind the neck. Good bone (10 points) favors the animal with a good head, since a rabbit with short, wide bone, will usually have a large, round head.

"Good head to body ratio (1 part head to 2 parts body) and high head mount"



Judge's Tip
When first looking at a Holland Lop, it helps to step back away from the animal to see the general body proportions. At a distance you will better be able to evaluate head to body ratio and proper head mount.



Head - 24 Points

When evaluating the Holland head, you need to look at width, length and depth. The head is basically a large ball mounted high on the shoulders. It should have good curvature (arc) between the crown and the nose. An older animal will exhibit better curvature than a junior. There should also be good width between the eyes. This width should be carried down to a short muzzle that is also rounded. A good rule of thumb is to visualize a triangle super-imposed upon the head with the eyes in the upper corners and the nose at the lower point. It should be an inverted equilateral triangle, and the sides (the lines from the eyes to the nose) should not be longer than the base (the line between the eyes). Another aspect of the head to evaluate is the cheek, or jowl, structure. A full round cheek is preferred over a flat-sided cheek. This full-jowled look helps to complete the ball shape that gives the Holland Lop its characteristic look.



Two good head shapes. Note the fullness of the lower jowl.

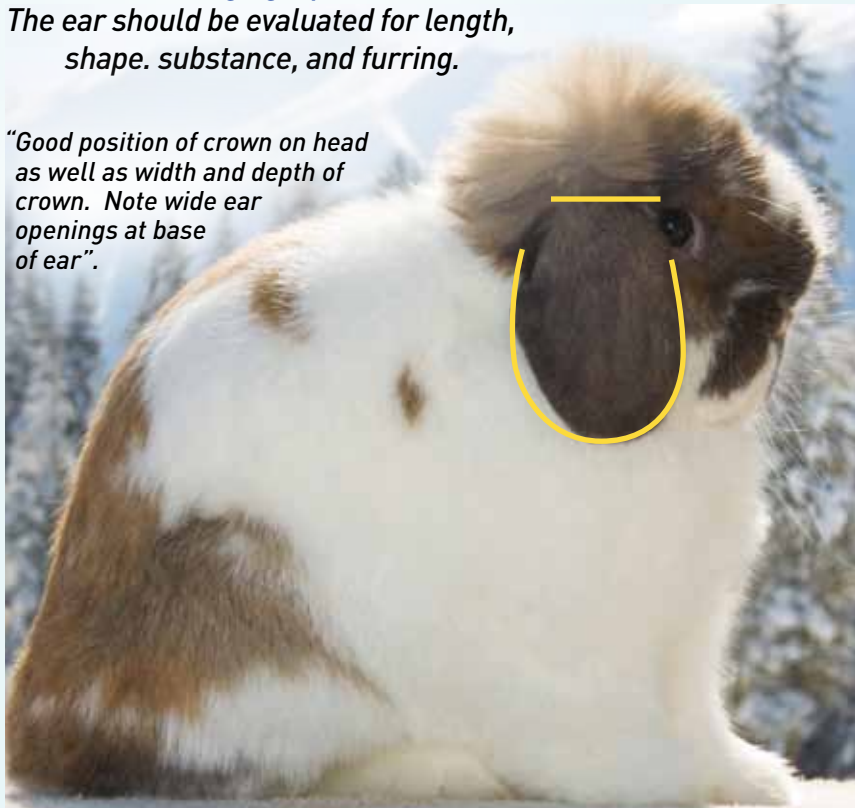
Ears - 10 Points

The standard calls for a short, wide ear. Length of ear is obvious to see. You really want the ear to balance with the rest of the rabbit, and it should extend no more than 1/2 to 1 inch below the jaw line. What you need to realize is that it is measured from the rear of the jaw and not the front of the jaw. I have seen judges pull the ears forward and measure them by how far they are in relation to the front of the face. This is not correct.

Judging Tip:

The ear should be evaluated for length, shape, substance, and furring.

"Good position of crown on head as well as width and depth of crown. Note wide ear openings at base of ear".



When evaluating ears, pay special attention to ear shape. The ears should have wide ear openings and round at the tip. You do not want ears that are long and narrow, or ears that are pointed at the tips. You want an ear that shows a great deal of width. Folded ears should be faulted. The fold is actually caused by a poor crown, which affects the ear opening.

Ears should have thick substance. Think of the ears are on a Basset Hound. They have excellent substance. Thick substance compliments the Holland's massive look.

The ears should be well furred and there should not be tufts of ears at the tip.

Crown - 8 Points

The crown is the deciding factor in ear control. The crown has three dimensions, which ensure proper ear carriage.

- The crown should be wide across the skull from side-to-side. If it is narrow from side-to-side, the crown will cause the ears to exhibit quite a bit of control. The crown will actually keep the ears from caressing the cheeks. Sometimes the ears will look like they "prong out" like a bulls horns. The crown should ideally round down to a level even with the top of the eye. A narrow crown can also cause the ears to hang back towards the rear of the rabbit instead of hanging vertically.
- The crown should have good front-to-back width. The front-to-back width governs the ear openings, and hence can create folded ears on a rabbit with narrow front-to-back width of crown. When there is good front to back width of crown, the ear opening at the top of the ear is approximately 1 inch wide.

continued



Crown - Continued

- The crown should have good depth from the head to the top of the crown. Ears do not lop well from a shallow crown.
- Proper crown placement is also important. The crown should be placed on the head so the ears hang down right at the side of the eye. The eye almost appears to peek out from the side of the ears. Far too many Hollands have “slipped” crowns or crowns that are too far back on the head. I have seen some crowns placed as far back as one to two finger widths behind the eye, which is a serious crown fault.

In regards to ear control, by definition, lops are supposed to lop. There is a general disqualification requiring lopped-ear rabbits to have ears that are carried below horizontal. Hollands tend to be excitable by nature, and need to be allowed the time to relax, in order to demonstrate proper ear control. You may place the ears down, but the animal must be able to maintain ears that lop below horizontal without assistance.

Judging Tip: *The crown should be evaluated for placement, depth, front-to-back width, and side-to-side width.*

Judging Tip: *Do NOT hold the Holland’s head to evaluate head mount and top line. A Holland should be built so that it holds its head high on the body. It should not need assistance.*



“Good position of crown on head as well as width and depth of crown. Note wide ear openings at base of ear”.

Body - 32 Points TOP LINE & HEAD MOUNT

Type can be evaluated by observing length, depth and width of body. Overall proportion, or balance, is key in evaluating Holland Lops. Be sure to view the rabbit from the side, top, and the rear when evaluating the body.

The top line should carry straight back from the shoulders to the hindquarter. This is what gives the Holland its blocky look. It is because the shoulders are deep, and short, and not that the hindquarters are flat, that the top line appears straight. It could be said that animals with proper top line do not have a visible rise.

Shoulder, Midsection & Hindquarters

The shoulders should be deep and wide. Both low and narrow shoulders should be faulted. Likewise, shoulders that are too wide should also be faulted; shoulders should not be wider than the hindquarters. There should be a very slight taper from the shoulder to

the hindquarter, and there should be a smooth transition, or blending from the shoulder to the hindquarter. The midsection should not be noticeable.

There are Hollands that have good shoulders, but have long midsections. They will frequently appear to have sloping hindquarters.

We have all heard about the “depth to approximate width” rule in commercial breeds. This also holds true for the Holland Lop. Be sure to check for well-filled upper hindquarters as well as lower ones. The animal should not be “catchy” in the hips, or have protruding hips. The loin should be deep and wide enough for flesh to cover the top of the hipbones and round gently to a full lower hindquarter. Watch for sloping hindquarters, a pinched or narrow loin, pinched hips, and undercut lower hindquarters.

Bone - 10 Points

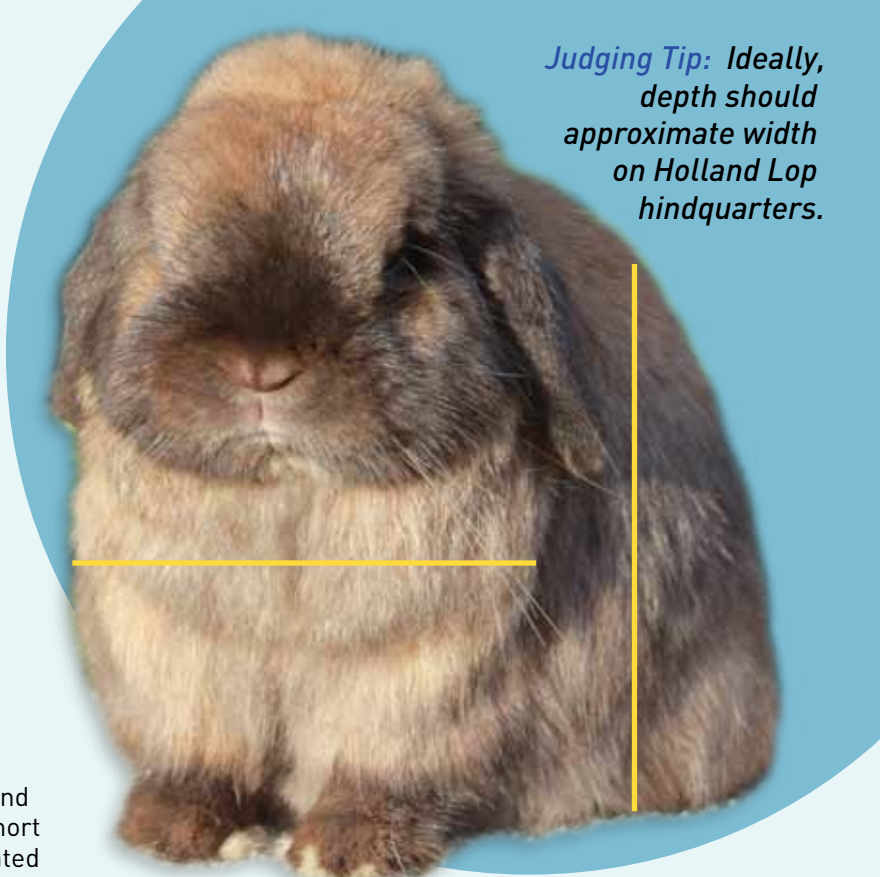
Bone is frequently overlooked on Holland Lops. You want front legs that are as short and wide as possible. A short thick leg is often associated with a wide full chest and good head structure.

The rear feet, ideally, at the widest point, should almost be half as wide as they are long. A rear foot that was 2 inches long by 1 inch wide would balance nicely.

Be sure to fault for thin bone, long limb, and weak ankles or “flipper feet”.

Continued on page XX

Judging Tip: Ideally, depth should approximate width on Holland Lop hindquarters.



Good Senior Bone



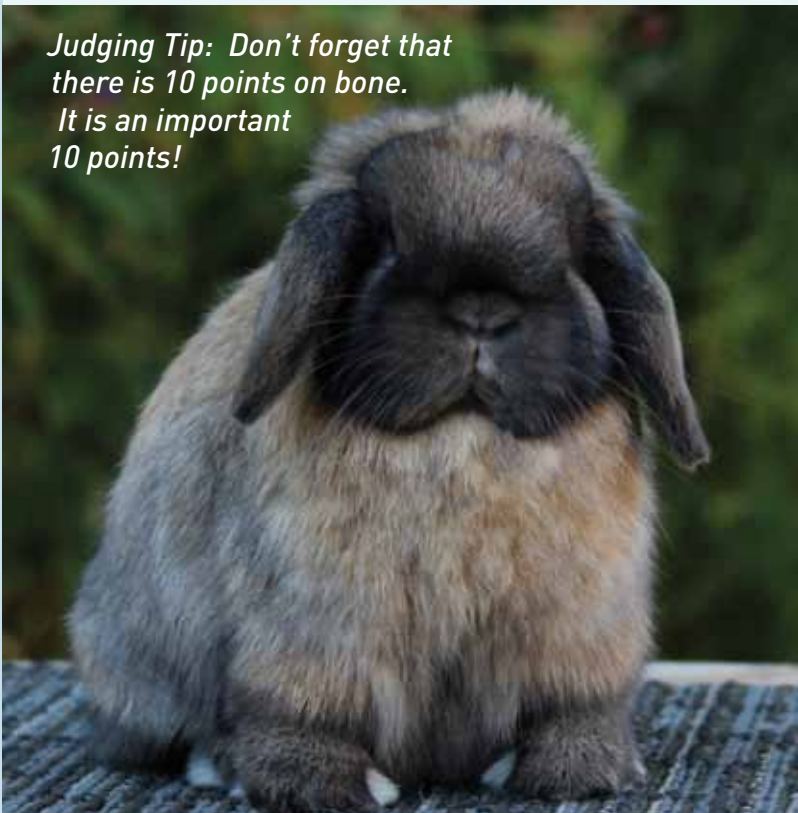
Good Junior Bone



Flipper Feet



Judging Tip: Don't forget that there is 10 points on bone. It is an important 10 points!





Fur - 7 Points

In regards to fur, you want a dense coat with a lush roll back fur. Many Hollands that carry the "Fuzzy" gene will have longer fur. Fault for coats that are too long, thin, or off in texture, being too soft or too coarse.

Color - 4 Points

As far as color and pattern are concerned, be sure to give the proper point dispersion and priority to color and markings. Color and Markings are currently allotted four points in our standard, which means that if you are looking at a broken Holland Lop, there are only two points on color and two points on markings. With only two points on markings, how much would you fault an animal with white tipped ears, half a butterfly or a light broken pattern?

Judging Tip:

Markings are approximately 2 points. Judge accordingly

Overview

In overview, remember to consider length, width and depth ratios as applied to head, crown, ear, and body. Watch for proper head mount and top line, and don't forget bone. The perfect Holland is a very massive, compact animal that must be balanced.

Good luck and enjoy!



www.Critter-Cages.com

Cages and Equipment for all your Critters. Visit our secure online store or give us a call Monday to Friday 10 am to 6 pm

Phone 310 832-9981 Email order@critter-cages.com



**Premium Plus
Bunny Barn 214.99**
*plus shipping



**Wire Mesh Rolls (100 ft.)
starting at \$59.99***
*plus shipping



NEW HOP WAY DOOR
Premium Plus Hutch
Starting at \$125.99
*plus shipping



Premium Plus Penthouse \$184.99
*plus shipping



Premium Double Decker \$244.99
*plus shipping