



# AusRFS (NSW) Show Standards for Rats

Version 3.0

## Marking Standards

### General (applies to markings)

All markings shall be clearly cut and devoid of brindling. Any white shall be pure and devoid of yellowish tinge or staining. The colour is to conform to a recognised variety.

### Self

The rat is to have a uniform colour that is even over the entire body extending to the eyes, feet and tail.

#### **Disqualifications:**

- White spotting (excepting BEW and PEW)
- Entered as incorrect colour or variety

### Bareback

The rat shall have a hood that is unbroken, covering the head, throat, chest and shoulders. The remainder of the body is to be white.

#### **Faults:**

- White throat or chin
- Small coloured spots or hairs

#### **Disqualifications:**

- Large coloured patches on the white
- Entered as incorrect variety

### Berkshire

The rat is 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, with the edges clearly cut and devoid of brindling. The back feet are to be white to the ankle, and the forelegs are to be white to half the leg. The tail is to be white to half its length. A white spot on the forehead is desirable, but the lack of such a spot is not to be penalised.

#### **Faults:**

- Uneven belly markings and demarcation
- Missing white tail tip, except in pink eye and ruby eye varieties
- Small coloured spots or hairs on the white belly

#### **Disqualifications:**

- Large coloured patches on the white belly
- Entered as incorrect variety



### **Blaze**

The rat shall have a white marking that covers the chin, nose and whisker bed that tapers to a fine point between the ears. The blaze should be balanced and not cover the eyes. The rat should be a good example of a recognised marking (e.g. hooded or berkshire).

#### **Faults:**

- Non-wedge blaze should be severely penalised

#### **Disqualifications:**

- Headspot only
- Entered as incorrect variety
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### **Capped**

The rat shall have colour that does not extend past the ears and follows the line of the lower jawbone. It should not extend under the chin. A white spot on the face is desirable, with the rest of the body white.

#### **Faults:**

- Colour extending below the jaw
- Small coloured spots or hairs on the white

#### **Disqualifications:**

- Large coloured patches on the white
- Entered as incorrect variety

### **Hooded**

The rat shall have a hood that is unbroken, covering the head, throat, chest and shoulders. The hood shall be continuous with the saddle, extending down the spine to the tail, with as much of the tail as possible being coloured. The saddle width shall be  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  of an inch in width (nearer  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch) and it must be as even as possible and unbroken.

#### **Faults:**

- Incomplete stripe
- Ragged hood and demarcation
- Small coloured spots or hairs on the white

#### **Disqualifications:**

- Extremely poor stripe
- Large coloured patches on the white
- Entered as incorrect variety

### **Irish**

The rat is to have a white equilateral triangle on the chest. The triangle is to be of good size, and is not to extend in a streak down the belly, but is to occupy all the space between the front legs. The back feet are to be white to the ankle, and the forelegs are to be white to half the leg. The tail is to be white to quarter of its length.

#### **Faults:**

- Uneven triangle and demarcation
- Missing white tail tip, except in pink eye and ruby eye varieties

#### **Disqualifications:**

- Coloured spots on the triangle
- Other white patches on the rat
- Entered as incorrect variety



### **Variegated**

The rat is to have markings similar to a hooded rat but instead of a solid spine marking, it is to be made up of patches and flecks of colour. The head and shoulders are to remain solid. A white spot on the forehead is desirable, but the lack of such a spot is not to be penalised.

#### **Faults:**

- Inadequate variegation
- Small coloured spots or hairs on the white belly

#### **Disqualifications:**

- Large coloured patches on the belly
- Entered as incorrect variety

### **Variegated Berkshire**

The rat is to have markings similar to a berkshire rat but with as much white dappling and spotting as possible, extending up the sides from the white belly, and running the full length of the rat from behind the forelegs to the hind legs on each side. The back feet are to be white to the ankle, and the forelegs are to be white to half the leg. The tail is to be white to half its length. A white spot on the forehead is desirable, but the lack of such a spot is not to be penalised.

#### **Faults:**

- Inadequate variegation
- Missing white tail tip, except in pink eye and ruby eye varieties
- Small coloured spots or hairs on the white belly

#### **Disqualifications:**

- Large coloured patches on the belly
- Entered as incorrect variety

### **Downunder Berkshire**

The rat shall conform to the Berkshire standard, but with a solid coloured belly stripe running down the centre of the entire berkshire belly, from the rats throat to the tail. The belly stripe is to be as solid and symmetrical as possible and not contain any white spots.

#### **Faults:**

- Uneven belly markings and demarcation
- White markings on the belly stripe
- Small coloured spots or hairs on the white
- Colour on feet or white chin
- Missing white tail tip, except in pink eye and ruby eye varieties

#### **Disqualifications:**

- White berkshire belly not visible around belly stripe
- Extremely poor belly stripe
- Entered as incorrect variety



### **Downunder Hooded**

The rat shall conform to the Hooded standard, but with a solid coloured belly stripe running down the centre of the entire belly, from the rats throat to the tail. The belly stripe is to be as solid and symmetrical as possible and not contain any white spots.

#### **Faults:**

- Incomplete hood or belly stripe
- Ragged hood and demarcation
- Small coloured spots or hairs on the white
- White markings on the belly stripe
- Small coloured spots or hairs on the white
- White marking on the head, face or chin

#### **Disqualifications:**

- Extremely poor hood or belly stripe
- Large coloured patches on the white
- Entered as incorrect variety

### **Downunder Hooded Spotted**

The rat is to conform to the Downunder Hooded standard, but shall also have sides that are to be white with as many coloured spots as possible, and be evenly distributed. The colour on the tail can be spotted.

#### **Faults:**

- Incomplete hood or belly stripe
- White markings on the belly stripe
- White marking on the head, face or chin
- Inadequate spotting

#### **Disqualifications:**

- Extremely poor hood or belly stripe
- Large coloured patches on the white
- Entered as incorrect variety
- Lack of spots

### **Downunder Variegated**

The rat shall conform to the Variegated standard, but with a solid coloured belly stripe running down the centre of the entire belly, from the rats throat to the tail. The belly stripe is to be as solid and symmetrical as possible and not contain any white spots. The spots are to extend over the entire white area of the rat, including the tail. A white spot on the forehead is desirable, but the lack of such a spot is not to be penalised.

#### **Faults:**

- Inadequate variegation
- Incomplete belly stripe
- Obvious spine stripe, or spine stripe not broken enough
- Spots not evenly distributed from head to tail
- Missing colour spots on tail
- White markings on the belly stripe

#### **Disqualifications:**

- Extremely poor belly stripe
- Solid stripe down spine
- Lack of spots
- Entered as incorrect variety



### **Downunder Spotted**

The rat shall conform to the Downunder Variegated standard, except that the belly stripe should also be as broken and spotted as possible. The spots are to extend over the entire white area of the rat, including the tail. A white spot on the forehead is desirable, but the lack of such a spot is not to be penalised.

#### **Faults:**

- Inadequate variegation
- Spine stripe or belly stripe not broken enough
- Spots not evenly distributed from head to tail
- Missing colour spots on tail

#### **Disqualifications:**

- Solid spine stripe or belly stripe
- Lack of spots
- Entered as incorrect variety



## Coat Standards

### Standard

The coat to be short, smooth, and glossy, with the males having somewhat coarser hair. It should show a natural high shine and densely cover the body.

#### **Faults:**

- Dull coat
- Hair too sparse or missing

#### **Disqualifications:**

- Brittle, short, or missing whiskers

### Rex

The coat is to be evenly dense and wavy or lightly rippled in adults (may look more curly in juveniles) and may give the impression from a distance of the rat having “feathers”. The belly fur may be less wavy than the top. The coat may look ruffled due to the waviness but should not look ragged, unkempt or uneven. The coat is to be normal length but slightly longer than usual is permissible so long as it does not distract from the overall appearance. Guard hairs to be less wavy than the rest of the coat and they may be reduced in number but shall be present in enough number so as not to distract from the overall appearance of ticked colours. The texture of coat is to be as soft as possible – like that of goose down. Soft texture should be felt on males as equally on females. The whiskers are to be long as slightly wavy, particularly at the tips, but not extremely curly or crimped.

#### **Faults:**

- Fur lacks characteristic downy softness
- Too few guard hairs
- Too curly
- Curly or crimped whiskers
- Additional faults as listed in Standard Coat standard

#### **Disqualifications:**

- Brittle, short whiskers
- Very rough textured coat
- Additional disqualifications as listed in Standard Coat standard

### Double Rex

The coat is to be evenly dense and curly. The belly may be less curly, with the guard hairs greatly reduced or missing, and the coat has less of a shine than expected for a rat with a standard coat – but it should not look unusually dull. The texture of the coat is to be coarser than that of the standard coat type but it should not be brittle. The whiskers are to be tightly curled and somewhat shorter than in standard rats.

#### **Faults:**

- Too many guard hairs
- Coat or whiskers are wavy or otherwise not well curled
- Additional faults as listed in Standard Coat standard

#### **Disqualifications:**

- Brittle, short whiskers
- Very soft textured coat
- Additional disqualifications as listed in Standard Coat standard



### **Silky**

The coat is to be softer than the standard coat varieties, both in the does and bucks. The coat should be twice the length of a standard coat, and lacking in guard hairs. Ticked varieties should appear to have greater vibrancy than non-ticked varieties due to the lack of guard hairs.

#### **Faults:**

- Visible guard hairs
- Length of coat more alike to the standard coat
- Coarse coat
- Additional faults as listed in Standard Coat standard

#### **Disqualifications:**

- Brittle, short, or missing whiskers
- Additional disqualifications as listed in Standard Coat standard



## Non-Ticked Colour Standards

### **General** (applies to all)

The rat is to be a solid, even colour, with no rusting or patchiness. Some silvering is permissible. The foot and belly colour is to match the top but in the case of light coloured varieties, a pale throat and belly is permissible.

#### **Faults:**

- Uneven or light colour
- Rusting or patchiness
- White Spots (in classes other than Self)

#### **Disqualifications:**

- White spots (in the Self Class)

### **Black**

**Eyes:** Black  
**General:** The rat is to be a deep solid black colour, devoid of dinginess and without rusting. Some silvering permissible.

### **Buff**

**Eyes:** Ruby  
**General:** The rat is to be a mid beige colour with a warm grey hue and no sign of dullness.

### **Champagne**

**Eyes:** Pink  
**General:** The rat is to be a very light cream colour, with no sign of dullness or greyness.

### **Mink**

**Eyes:** Black  
**General:** The rat is to be a rich grey-brown colour, devoid of dinginess, and having a distinct bluish sheen.

### **Dove**

**Eyes:** Ruby  
**General:** The rat is to be a cool grey colour, with no sign of dullness or greyness.

### **Blue**

**Eyes:** Black  
**General:** The rat is to be a deep steel blue colour, with no brown colouration. The fur is to be blue grey to the skin.

### **Silver**

**Eyes:** Pink  
**General:** The rat is to be a soft ice blue colour, with no brown colouration.



**Pink Eyed White**

**Eyes:**

Pink

**General:**

The rat is to be as white as possible with no creamy tinge or staining. Any coloured hairs to be severely penalised.

**Black Eyed White**

**Eyes:**

Black

**General:**

The rat is to be as white as possible with no creamy tinge or staining. Any coloured hairs to be severely penalised.



## Ticked Colour Standards

### **General** (applies to all)

The rat is to have an even ticking over the body with no rusting, patchiness or white hairs. The demarcation between the top and belly colours should be devoid of irregularities and brindling. The foot colour is to match the top.

#### **Faults:**

- Uneven or light colour
- Rusting or patchiness
- White Spots (in classes other than Self)

#### **Disqualifications:**

- White spots (in the Self class)

### **Agouti**

**Eyes:** Black

**General:** The rat is to be a golden chestnut brown colour, with a dark grey or black undercoat and black guard hairs. The belly is a silvery grey.

### **Fawn**

**Eyes:** Ruby

**General:** The rat is to be a rich golden orange, as deep as possible, with a pale blue grey undercoat and silver guard hairs. The belly is a creamy silver.

### **Silverfawn**

**Eyes:** Pink

**General:** The rat is to be a pale apricot colour, with a silver undercoat and white guard hairs. The belly is a silvery white.

### **Cinnamon**

**Eyes:** Black

**General:** The rat is to be a warm russet brown colour, with a grey undercoat and black guard hairs. The belly is to be a light silver grey.

### **Argente**

**Eyes:** Ruby

**General:** The rat is to be a bright orange colour, with a cream undercoat and silver guard hairs. The belly is to be a soft cream.

### **Opal**

**Eyes:** Black

**General:** The rat is to be a medium fawn colour, with blue undercoat and mid-blue guard hairs. The belly colour is silver.

### **Agoutied Silver**

**Eyes:** Pink

**General:** The rat is to be a pale apricot colour, with ice blue undercoat and silver guard hairs. Belly colour to be a pale cream.