



Entente Européenne d'Aviculture et de Cuniculture



Europäischer Verband für Geflügel-, Tauben-, Vogel-, Kaninchen- und Caviazucht

European Association of Poultry, Pigeon, Bird, Rabbit and Cavia Breeders

Association Européenne pour l'Élevage de Volailles, de Pigeons, d'Oiseaux, de Lapins et de Cavia

Sparte Kaninchen

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Minutes of the Rabbit section - Friday, 10.05.2024, 08.30 am., Kecskemét/Ungary

Agenda

- 1. Opening, welcome**
- 2. Determination of the presence**
- 3. List of addresses**
- 4. Minute of the EE-meeting of 19.05.2023 in Sofia/Bulgaria**
- 5. Correspondence and announcements**
- 6. Report of the Presidium meetings**
- 7. Agenda of the General Assembly of 11.05.2024**
- 8. Admission of new members**
- 9. EE-judges meeting 2024 and following**
- 10. Report of the Standard commission**
- 11. European Standard**
- 12. European show 2024 in Lysé nad Labem, Czech Republic**
- 13. Breed specific European shows 2024/2025 and following**
- 14. Which rabbit breeds from your country are not yet included in the EE-Standard - EE-breed catalogue**
- 15. Information on the EE-meetings**
- 16. Diseases and animal welfare – report from the animal welfare advisory board**
- 17. Report from Kaninhop**
- 18. National show in own country – location and possible number of rabbits**
- 19. Suggestions and wishes**
- 20. Miscellaneous**

1. Opening, welcome

Wolfgang Vogt welcomes the 23 delegates present from 15 member countries as well as a guest from the new Croatian association and opens the meeting. A special greeting is extended to the honorary members present.

It is great that we are able to come together in good health and vigour to continue our joint tasks.

But despite all the joy, we also have to face reality.

Unfortunately, the number of members in the individual national associations has recently been on a downward trend. The reasons for this seem to be manifold, be it ageing, disproportionate animal welfare that impairs animal breeding or even the recent high inflation with its consequences for our hobby.

Unfortunately, some problems are also home-made, such as unspeakably negative publications about rabbit breeding in the social media, which are in no way conducive to our hobby.

On a positive note, however, it should be noted that the majority of breeders have now internalised the fact that this type of behaviour does not help us at all.

The air in our hobby is getting thin, and we must therefore do everything we can to continue to work constructively on maintaining our ideals in pedigree rabbit breeding in order to accompany all our breeding work into the future. Most of us know that much has already developed in the right direction in the past, but there is still a lot of work to be done in order to be able to fulfil the breeding concerns and requirements at European level.

Allow me to say a few words about the new European Standard. The Standard commission under the leadership of Roland Olinger has succeeded in finalising it in time for the 2024 show season. He referred to the training course in Solenice in the Czech Republic, which was very well attended with 156 participants from 20 nations. The training focussed on the 2024 standard and the presentation of the Light Large Silver and Large Siamese breeds. Both the theoretical and practical training were of a high standard. However, the number of participants reached the capacity limit. He thanked the Czech breeders for organising the event.

The Chairman reads out the agenda, which is approved.

He then asked the meeting participants to briefly introduce themselves.

He thanked those responsible from Hungary, above all Nora Rohringer, for organising the meeting.

The deceased members are remembered in a memorial service. We will always honour their memory. For there are moments of shared encounters and memories everywhere. They will certainly have left large gaps in their national associations. Our sympathy goes out to their families.

2. Determination of the presence

The following 15 member states are represented:

Serbia/1, Slovenia/1, Czech Republic/1, Romania/1, Lithuania/2, Luxembourg/2, Spain (temporarily)/2, France/1, Germany/3, Switzerland/3, Croatia/1, Austria/3, Hungary/1, Slovakia/1, Poland(temporarily)/2

Delegates receive one voting card per country

Guests without voting rights: new Croatian association/1

3. List of addresses

The handwritten lists are sometimes difficult to read. The Secretary General Jeannine Jehl therefore asks those who have made changes to contact her personally afterwards so that the changes can be entered.

4. Minutes of the EE-meeting from 19.05.2023 in Sofia, Bulgaria

The minutes were published on the website in three languages. There were no objections or additions. The minutes were approved unanimously. Wolfgang Vogt thanked Urban Hamann for the reliable preparation of the minutes.

5. Correspondence and announcements

There was correspondence on the breed-related European shows (see item 13) and the EE judges' training course (see item 09). Reports are provided under the respective agenda items.

6. Report of the Presidium meetings

A total of 4 Executive Committee meetings were held during the reporting period:

The main topic was the future organisation of the European Association. This included focussing on the financial situation of the European Association, taking into account the declining number of breed-related European shows and the existing problem of a lack of applicants for the future organisation of European shows with all five departments. Especially as the contributions to be paid to the European Association are a significant part of the Association's income, alongside the steadily declining sponsorship income and membership fees.

Ultimately, however, it was clear to everyone involved that organising a European show with all five departments was becoming increasingly difficult, if only due to the size of the event and the associated costs, as well as the horrendous costs for exhibition halls.

A planned reduction in the number of members of the Presidium was also not considered to make sense, as every function on the Presidium has its necessity and justification.

Finally, it was unanimously agreed to hold the Executive Committee meetings online if possible.

Furthermore, the regulations for general European shows were revised and submitted to the General Assembly for approval here in Kecskemet.

The new appointments of a new Chairman and a new Treasurer as possible successors to Gion Gross and Willy Littau have been extremely unfortunate, to put it mildly.

I would therefore like to spare myself any further comment on this. The bottom line is that Gion Gross is standing for re-election as President for a further term of office. The new treasurer, Mr Hansjörg Opala, has made an outstanding contribution to the Executive Committee in his first year in office and is now a permanent member of the committee. The next EE meeting will take place from 29 May to 1 June 2025 in Romania

7. Agenda of the General Assembly vom 11. Mai 2024

Wolfgang Vogt reads out the agenda of the Annual General Meeting.

8. Admission of new members

Applications for membership of the rabbit section have been received from Turkey and Bulgaria. As no one from the associations is present, the division is unfortunately unable to make a recommendation for admission.

9. EE-judges meeting

The Chairman reports on the previous training course.

From 26 to 28 April 2024, the 19th International Training Course for Judges of the Rabbit Division took place in Solenice in the Czech Republic.

In the end, 156 colleagues from 20 nations took part in the training. These were made up as follows:

Belgium 1, Germany 43, Finland 2, France 5, Great Britain 4, Italy 6, Latvia 1, Luxembourg 6, Netherlands 6, Norway 3 Austria 16, Poland 4, Romania 13, Serbia 3, Switzerland 5, Slovakia 10, Slovenia 2, Czech Republic 14, and Hungary 4.

On 26 April 2024, all participants gathered at the conference hotel.

On 27 April 2024, the new 2024 standard was presented and explained using PowerPoint presentations by members of the Standards Commission Wolfgang Vogt, Markus Eber and Urban Hamann.

This was followed by two breed presentations of the Light Large Silver by Markus Grillenbeck and the Large Siamese by Josef Blokes. Our thanks go to all the presenters.

After lunch, the practical judging took place in a total of 20 pre-divided judging groups. Each of the four evaluation groups was supervised by the supervisors Dana Caithamlova, Roland Olinger, Urban Hamann, Markus Eber and Wolfgang Vogt. The groups judged a total of four animals. After the evaluation, the evaluations were compared by the supervisors and discussed in detail with the colleagues.

To summarise this evaluation, I can say that it was a good result, which allows us to look to our future tasks with confidence. It should also be noted that the event was manageable with this number of participants. I think we have made good progress, taking into account our goal of bringing the evaluation of the European-trained judges to the same level as far as possible.

In the evening, the focus was on socialising. Here, all participants had the opportunity to exchange their interests, make new friends or intensify existing friendships.

Finally, on behalf of all the participants, I would like to thank those responsible at the Czech association for organising this event.

The next meeting will be held in Rimini/Italy in 2025

10. Report of the Standard commission

Roland Olinger reports on the Standards Commission. The work consisted of finalising the new European Standard, which was completed as planned. Various meetings were held, and a meeting was also held at the printing company to clarify the final details. He once again pointed out the regulations on how new breeds can be included in the European standard. This requires applications from three associations, where the breeds must be recognised. In addition, the breed must be presented at a European show.

11. Europa Standard

The Chairman reports on the new standard. As copies of the 2012 Standard were no longer available and no print templates were available, a new standard had to be painstakingly developed. As with the 2012 Standard, the German Standard was the basis for the new European Standard. I would like to thank my colleagues for the work they have done and a special thanks to Markus Eber, who took over the editorial management.

Wolfgang Vogt and Markus Eber gave presentations on the most important innovations in the standard.

Break

After a short break, EE-President Gion Gross welcomes the delegates.

The divisions are at the heart of EE. He invites everyone to tomorrow's General Assembly and wishes everyone a pleasant sectional meeting.

Secretary Jeanine Jehl asked the participants to notify her personally of any changes of address, as there are always problems with the legibility of handwritten lists.

Treasurer Hansjörg Opala presented a forecast of the treasury over 3 years. The development of the treasury is in deficit. Various measures are being taken, e.g. in sponsoring, to improve the income situation. However, the realisation of European shows is also a core element of financing. On the expenditure side, various measures are also being taken to cut costs. On another page, he showed high expenditure items at European Shows (e.g. for country booths, contact persons, etc.) and pointed out possible solutions. Bernd Graf from Germany

suggested adding a surcharge to the cost contribution to finance the contact persons, which would then finance the respective contact person of the individual countries.

12. European show 2024 in Lysá nad Labem, Czech Republic

Due to internal disputes between the Czech main association and the rabbit division, irreconcilable disagreements arose after the new election, which ultimately led to the cancellation. The executive board of the European Association tried everything until the end to ensure that the show was held. The show was ultimately cancelled, which disappointed many breeders.

13. Breed specific European shows 2024/2025

The breed specific European shows are an important part of our organisation. Due to the cancellation of the breed-related European show, the shows for 2024 were approved without any red tape. Wolfgang Vogt distributes a list of the approved shows to the participants. The following breed-related European shows have been approved:

Hare rabbits, in Germany, Körhallen, in 74405 Gaildorf, Schloßstr. 13, from 17. to 20.10.2024
Lop, in Slovakia, Ausstellungs-komplex Nitra in 94901 Nitra Vystavna 654/4, from 15. to 17.11. 2024

Satin, in Germany, Rittergut Birkhof, in 41352 Korschenbroich, from 07. to 08. 12. 2024

Vienna, in Germany, Messehalle 6 a, in 66953 Pirmasens, Zeppelinstr. 11, from 07. To 08.12. 2024

Hermeline and coloured Dwarf, in Germany, Messehalle 6 a, in 66953 Pirmasens, Zeppelinstr. 11, from 07. to 08.12. 2024

Dutch, in Germany, in der Messehalle 6 a, in 66953 Pirmasens, Zeppelinstr. 11, in der Zeit vom 07.12. bis 08.12. 2024

Lynx, in Germany, Bogenbinderhalle, 07580 Ronneburg, Rosa-Luxemburg-Str. 4, from 04. to 05.01. 2025

Perlfeh, in Germany, Bogenbinderhalle, 07580 Ronneburg, Rosa-Luxemburg-Str. 4, from 04. to 05.01. 2025

Marburger Feh, in Germany, Bogenbinderhalle, 07580 Ronneburg, Rosa-Luxemburg-Str. 4, from 04. to 05.01. 2025

Separator, in Germany, Bogenbinderhalle, 07580 Ronneburg, Rosa-Luxemburg-Str. 4, from 04. to 05.01. 2025

Rex, in Luxemburg, Deichhalle, 9012 Ettelbrück, Rue Deich, from 11.to 12.01. 2025

14. Which rabbit breeds from your country are not yet included in the EE-Standard - EE-breed catalogue

Information on recognition in the European standard: see Top 10. Markus Eber announces that the Little Vienna are recognized in Germany and that he will submit an application for inclusion in the European Standard at the request of the breeders. He asks the other member states where they are recognized to apply for this as well.

15. Information to the EE-meeting

06.05. to 11.06.2025 in Romania. The Romanian representative Graben Zolt gives a brief overview.

16. Diseases and animal welfare – report from the animal welfare advisory board

Erik Apperlo gives an overview of the activities of the Advisory Board for Animal Health and Animal Welfare 2023-2024

The Advisory Board still consists of 7 people. He stated that over-typification must be avoided at all costs. To do this, the requirements in standards must be reviewed and images in the breed standards may need to be replaced. He praises the European Standard 2024 for moving in the right direction with this work.

On the subject of bird flu, talks with the EU Commission have made things easier for breeders.

The detailed report is available on our homepage under "Animal Welfare".

Bernd Graf asked for support because he fears that the "end the cage age" initiative will be resumed after animal welfare associations approached the Council President. The question remains whether this could only refer to cages or also to our pen-based housing, which would have negative consequences for us in the latter case.

The chairman thanks Erik Apperlo for his report and his commitment to the common cause.

17. Report of Kaninhop

The Kaninhop responsible Jules Schweizer reports.

After Jules Schweizer resigned from his position, he briefly reviewed his work. He started 11 years ago with 3 countries. He developed the EE regulations with the Swiss standard as a basis. Initially, there was not much enthusiasm for this. Today, people are happy about this strict standard, which is compatible with the animal welfare laws in all member countries. Many tournaments took place in 2023 and he received pictures and videos. An online meeting was held with the Kanin Hop representatives. A number of qualifying tournaments for the European Championships took place in Küssnacht am Rigi in Switzerland. There were 245 rabbits at the start. Performances were shown at a high level. There was a pleasant atmosphere, and the tournament was highly praised by the participants. At a meeting, Katharina Wermuth from Switzerland was elected as his successor and unanimously confirmed by the division.

The chairman thanked Jules Schweizer for his work, and he was bid farewell by the participants with great applause.

18. National shows in own countries – location and as possible the number of rabbits?

The delegates present have registered the following shows:

• Slovenia	13.-15.12.2024	Celje	800 Tiere
• Serbia	24.-26.01.2025	Sombor	200-250
• Romania	28.-01.12.2024	Craiova	1000-1500
• Hungary	Dezember 2024	Cegled	200
• France	10.-11.11.2024	Niort	2000-2500
	18.-19.01.2025	Illkirch	1.500
• Lithuania	03.-05.10.2024	Ramava	150
	16.-17.11.2024	Trusis Inciti	200
	07.-09.11.2024	Kipsalie	150
• Slovakia	15.-17.11.2024	Nitra	3000
• Czech Republic	15.-16.11.2024	Lysá nad Labem	2500
• Germany	25.26.01.2025	Magdeburg	7500
• Luxemburg	09.-11.01.2025	Ettelbrück	1000

• Croatia	13.-15.12.2024	Bjelovar	200-250
• Netherlands	16.-18.01.2025	Hardenberg	2000
• Poland	14.-15.12.2024	Kielce	1500
• Switzerland	24.-26.01.2025	Winterthur	3000
• Spain	27.-29.09.2024	Gijon	170
	27.11-01.12.24	Zamora	150
• Austria	02.-03.11.2024	Ebbs	1000-2000

Others are currently unknown

19. Suggestions and wishes

Peter Iseli stresses the importance of breed-related European shows. He asks those present to encourage their members to exhibit. He also suggests improved communication. For example, it should be possible to download entry forms from the EE website or at least provide a link to the organizer's website. Bernd Graf said that this would also increase the frequency of visits to the EE website. Wolfgang Vogt said that this would first have to be coordinated with other sections. The overview of the breed-related European shows will be published. The representative from Poland asked that no untattooed rabbits be judged in his country. The animals must have the Polish identification.

20. Miscellaneous

- Wolfgang Vogt reported on a working group, the installation of which will be voted on at the general meeting tomorrow. He sees no need for this, as suggestions and problems can be addressed directly in the division or with the executive committee.
 - He thanked his fellow board members for their trusting and constructive cooperation. His special thanks go to Ivo Weissenbacher, who unfortunately had to resign from the standards commission for health reasons.
 - The chairman, Wolfgang Vogt, thanks all delegates for their participation and commitment. It is very important to pass on the information in your own country and always refer to the information, minutes, etc. on the homepage.
- He closes the meeting at 11.30 a.m.

Kecskemét, 10.05.2024

Markus Eber