

## WSRBA Royalty Application Question Tips

### 1. When did you join the WSRBA and how many consecutive years have you belonged?

This question only requires a one or two sentence response, but make sure to answer both parts of the question: when you joined WSRBA and how long you've been a member.

If you've been a member for less than a year, tell the month and year you joined and how many months you've been a member. If you've been a member for more than a year, tell the year you joined and how many years you've been a member.

Examples:

*I joined WSRBA in January of 2020 and have been a member for 2 months.*

*I joined WSRBA in 2011. I have been a member for 9 years.*

### 2. How and when did you get started in your project? Include names of those who have helped you the most.

In this question, you should explain not only how you got started in rabbits and/or cavies, but also how your project has progressed. Also make sure to mention people who have helped you. Your answer should be in the form of one or two paragraphs.

Things to include (not all of these will apply to everyone):

- How, when, and why you got your first rabbit or cavy (Was it a pet? Did you first join 4-H and then get a 4-H animal?). What breed of rabbit/cavy was your first animal?
- When and why you joined your first rabbit or cavy organization (usually a 4-H club or FFA chapter). Make sure to give the name of the organization.
- How, when, and why you expanded your project beyond your first animal(s). What prompted you to get more involved in the hobby? (Did you decide to get show animals? Did you decide to get animals to breed?)
- How, when, and why you started showing animals in ARBA shows or got serious about showing. (If you show in ARBA shows).
- How, when, and why you started breeding your animals. (If you breed your animals.)
- When you purchased/started any new breeds. (You will have an opportunity to talk in depth about why you breed each breed in question #6)

Also make sure to include the names of those who have helped you win your project and how they have helped you. You can mention these people at the end of your response to question #2, or you can mention them throughout your response when they are relevant. For example, you can mention your 4-H leader when you discuss joining the 4-H club.

Consider including the following people:

- Your parent(s)/guardian(s)
- Your 4-H/FFA leader(s) and volunteers
- Adult breeders
- Judges
- Fellow rabbit/cavy youth
- Rabbit/cavy youth activities volunteers

**3. List your memberships in rabbit &/or cavy related organizations. Include the name of each club (no abbreviations) and the number of years you have been a member.**

This question is simple. Just make a list of all of the rabbit/cavy organizations you are a part of and how long you have been a member of each.

Important Tips:

- You don't need to tell when you joined each organization.
- **Don't abbreviate the name of any of the organizations.** (For example, ARBA should be listed as American Rabbit Breeders Association.)
- If you have been a member of an organization for less than a year, list how many months you've been a member. If you've been a member of an organization for more than a year, list how many years you've been a member.
- Order your list of organizations from longest membership to shortest membership. (List the clubs you have been a member of for the most years first, and the clubs you have been a member of for the least years last.)

Types of Clubs to Remember to List (Not All Will Apply to Everyone):

- WSRBA (Washington State Rabbit Breeders Association)
- 4-H club
- FFA Chapter
- ARBA (American Rabbit Breeders Association)
- ACBA (American Cavy Breeders Association)
- Local Open All-Breed Club (For example: TCRA, ERBA, GNRCSG, IERBA, etc.)
- National Breed Clubs (For example: American Satin Rabbit Breeders Association)
- Regional Breed Clubs (For example: Western States Satin and Mini Satin Club)

Obviously, you should only list clubs that you are a member of. However, being a member of more clubs shows that you are very involved in your project, and will ultimately result in a higher application score. So, it's not a bad idea to consider joining ARBA, your national breed club, or other rabbit/cavy clubs. Plus, membership in these clubs comes with many perks besides a score boost. You should definitely at least join ARBA!

**4. What offices or committees have you served on in local, state, or national rabbit or cavy clubs?**

This question also requires only a list. For each entry in your list, include the name of the office or committee, the name of the organization, and the year(s) you served in that position. Order your list from most to least recent.

New youth often struggle with answering this question, but remember that officer positions aren't the only thing you can list. You can also list committee involvement, and the committees you list don't necessary have to be "official" committees, they just need to be groups of people working to do a specific job. For example, if you help set up your 4-H club's annual show, you can say that you are part of the "Show Setup Committee", even if your club hasn't specifically named a group of people the "Show Setup Committee". Younger or beginner youth might also consider listing the "Snack Committee", "Fundraising Committee", "Community Service Committee", or "Welcoming Committee", if they have participated in these activities with their 4-H club (or other rabbit/cavy organization).

A few examples (don't abbreviate on the actual application):

President	Hippity Hop 4-H Club	2019-Present
Youth Representative	Columbia Rabbit Club	2019-Present
Show Committee	Columbia Rabbit Club	2016-Present
Educational Committee	Hippity Hop 4-H Club	2015-Present
Treasurer	Hippity Hop 4-H Club	2018-2019
Director	Hippity Hop 4-H Club	2016-2017

**5. How have you been a leader in your project?**

This question can be answered using paragraphs or bullet points. If you use bullet points, make sure to use complete sentences. If you have extensive rabbit/cavy leadership experience, make sure to group similar items together. For example, put the ways you have been a leader in your 4-H club in one paragraph, and the ways you have been a leader at ARBA sanctioned shows in another.

For each leadership experience you mention, make sure to explain what you did and how you were a leader.

Leadership Activities to Consider Mentioning (If They Apply to You):

- Ways you have helped other youth learn more about rabbits and/or cavies.
- Rabbit/cavy clinics you have held or helped lead for other youth. Include what skills you taught (showmanship, Breed ID, etc.).
- Times you have helped other youth complete rabbit/cavy tasks. (For example, helping a new youth clip their animal's nails. Or helping a new royalty contestant study for the contest.)

- Groups you have led in rabbit/cavy tasks. (For example, did you lead a group of fellow 4-Hers in cleaning rabbit or cavy cages at fair?)
- Jobs/tasks you have done for rabbit/cavy events. (For example, being a table writer, ramrod, superintendent, secretary, or other helpful person at rabbit or cavy shows. Or doing health checks at your local fair.) Make sure to include what tasks you did and what event it was at.
- Setting up, tearing down, or cleaning up after rabbit/cavy shows and events.
- Officer and/or committee positions you have held in rabbit/cavy clubs (most common is 4-H clubs) and what you did in that position.
- Representative positions for adult rabbit/cavy-related clubs. (For example, being your 4-H club's representative at WSRBA meetings or being a youth representative to your local fair board.)
- Rabbit/cavy programs you have developed/created/started. (For example, starting a new rabbit/cavy 4-H club, or starting a rabbit project in your FFA chapter.)

**6. Name the breed(s) you raise and how many animals you have in each breed. Include breeds(s) you have raised in the past and why you no longer raise them.**

This question should be answered in one or more paragraphs. I recommend discussing each breed in its own paragraph, so if you've had 3 breeds total then that is 3 paragraphs.

Also, try to give a general timeline idea of the order in which you had what breeds. Make it clear which breed was your first, which you got 2nd, if you still had your 1st breed when you got your 2nd, when you got rid of your 1st breed, etc. You should have discussed this in more detail in question #2, but it's not a bad idea to remind the reader. This helps them get an idea of how your project has developed, and why you chose certain breeds at certain stages of your project.

For each breed you currently have, include:

- How many animals you currently have of that breed. If you currently have litters, I recommend counting all weaned animals (so seniors, juniors, and grow-outs, no young kits) in your total. You can then report how many unweaned kits you have as a separate number.
- Why you initially started raising the breed. What made you want to get it?
- What you like about the breed.
- What you don't like about the breed.
- The main purpose of that breed in your rabbit/cavy project. (Do you mostly breed for show? For meat? Do you just have one for Fitting & Showing, or as a pet?) Also mention if the purpose of the breed has changed over time. (For example, maybe you bred the breed for show at one time, but now just keep one animal of the breed for Fitting & Showing.)
- Don't forget to mention any cavies you have!

For each breed you have had in the past, but don't have anymore, include:

- About how many animals you used to have of that breed. (Did you maintain a 20-animal herd? Or did you just have one as a pet?) Make sure to make it super clear that you no longer have any of these animals.
- Why you initially started raising the breed. What made you want to get it?
- What you liked about the breed.
- What you didn't like about the breed.
- The main purpose that breed had in your rabbit/cavy project. (Did you mostly breed for show? For meat? Did you just have one for Fitting & Showing, or as a pet?)
- Why you ultimately got rid of the breed.

## **7. What have you done to promote your breed(s) and make others aware of your project?**

This question should be answered using either paragraphs or bullet points. Make sure to use complete sentences if you use bullet points.

Breed and Project Promotion Activities to Consider Mentioning (If They Apply to You):

- Educational posters you've made about rabbit or cavy subjects or your breed that have been displayed publicly (for example, at your local fair).
- Presentations you've given about rabbit or cavy subjects or your breed to non-rabbit/cavy people (for example, public presentations at the county fair or presentations to your class at school).
- Times you've been on the news or in the newspaper for rabbit or cavy related activities/reasons.
- School science fairs, petting zoos, feed store events, or other community events you've brought rabbits or cavies to.
- Pet therapy activities you've participated in (For example, bringing your rabbits or cavies to a nursing home to share with the residents).
- Other community service projects you've participated in with your rabbits or cavies.
- Other rabbit and cavy education and outreach you've done with the public (For example, allowing the public to pet your animals at fair).
- Ways you've educated pet owners about rabbit or cavy care.
- Ways you've educated people who bought animals from you about the animals, whether they are buying the animals for pet, show, breeding, or meat.
- Ways you've encouraged others to join the rabbit or cavy hobby (for example, getting your friends to join 4-H and start a rabbit or cavy project)
- Ways you've encouraged others to start breeding your breeds.
- Other ways you've promoted your breeds (For example, sponsoring BOB awards for your breed at a show, encouraging others to join breed clubs, etc.)

## **8. Describe the records you keep and how you keep them.**

This question should be answered with one or more paragraphs.

This question is pretty simple, just make sure to mention all of the types of records you keep and how you keep them.

Type of Records to Mention (If You Keep Them):

- Pedigrees
- Breeding Records (which animals you bred, when you bred them, when you put in the nesting box, if and when the doe/sow kindled/gave birth, how many kits/pups she had, when they were weaned, how many were weaned, etc.)
- Show Wins & GC Legs
- Financial Records

Ways to Keep Records (If You Use Them):

- Software pedigree program (Evans, BunnyTrails, etc.)
- Binders
- Notebooks
- Calendars
- Phone/computer reminders/calendars
- White boards
- Bins or envelopes
- Spreadsheets/Ledgers

## **9. What are your goals for this project?**

This question should be answered in one or more paragraphs.

For this question, you should include both goals you have for your animals, and goals you have for yourself.

Goals you have for your animals might include winning BIS, or having a homebred animal win a GC leg. You should also mention specific characteristics of your animals that you'd like to improve, for example hindquarters that are wider or fur that is denser.

Goals you have for yourself can include goals you have in educational contests, like winning Grand Champion in Fitting and Showing, or winning a Royalty title. You can also list goals like becoming a registrar or judge. You might also consider rabbit or cavy knowledge or skills you'd like to acquire or improve, like getting better at judging full-arch rabbits, or learning how to tag cavies.

You should also make sure to list short-term (within the next year) and long-term (more than a year away) goals for both your animal and personal goals. So list short-term animal goals, long-term animal goals, short-term personal goals, and long-term personal goals.

Your long-term goals can also range from within the next few years to many years in the future, for example once you age out of the youth program and become an open exhibitor.

## **10. Describe the housing & equipment for your animals, be very specific.**

There is a lot of important information to include in your answer to this question, and your response should be one of the longest on your application. This question can be answered in multiple paragraphs or with bullet points.

Make sure to describe each item of rabbit or cavy housing or equipment in great detail. Here is a list of items to remember to mention and the details about each item that are important.

Items to Include (If They Apply to You):

- Cages- type (wire condos, hutches, hanging wire cages, etc.), quantity, dimensions, gage of wire, size of wire openings, special features (baby saver wire, urine guards, etc.), how they are constructed (J-clips, hog rings, screws, etc.)
- Pans/poop catchers (design, material, quantity, size/dimensions)
- Food & Water Dishes- type (EZ crocks, J-feeders, etc.), quantity, volume, material (plastic, metal, ceramic, etc.)
- Water Bottles - type, quantity, materials, size/volume
- Food and Water Containers- What do you use to carry feed and water to your animals? (Buckets, scoops, watering can, water jugs, etc.)
- Food Storage Containers- quantity, material, size
- Feed and Supplements- brand, variety, protein & fiber content
- Automatic Watering System- materials (nozzles, hosing, etc.), brand, quantity, design, water source (bucket, hose, etc.)
- Nesting Boxes- quantity, dimensions, material
- Fans, Air Conditioners, Heaters- quantity, brand, size
- Other Equipment for Temperature Control (water bottles, freezer packs, heated water bottles, etc.)
- Bedding Material for Cage Pans and Nesting Boxes- Type (pine shavings, paper bedding, straw, pine pellets, etc.)
- Scale- Type (spring or digital), brand, weight limit, how it is outfitted to weigh rabbits
- Animal First-Aid Kit Supplies- rubbing alcohol, hydrogen peroxide, iodine, disinfectant, antibiotic ointment, bandages
- Animal Health Supplies- kit replacer milk, nest box filler, Critical Care, Vitamin C supplement
- Animal Medications- dewormer, anti-parasite, antibiotic, gas drops
- Rabbit & Cavy Reference Books
- Carry Cages- type (rabbit 3-hole, cavy single hole), quantity, materials, dimensions

- Food and Water Dishes or Bottles for Carrying Cages- type, material, quantity, size/volume
- Grooming Table - Type, size, materials
- Carpet Squares
- Other Show Equipment - Tables, cage stands
- Grooming Equipment- nail clippers, brushes, Q-tips, etc.
- Tattoo Equipment- type (pen or clamp), brand, individual items (letters/numbers, ink, extra needles, etc.)

You also need to describe where you keep your rabbits or cavies in detail for this question.

Important Housing Details to Include (If They Apply to You):

- Where are your animals kept? (Barn, shed, garage, backyard, in the house, etc.)
- Dimensions of area kept in (For example, how big is the shed?)
- Special features/details- windows, doors, type of floor, ventilation, etc.

It is important that you give enough details that the reader can picture your rabbitry and/or caviary. You can also include photos in your answer to this question. Just make sure to not let your total application, including photos, go over 5 pages.

## **11. What specifically do you do to help with the care and upkeep of your project?**

This question should be answered with multiple paragraphs or bullet points. Make sure to include all things you do to take care of your rabbits or cavies.

Things to Include (If They Apply to You):

- Feeding & watering your rabbits and cavies- When and how often do you feed? When and how often do you water? How much do you feed each time? Do you feed anything besides pellets?
- Cleaning cages or poop catchers, scooping poop from underneath cages- How often do you do this? What are your procedures? (For example, Dump waste in garbage, wipe pan, put bedding in pan, put pan back under cage) Where do you put the waste?
- Deep cleaning cages- Do you deep clean your cages? How often? How do you do it?
- Cleaning Food and Water Dishes & Bottles- How often do you wash your feed and water dishes/bottles? How do you wash them? (Dishwasher, bleach bath, etc.)
- Grooming rabbits and cavies- Baths, clipping nails, brushing coats, cleaning vents, etc. How often do you groom your animals? Do you groom them before a show?



- Show Preparation- How do you prepare for a show? How do you decide which animals to bring? Do you fill out the show entry paperwork? How do you prepare your carry cages?
- Breeding Procedures- How do you decide which animals to breed? Do you put the doe in the buck's cage? How long do you leave the female with the male? Do you breed the doe more than once in a day? Do you record the breeding date?
- How you care for pregnant does/sows- When do you put in the nesting box? (At 28 days of pregnancy? 30?) How do you prepare the nesting box? (Do you disinfect it? Put bedding in it?) When do you increase the doe's food? Is there anything else you do to care for the doe or sow?
- How you care for litters- What do you do once the litter is born? (Check on the babies?) Do you make sure the kits' eyes have opened on day 10? When do you remove the nesting box?
- Weaning Procedures- When do you wean the kits or pups? How do you wean them? (One at a time? All at once?)
- Culling Procedures- When do you first evaluate the offspring you produce and decide which ones to cull? Do you do this multiple times as they grow? What do you do with your culls? (Eat them, sell as pets, sell to dog food company, donate to raptor rehab center, etc.)
- Funding Your Project- Activities you do to help fund your project

**12. List outstanding awards and achievements your animals have earned. Pick the two most important to you from your list and describe the circumstances and why they are important to you.**

The first part of this question, the list of awards and achievements, should be in the form of a list. The second part, the two most important achievements, should be answered in one or two paragraphs.

Your list of awards should be in order from most to least recent. Each entry in the list should include the month & year of the award, the award (BOB, BIS, BOV, etc.), and show or event the award was won at. Make sure to also include the breed of the rabbit or cavy that won the award, and if the award was BOV or BOSV, also include the variety. If necessary, include information that gives the reader an idea of how many rabbits or cavies your animal competed against to win the award. You may also want to consider designating which awards were won by homebred animals.

Example entries:

10/19	1st Place Siamese Sr. Buck Mini Satin	ARBA Convention- Youth
8/19	4th Place Market Rabbit (out of 130)	Benton-Franklin County Fair
4/18	BOB Mini Satin	IERBA Open Show A
6/17	BIS (Mini Satin)	TCRA Youth Show
9/16	BOV Siamese Mini Satin	ERBA Open Show B

For the second part of the question, make sure to clearly state which wins you are writing about. For each win, make sure to include details about what made it special and why it is important to you. (Was it your first win with a homebred animal? Was it your first Best in Show? Was it a win at ARBA Convention against 50 other animals?)

**13. List outstanding awards and achievements you have earned in this project. Pick the two most important to you from your list and describe the circumstances and why they are important to you.**

The first part of this question, the list of awards and achievements, should be in the form of a list. The second part, the two most important achievements, should be answered in one or two paragraphs.

Your list of awards should be in order from most to least recent. Each entry in the list should include the month & year of the award, the award (1st Place, Blue Ribbon, Grand Champion, Queen, etc.), the type of competition (Fitting & Showing, Breed ID, Judging Contest, Royalty, Management, etc.), the division (junior, intermediate, senior, queen, 20-50 holes, etc.), the species (if necessary), and the competition or event the award was won at.

Example entries:

10/19	1st Runner-Up Queen	ARBA Convention
10/19	2nd Place Senior Breed ID Team	ARBA Convention
8/19	Res. Champ. Sr. Rabbit Fitting & Showing	Spokane County Fair
6/19	\$300 Scholarship for Convention	WSRBA Youth Contests
8/17	Callback Sr. Rabbit Fitting & Showing	Spokane County Fair
8/17	Blue Ribbon Sr. Judging Contest	Spokane County Fair

For the second part of the question, make sure to clearly state which wins you are writing about. For each win, make sure to include details about what made it special and why it is important to you. Was it your first blue ribbon, callback, or Grand Champion win in Fitting & Showing? Did you work especially hard to achieve this win? Was it a big win at the state or national level? Was it an unexpected win? Was it an award for something different than your other awards? (For example, a leadership or citizenship award, versus educational contest awards.)

**14. How do you feel your project will help you in your future endeavors?**

This question should be answered with a paragraph or two.

This question is essentially asking what traits and skills you've learned and obtained from your rabbit and cavy activities that will help you succeed at non-rabbit or cavy activities ((like school, a job, etc.) in the future. Make sure to give details on how rabbit or cavy activities had led to you learning or acquiring each skill or trait. Also make sure to give

specific details about how that skill or trait will be useful in the future. For example, if you have learned time management from having to juggle school, 4-H, and caring for your animals, you might mention that this will be helpful when you go to college, as you'll have to juggle classes, homework, and a part-time job.

Traits/Skills to Consider Mentioning (If They Apply to You):

- Time Management
- Responsibility
- Study Skills
- Public Speaking Skills
- Money Management
- How to Win and Lose Graciously
- How to Deal with Disappointment
- People Skills (communicating with others, resolving conflicts, becoming less shy, etc.)
- Leadership Skills
- How to Work in Groups
- General Animal/Health Care Knowledge
- Writing Skills
- Record Keeping Skills
- Organizational Skills
- Stress/Anxiety Coping Skills
- How to Plan Ahead/Prepare/Not Procrastinate
- Friendships You've Acquired/Support Systems You've Built
- Entrepreneurship
- Money you've made from market projects that will help you with future life costs (like college)

This question and next question (#14 & #15) provide an opportunity for you to tell the reader more about your life outside of rabbits/cavies, including the non-rabbit/cavy life goals you have and special challenges you face. For example, you might mention your desire to go to college when talking about your future endeavors. Or, if you used to be very shy, then you might mention that participating in 4-H has helped make you less shy.

#### **15. What would you like us to know that has not been asked?**

This question should be answered in one or more paragraphs.

How long your answer to this question is should depend on how much room you have left on your application. Remember there is a 5-page limit. If you are nearly at the end of your 5th page, then you should make your answer to this question short and sweet. If you still have lots of extra space, then you can include more. Honestly, this is the least important question in the application, in the sense that it receives the least amount of points. So you are better off including more detail in the other questions and making this one shorter.

However, you don't want to go too short with this question, as you can be docked points for not being thorough enough on your overall application. But for most contestants, a small paragraph will do.

This question is a great place for youth to express just how much their rabbit and/or cavy project really means to them, and the impact it has had on their life. This is also an opportunity for youth to mention barriers or obstacles they deal with or have had to overcome in order to participate in their project. For example, if you've experienced major anxiety at competitions, and had to overcome it, you could mention that. Or if you are restricted to a very small rabbitry or caviary because you live in town or don't have much money, you could mention that.

This question is also a great place to talk about the non-rabbit parts of your life. For example, you can say what grade you're in, how old you are, where you go to school, or what city/town you live in, your favorite subject in school, etc. What personal details you divulge are up to you, but this question is an opportunity to help the reader get to know you better. You should also mention what other activities you do besides rabbits/cavies and school. Do you participate in church youth group? Do you raise other animals? Do you sew? Play an instrument? Like to draw? Do Boy or Girl Scouts? Are you a member of any other clubs (chess club, Key Club, etc.)? This is also, again, a good place to discuss any future non-rabbit/cavy goals you have. Do you want to go to college and become a Veterinarian? Do you want to go into the military? Do you want to become a parent? Do you want to marry rich and buy cool cars? (You get the idea.)

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