

Class Act English Angora Rabbits



classactangoras.com

1. Our bunnies are used to climate controlled conditions. Kathryn has air conditioning for the hot(80 degrees and above) days, and Marna has evaporative coolers in her barns that run 24/7 throughout the summer. Please don't stick our babies in outdoor hutches in the heat of summer and expect them to put on dense coats. Angora wool is one of the warmest fibers for its weight. How would you like to be outside all summer in your winter coat?
2. We like treats as well as the next person- but they are TREATS. Be careful to not overdo on green foods as that may give the bunny diarrhea (fresh food should be introduced slowly and carefully) Favorite treats at our house are black oil sunflower seeds (like bird seed), bran flake, shredded wheat biscuits, or a slice of raw sweet potato, carrot, or banana. Plain old lettuce is a diuretic do not feed it! Spinach, cilantro, or dandelion leaves are much better for them.
3. Food and Water- Wool is made from protein- which means they need protein to grow wool. We feed a 17-18% protein pellet as main food source. Fresh water should ALWAYS be available, but food is rationed. Some bunnies will overeat which is not healthy for them. If you put out a measured amount of food twice a day it's easy to tell when the bunny is not eating and this is one of the first warning signs when one is not feeling well. We like to feed grass hay (bermuda, timothy or teff), but not every breeder of angoras does. Make sure all feed and hay is clean and not moldy or musty.
4. If you are getting a young bunny remember they can go through teenage angst. As their hormones come in they may stomp around, growl and not want to "leave their room" (their cage) Remember, this too shall pass. Do not let them frighten you into not handling them because then they will think they can always win. When they are misbehaving move your hand in from the top of the cage and make sure you pick them up and handle them a lot, giving them little treats when they are handled. Problem children in my barn get a treat that they have to come to me to get before they get their breakfast.
5. MAKE TIME TO GROOM! While we pride ourselves on raising pretty easy to care for rabbits. They MUST be kept groomed for their own health! They have very fragile skin and mats will rub and wear, and working one out may irritate the rabbit's skin. If you are

not grooming daily, make time every other day to take the rabbit out and check for mats forming behind the ears, and around the leg hinge joints. Also turn the rabbit over and make sure their privates are clean. Just looking at their back won't tell you if they need grooming. Sometimes it's easier on non-show bunnies to keep the area around their private areas trimmed close for cleanliness. We can't express how useful a blower is in saving time and stress on you and the rabbits for grooming. Always use a blower OUTSIDE as it will knock off dander and leave you with a mess if done inside.

6. MAKE TIME TO GROOM! (did I already say that? Yeah, well I meant it!)
7. Watch for wool mites. We have our bunnies on a 6-8 week cycle of Ivermectin 1% injectable solution (for cattle). To dose accurately you need a tuberculin syringe (a 1 cc syringe with tenth markings). Dosage is .03cc per pound. We give it orally to the bunnies over 10 weeks of age, and drip it on the nape of the neck for 7-10 wk old bunnies (and only use it then if we see dandruff) So, every other month an adult rabbit will get a dose of about 2 tenths of a cc.- less than a quarter of a cc. BE CAREFUL- some Blue-eyed white rabbits or those carrying this gene have shown sensitivities to ivomec. We cannot recommend you use with these lines. Plain old fashioned Listerine mouthwash is also used as a mite control. We have started using this on ears that need cleaning, dabbing or spraying it on.
8. Trim toenails! It is surprising how fast they grow and how easily they can get caught up in the Angora wool!
9. IF SOMETHING HAPPENS AND YOU NEED HELP CONTACT US! This means if you have questions, concerns with behavior, find they are too much for you to handle, etc. Do not wait thinking things will get better on their own. Angora rabbits are one of the highest maintenance animals you can own. When one gets sick, it can go downhill FAST! You have to be alert and aware. Do not be embarrassed thinking we will think you should have known an answer, do not think we will think badly of you for not taking care of the rabbit. PLEASE let us know if you need assistance, and we will do our best to help you and the bunnies. Just because they are no longer in our hands, it does not mean we don't worry and care about what it going on with them. If you can't take care of them any longer and need to rehome them- Please contact us. Email me at marnadavis@gmail.com, leave a message for us on our facebook page. Call me 580-825-3374 or cell 580- 623-1974(or text). I will get back with you as soon as humanly possible.
10. Don't forget to shear! Some of our rabbits are still moulters, but we are moving quickly towards non-moulters. This does not mean they will never ever shed, but that they hold their coat for a much longer time. English Angoras WILL reach a point where they need to be shorn! And when you have all that fiber ready! Learn to spin or felt- it's a blast!
11. ENJOY your English Angoras! We find they are one of the most personable breeds of rabbit we have come across! They are soft as a cloud, funny and real conversation starters! We love our Angoras and sincerely hope you will too!