

### Questions to ask when buying English Angoras long distance

Keep in mind this is a good start- and some of these are specific to the English Angora (like the compact shape and the ear tassels) but many are useful questions no matter what breed you are raising.

1. What is the weight- Is the rabbit you are buying falling in the Standard of Perfection limits for breed standards? If an angora is too long in the body for its ideal compact shape, then it is likely to go over the ideal maximum weight.
2. Are the teeth aligned correctly. Very often overlooked
3. Are the toenail correct color with no DQ's. Dilutes and agoutis are the most likely to have this issue, but its not unknown in any color. IF its an older breeding animal a miscolored toenail MAY be the result of an injury- OR it may be genetic. Younger animals are often genetic.
4. How are hips. Are they wide and full to the table?
5. Does the rabbit toe in or out (is it cowhocked?) The closer your rabbits feet are to forming parallel lines the better. If the heels are close and the toes are out forming a V shape when looking at the rabbit from the bottom, that is called cowhocked. If the toes go in and the heels go out forming a V that is "toeing in"
6. How are the shoulders? You should be able to feel definite shoulders if they disappear into the body when the rabbit is posed, then they might be a bit on the weak side.
7. How is the rise. On an angora the rabbit should look a lot like a flattened basketball behind its head. You want a sudden "rise" to a top point and then back down to the table in a nice flat broad backside. This gives the nice rounded "puffball" look when covered in all that wonderful fiber.
8. Is the body compact? You want it fairly short through the mid-section.
9. What is the color (have your SOP ready if they tell you its "gray"- you want a standardized color- if you don't have a Standard of Perfection from the ARBA- check out our genetics pages- we list the main colors.)
10. What are the parents and grandparents colors
11. Is it moulting or non-moulting
12. Is there a full 3 generation pedigree with ear numbers and weights?
13. How are the face and ear furnishings (the fluffy bangs and tassels on the rabbits ears)
14. Has it been kept inside? In a barn? Did the barn have air? (this is important because taking a bunny from air to heat may very well kill it! If you haven't got air you may need to select from breeders whose rabbits are not in 62 degree chill constantly.)