

The White Crested Cavy

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The White Crested Cavy, in my opinion and probably most of the other crested breeders is one of the hardest breeds of cavy to raise. You might be asking why this is. White Crested's are not all born with the PERFECT white crest. When breeding the White Crested you get a lot of pet quality animals or culls. Breeding the White Crested takes a lot of time, dedication, patience, and cage space. Although a good White Crested is stunning and catches people's attention, if you do not have an outlet for lots of pets, cage room to keep animals that may not be showable, or the patience then this is not the breed for you.

The White Crested Cavy is judged on the following point system:

Type (20 points) A good White Crested should have a nice solid body, like that of the American cavy. They should also have a nice high and full crown, medium body length, and nice Roman or round head.

Coat (10 points) You want the coat of a White Crested to be short, and less than 1 inch in length. The coat should be nice a nice clean, smooth coat with no coat flaws like angel wings or side whiskers. Side whiskers is a common fault found on this breed. Side whiskers are located between the back of the jaw and the shoulder; this is a disqualification in all breeds except the Peruvian and Peruvian Satin. Any animals that have side whiskers should be culled and not used in your breeding program, no matter how nice the animal is.

Ears (5 points) The ears on the White Crested should be large and drooping, but not falling. Ears should match the variety of the animal, and its variety description. White Cresteds are known to chew ears, and an animal with chewed ears gets faulted or disqualified depending on the judge. By keeping pregnant sows by themselves and not overcrowding cages, this will help with ears not getting chewed.

Eyes (5 points) Like most breeds of cavy you want to see large, bold, and bright eyes on the white crested. You want the eye color of your cavy to match the variety description.

Crest (20 points) This is the hardest part to get. The ideal crest is a nice evenly filled circle that radiates evenly all around, with no gaps or breaks in the crest. The crest needs to be all white in order to be showable. When breeding White Cresteds you will get all different types of crests. Self Cresteds (animals that have a crest without any white in the crest), crests that have some white hairs, crests where only half of the crest is white, full white crest with other white markings on the nose, feet, under chin, and even animals that have no crest, but a white spot where the crest should be.

Position of Crest (10 points) The crest should be centered on a line running from the tip of the nose to the center of the ears. You do not want the center of the crest to be further back than the front of the ears or further forward than the back of the eyes. You want a nice pin point center to the crest, no guttered, double, or open centers. If you have gaps in the color of the crest that are over 1/8th of the circumference of the crest, this would be a disqualification.

Color (20 points) You want the color of your cavy to match the variety description. In marked varieties you will divide the points equally between color and markings. Remember that a White Crested with white anywhere else on the body is not showable.

Condition (10 Points) The condition of your cavy is the physical state your animal is in. Is your animal healthy, clean, is your animal in good coat condition, how well is your animal cared for and groomed?

When breeding White Cresteds, there are no guarantees or sure things, it's all about luck. I have bred two showable animals together and got all pets, bred a showable animal to a self crested and gotten all showable babies every time I bred her. You never know what you will get, each litter is a surprise filled with joy or disappointment.

When I look at litters of babies, I do not cull on crest alone. The first thing I do is check the sex of each animal and put them in separate cages. The boars that are not showable will get sold as pets; I only keep showable boars, as the boars get used on multiple sows. After I weed out the boars, I then go on to look at my sows. Any sows that have white feet, white under the chin, or white hairs on the belly get sold as pets. Self crested get sold unless they have really nice type, and color Example brindle crested are hard to get really nice brindling on, if the self crested sow is brindled nicely I will keep her to try and help improve the brindling on my others (this also depends on what the crests of the parents were). I will usually keep most of my showable sow babies, but will occasionally sell some of them. Sows that have a full crest with a blaze on the nose will be looked over for type and color, if I think they will help improve some of my animals they get kept as well. Sows with some white in the crest or a full white crest with a blaze get kept or sold as brood sows. This is where the cage room comes in handy, you never know what you are going to get and by having more breeder cages you have a better chance at getting more showable babies.

When contacting a breeder on getting White Cresteds there are a few things that turn Breeders off. Do not contact them and say you are looking for a nice number of excellent quality showable animals of a certain color. Showable white crested do not grow on trees, and if we could put orders in for them, all White Cresteds would be perfect. This also tells us that you do not want to put in the time, dedication, and work it takes to produce your own show animals, you would rather buy your winners. Most showable White Cresteds are kept by the people who breed them. However breeders will also sell showable animals, but they may be a little pricey, and will most likely not have that nice full, round evenly radiated crest. Most of the time these are once in a lifetime animals, and are saved for the breeder who put all those years of hard work, dedication, tears, and disappointment into getting this one animal.