

THE RIDGEBACK

The Ridgeback is a smooth-coated cavy other than for a pronounced **Ridge**, which should be pronounced, unbroken, erect and straight, running down the spine from between the ears to the hips. The ridge should be up to approximately 2.5 cm (one inch) in height and be most pronounced at the shoulder, tapering towards the rear end. The ridge should be firm and erect when brushed with the palm of the hand.

Other than the ridge the **Coat** should be soft, short, clean and free from grease. It should have no coat faults or rosettes, although a small circular pattern at the back of a foot is not a fault.

The Ridgeback is only recognised in Self **Colours**, Agouti and Argente, which should conform to ESCC, NACC or RVCC standards. The coat should be of glossy sheen, free from visible brindling, roaning or patches of different colour; with the colour carried well down to the skin to avoid any appearance of flakeyness. However, during a two-year period when breeders are moving from no restrictions on colour to defined colour requirements, exhibits should not be penalised for small patches of hairs of inappropriate colour so long as these do not exceed the size of a £1 coin (e.g. a white foot). Odd-coloured hairs found in the coat of the cavy, but not visible, from the surface should not be penalised.

The **Head** should be short and broad, with a gently curving profile and muzzle to be of good width and rounded at the nostrils. **Eyes** should be large, bright and bold and set with good width between. **Ears** should be large and drooping, with lower rim parallel to the ground and set with good width between.

The **Body** should be short and cobby, thick-set with good width across the shoulders. It must be fit and of good substance, with plenty of firm flesh covering the shoulders; and the pig should have good size appropriate to age.