

Dear Rabbit & Cavy Exhibitors,

September 2026

On behalf of the Essex County Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association, We would like to invite you to enter the Topsfield Fair Rabbit and Cavy Show.

Massachusetts Department of Agriculture (MDAR) has been enforcing official certificates of veterinary inspection (OCVI) for all animals at all fairs in Massachusetts. The law requiring these certificates has been on the books for many years, but had not been enforced for rabbits and cavies until 2019. You can obtain these rules from the Topsfield Fair website under "Exhibitor Handbook". Neither the ECR&CBA nor the Topsfield Fair has control over these rules. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to be in compliance, and those without OCVI's will not be admitted. These certificates are not health certificates for pet travel, but more typically issued to farm or 4H animals being brought to a fair and need to be dated after January 1st, 2026. A veterinarian who specializes in farm animals would be able to provide these certificates. For Massachusetts residents only, a letter on veterinary letterhead attesting to the health of the animals, each identified by ear tattoos, breed, variety, age, and gender can be substituted for the OCVI. This is strictly a visual inspection of condition, nothing leaking from any orifice that it shouldn't be, no evidence of snot, and no evidence of parasites.

Further, if your rabbits have been potentially exposed to Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHDV) you may not enter this show.

The show will be held on **Saturday, October 3rd** with judging starting at 10am. It is a single ARBA sanctioned Open show. Everyone (adults and youth) can enter in this show. There will be no separate 4H rabbit/cavy show this year and we are not aware of 4H rabbit or cavy activities. Because of this, youth may enter non-ARBA showable rabbits and cavies under "Pet Rabbit" and "Pet Cavy" and will be judged to 4H standards at this show this year. "Pet" classification is for animals with disqualifying features such as mismarked or unrecognized colors, mixed breeds, etc. that make them ineligible to be judged under ARBA standards.

Non ARBA breeds: In recognition that there are additional breeds of rabbits not governed by ARBA, we will have a separate contest with trophies for non-ARBA recognized pure-bred breed rabbits such as mini plush lops, continental giants, and other breeds with standards (or proposed standards) issued by other organizations. You must provide the standard at the time of the registration (email to shows@ecrcba.org) so that the judge can review it before the show. Enter via the same registration site as for ARBA breeds. Non-ARBA breeds will automatically be entered in this contest, which will take place after the ARBA show.

Agility: There will be an agility contest with a separate entry from the rabbit/cavy show. Additional details attached.

If you enter the show, you will need to plan on being here early (between 8 and 9am.) We aren't the only show in town! Traffic and parking will be difficult after 9am. For this show, you will need to park in "Parking E", also known as the Route 97 lot. If you have entered the show, your parking and admission is free. The parking E and gate E attendants will have exhibitor lists. There is no Day of Show Entry at this show.

REGISTRATION

Please use our on-line system to enter your animals for the show. To do this, go to our website (www.ecrcba.org) and click on "enter on-line". Payments for on-line registration are via Stripe (secure), or you can pay by check or cash on the day of the show. Website entries on our website will be automatically acknowledged by email (check your spam box!). Email and phone entries will *not* be accepted. Paper (mailed) entries with pre-payment are always welcomed. **IMPORTANT:** Checks must be made out to "The Topsfield Fair" for the fair show. Please mail all paper entries to Karen Walrath, not the fairgrounds.

The Topsfield Fairgrounds on-line "Exhibitor Handbook" should redirect you to our website for your on-line entry and show information. If you inadvertently entered your animals on the fairgrounds website or sent your paper entry form to the fairgrounds, please let us know.

The official postmark deadline for US mailed entries is Saturday, September 26th. The deadline for website entries is Tuesday, September 29th at 10pm. These deadlines may seem early, but the fair starts on that Friday, and all paperwork needs to be printed and exhibitor lists sent to the entrance gates before the fair begins. If you have a problem with your entry or the deadlines, please let us know and we'll try to work with you.

If you have any questions, please send mail to shows@ecrcba.org.

Sincerely, Karen Walrath, ECR&CBA Show Secretary

DIRECTIONS TO THE FAIRGROUNDS PARKING E

From Points South:

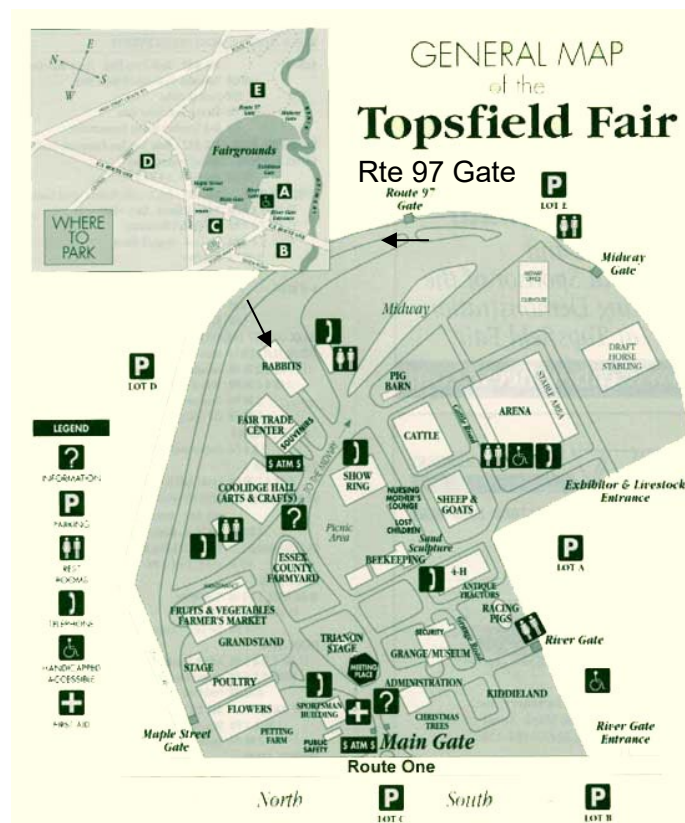
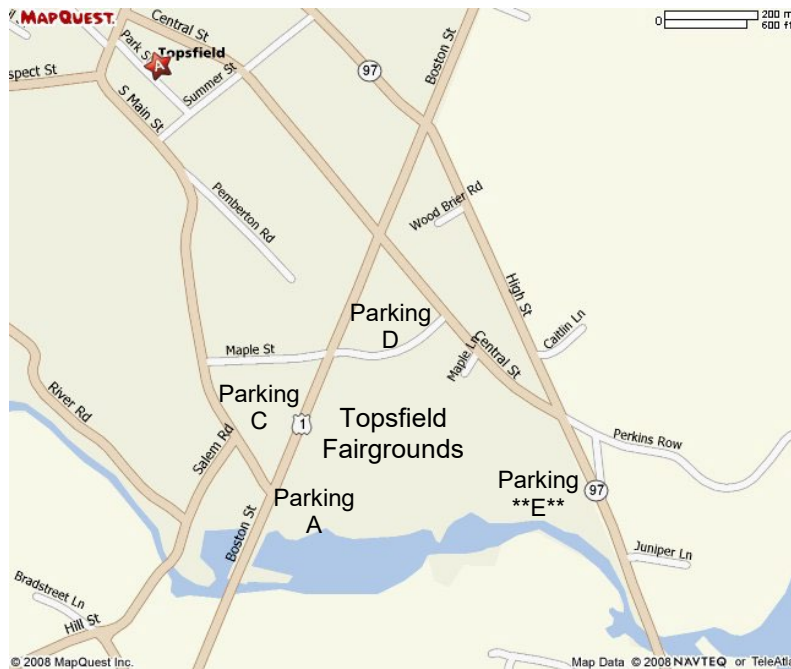
Take Route I-95 North to Exit 50. (Rte 1) Follow Route 1 north past the fairgrounds.
Turn right on Rte 97 (or Central St. to Rte 97) and proceed to parking E.
(At the 128/I-95 split – exit 45, make sure you stay *right* for I-95.)

From Points North:

Take Route I-95 South to Exit 53. (Rte 97)
Follow Route 97 south to Route 1. Cross Rte 1 and proceed to parking E on Rte 97.

Fairgrounds main entrance GPS address: 207 Boston Street, Topsfield, MA 01983

Fair Parking E (97 Gate) GPS address: 167 High Street, Topsfield, MA 01983



ARBA Sanctioned Open Rabbit & Cavy Show

Sponsored By The Essex County Rabbit & Cavy Breeders Association

Fall Show held in conjunction with Topsfield Fair.
This is a Carrying Case Show.

Saturday, October 3rd, 2026
Show Secretary: Karen Walrath
Barn Superintendent: Deny Hamel
Show Superintendent: Jeff Schiller

Official ARBA Sanctioned Rabbit Show: This is an Official American Rabbit Breeders Association sanctioned show, and the latest rules of this organization will govern this show.

Eric Stewart, Executive Director
PO Box 400, Knox, PA 16232
www.arba.net

Dues: Single -\$20/year \$50/3 years
Husband & Wife Combo - \$30/year \$75/3 years
Youth \$12/year, \$30 for 3 years.

The 2026 American Rabbit Breeders Association Convention will be held in Reno Nevada October 24-28. Hosted by California Rabbit and Cavy Shows

Essex County Rabbit and Cavy Breeders Association
Officials:

President	Mike Eon
Vice President	Michele Hook
Treasurer	Jeff Schiller
Secretary	Jennifer Barbaro
Board of Directors	Sharon Casson (chair), Kristin Allen, Heather Desmond, Betty Dowd, Nicol Waugh
Barn Superintendent	Deny Hamel
Judges:	Paul Jurgelonis (Rabbits & Cavies)
Show Secretary	Karen Walrath shows@ecrcba.org

SHOW RULES

- All animals attending shows at a Massachusetts fair must have an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) for 2026. The Topsfield Fair is run under the auspices of Massachusetts Department of Agriculture, and this is their requirement. You can find these rules on the Topsfield Fair website under "Exhibitor's Handbook". It is the Exhibitor's responsibility to be in compliance, and those without OCVis will not be admitted to the fairgrounds.**
- You do not have to be a member of ARBA or ECRCBA in order to enter the Topsfield Fair Rabbit & Cavy Show.
- The show will be governed by the show rules and standard of perfection of the ARBA. Entry indicates acceptance of same. If you are unsure if your rabbit or cavy meets ARBA standards, please contact the show secretary.
- JUDGING WILL START AT 10 AM.**
- ABSOLUTELY NO PHONE ENTRIES.** Entries with full payment must be postmarked by the closing date to be accepted, per ARBA show rule section 19. Entries not meeting this requirement will be returned. Be sure to include your telephone number with your entry.
- Make checks payable to the Topsfield Fair and mail with entry to the **show secretary** (Address below).
- The ECRCBA will not assume responsibility for loss of or injury to exhibitors' animals. All reasonable care will be used by the association in handling animals.
- Judging will be done in cages made for this purpose.
- Sick animals will be removed from the showroom immediately.
- Do not ask for specific judges.
- The judge's decisions will be final except in cases of absolute fraud. Protests must be filed with the show superintendent within 2 hours after judging and must be accompanied by a fee of \$25.00 which will be refunded if protest is sustained.
- This association reserves the right to appoint another judge or other judges in place of or in addition to those listed.
- All rabbits are to be tattooed in the left ear with legible and permanent identification. All cavies must be tagged to be shown.
- Ear# changes will be free for the first two changes. Each change thereafter will be \$1.00. Must be same sex and variety. Scratches are non-refundable.
- There will be no registrar available. There is no tattooing on the fairgrounds during the fair while the barn is open to the public.
- This is a **CARRYING CASE SHOW**. Carrying cages must have solid, leak-proof bottoms.
- All entries must be paid to the secretary before judging starts. All unshown entries will be billed by The Topsfield Fair and future entries will not be accepted until past due accounts are paid. Checks that are returned will be subject to any fees that the bank assesses, handling charges and postage. After being notified by registered mail, the checks will be turned over to local police departments and the exhibitor will not be allowed to exhibit at future shows until account is paid. **NO PAYBACKS, LEGS OR POINTS** will be awarded until checks have cleared the bank.
- There will be no grooming tables set up in the barn due to lack of available space. A grooming area will be available for anyone wishing to groom their animals.
- ARBA no longer requires comment cards to be filled out by the host club. Exhibitors will be expected to fill out their own comment cards. We will have a supply of comment cards available at the secretary's table for exhibitors.

NOTE: When filling out the entry form, be sure to include the breed, variety, age, sex, and ear number of each animal.

Entry Fees

Single Rabbit \$3.00

Single Cavy \$3.00

Fur \$2.00 extra

Meat Pen \$2.00 extra

No separate youth entries (youth enter in open)

There will be no separate youth 4H show this year.

Youth may enter non-ARBA showable rabbits and cavies under "Pet Rabbit" and "Pet Cavy" and will be judged to 4H standards. "Pet" classification is for animals with disqualifying features such as mismarked or unrecognized colors, mixed breeds, etc. that make them ineligible to be judged under ARBA standards.

Send entries to

Karen Walrath, 159 Newport St, Arlington, MA 02476

Entries can also be submitted at Website Address:
<http://www.ecrcba.org> after 9/1/2026 with Payment via Credit card (processed by Stripe.)

Sanctioned Breeds *

Belgian Hare
Satin/Mini Satin

Sharon Casson sponsored the Satin sanction. If you'd like to sponsor a breed sanction, please contact the show secretary.

* This is an all-breed show. All ARBA recognized breeds and breeds with working standards will be judged. Sanctions are for national club sweepstakes points only. If you'd like to sponsor a breed sanction, email: shows@ecrcba.org.

Awards

FIRST \$4.00 SECOND \$3.00 THIRD \$2.00

The ECR & CBA offers awards to all breeds with 10 or more animals shown. ROSETTES will be available for all BOB and BOS placements. RIBBONS will be furnished through 5th place in all classes UPON THE REQUEST OF THE EXHIBITOR ONLY.

ARBA Recognized National Clubs

Current National Specialty Club information can be found here: <https://arba.net/national-specialty-clubs/> or contact the show secretary.

NON-ARBA Breed Rabbits

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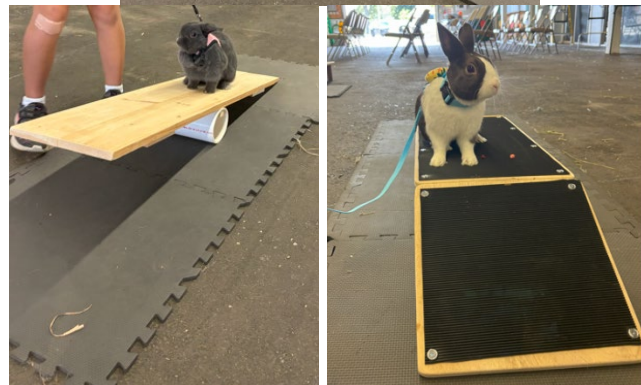
Agility Contest (All ages)

Date/Time: 10/3/2026 After Rabbit & Cavy Show (TBD, approximately 3pm.)

Location: Rabbit/Cavy Barn at Topsfield Fair

To Enter: Free for 4H members. \$3 for all others (payment in cash day of show). Open to all ages. Email entries to rabbitagility2025@gmail.com All online entries must be received by 10pm Thursday October 2nd. You may enter in person until 10am on October 4. For each entry, please specify the name and age of the entrant, whether or not they are a 4H member, and the breed and name or ear number of the rabbit.

Rules: Must have a fair health certificate for each entry. Rabbits must have a legible ear tattoo. The 4H rules for agility contests will be used. Rabbits must wear an H harness and leash to compete and there will be loaners available. Awards will be given to the top 3 overall.



Entry #: _____ Date: _____
 Exhibitor's Name: _____
 Mailing Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone #: _____ ARBA #: _____ (optional)
 Email address: _____ (optional)

ECR & CBA Show Entry Form
The Topsfield Fair Open Rabbit & Cavy Show
Saturday, October 3rd, 2026
10am, Rabbit Barn, Topsfield Fairgrounds

FEE: \$3 per entry (fur \$2 extra)

ESSEX COUNTY RABBIT & CAVY BREEDERS ASSOCIATION SHOWS

Coop #	Ear #	Breed	Variety	Class (SR, Int, JR)	Sex	Fur (\$2 extra)	Total Fees

Total Fees Enclosed: _____

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SHOW SECRETARY

Karen Walrath 159 Newport St, Arlington, MA 02476
 Make Checks Payable to The Topsfield Fair

Entries must be postmarked by Saturday, September 26th, 2026 and mailed to the show Secretary. Web entries at www.ecrcba.org must be received by Tuesday, September 29th at 10pm. Make checks payable to "The Topsfield Fair"

ESSEX COUNTY RABBIT & CAVY BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

Topsfield Fair Open (all ages) Rabbit & Cavy Show

*****Saturday***, October 3rd 2026**

**Rabbit & Cavy Barn
Topsfield Fairgrounds
Route 1**

Topsfield, Massachusetts

Fairgrounds main entrance *GPS address:* 207 Boston Street, Topsfield, MA 01983

Fair Parking E (97 Gate) *GPS address:* 167 High Street, Topsfield, MA 01983

**Essex County Rabbit &
Cavy Breeder's Association**

**159 Newport St
Arlington, MA 02476-7833**
