

SOME HAIR CHARACTERISTICS OF DIFFERENT
NATIVE AND STANDARD RABBIT BREEDS

BY

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ABSTRACT

Microscopic and optical measurements were taken on 150 samples from the coat of different rabbit breeds, i.e. Native breeds as, Baladi White, Baladi Red, and Giza, and standard breeds as Bouscat and Giant Flander. 10 animals (5 males, and 5 females) of eight (8) months age, from each of the five breeds, and three samples representing the back, hip and side regions of each animal, were obtained for the study. Males gave longer hair, thicker diameter and medulla than females. The native breeds exceeded the standard breeds in the average hair length, diameter and medullation percentage.

Body regions, in all breeds, proved to have highly significant effect upon guard-hair characteristics. Standard breeds had the most dense and best soft fur and the Native Giza breed was better than the other Baladi breeds in these characters. Pelts having white colour are desirable for dyeing while pelts with fibres having more than one colour could be used in their natural state.

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