Fig. 22. Checking for ear mites: Pull the ear back so that the judge can get a better view of the ear.

Fig. 23. Checking the texture of hair: For a Peruvian, run hands down hair; for Abby or Teddy, pat its coat; for American or Crested, rub the hair towards the head. To check for density, on all cavies except the Peruvian, blow into its hair. For the Peruvian, grasp the hair close to the skin and feel how thick it is.

GLOSSARY

**Terms and Parts**

*Agouti*- A ground or undercolor determining the base color with dark ticking over the entire animal except the belly which should be solid and without ticking.

*Back*- The entire hinder portion of the animal above the shoulders, belly, and hips.

*Bare spots*- A section of the animal which has no hair.

*Boar*- A male cavy.

*Boils or abscess*- Hard swelling or isolated collection of pus occurring in the skin.

*Cavy*- Guinea pig.

*Cheek*- The sides of the face beneath the eyes.

*Chest*- The front portion of the body between the forelegs.

*Condition*- Physical condition of a cavy in reference to health.

*Dead hair*- Lacking life due to molt.

*Density*- How thick the coat is.

*Disqualification*- One or more defects presumed to be permanent that makes a cavy unable to compete, such as the following:

- Patches of foreign color consisting of six or more hairs in self color varieties.
- White toenail or nails in self or solid color varieties except when called for.
- Any deformities such as crooked legs, other than four toes on front feet and three toes on hind feet.
- Full toenail missing where color cannot be determined.
- Cream or white varieties having black or very dark ears or feet.
- Rosettes or parts of rosettes in any part of coat of American or White crested varieties; side whiskers, rosettes, or parts of rosettes; swirls in any part of the American or Crested varieties.
- Pea eye— an abnormal swelling or growth on inside eyelid.
- Eyes, other than called-for color.
- Very small eyes, one eye smaller than the other,
rotated eye balls producing squint eyes, lack of eyes on either or both sides, or blindness in one or both eyes.

(Under all disqualifying causes the specimen shall have the benefit of the doubt.)

**Elimination**—One or more defects presumed to be temporary and curable, such as:

- Any diseased specimen, boils, abscess, or any raw or infected sore, bare spots.
- Over-aged specimen in Junior or Intermediate classes.
- Under 12 ounces or over 22 ounces in Junior classes.
- Under 22 or over 30 ounces in Intermediate classes.
- Under 30 ounces in Senior classes.
- Parasites, mites.
- Sows heavy with young.

**Faults**—Slit or torn ears, eye circles, stray colored hairs in self-colored varieties. Ears, feet, and toenails not matching body color in solid colored varieties.

**Fly back**—A coat which flies back to its normal smooth position when stroked from hindquarters towards shoulders.

**Forehead**—Front part of the head between the eyes and the base of ears.

**Group**—Broader classification within a breed than the "variety" classification.

**Malocclusion**—Buck teeth.

**Molt**—Process of shedding the hair.

**Pedigree**—A paper showing the ancestry of your cavy, back three generations.

**Resiliency**—Capability of coat to recover its original state; jump back, recoil.

**Shape**—Synonym for type.

**Sow**—A female cavy.

**Sway-back**—Having a distinct fall or scoop in that portion of the back between the shoulders and hindquarters.

**Texture**—What the hair feels like.

**Ticking**—A wavy distribution of longer guard hairs throughout the fur of a color distinct from the under wool or body fur.

**Top color**—Surface color of fur lying in its normal position.

**Type**—Body conformation.

**Variety**—Color.

**Wall eyes**—Having a milky film over the cornea.