



KANSAS 4-H ANIMAL SCIENCE SERIES

MAY 11 & 18 AT 7:00 PM

RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP: GET A "HARE" ABOVE THE COMPETITION



Hosted by Eve Rider, 2022 Kansas 4-H Rabbit 13-14 Showmanship Champion

May 11th topics include:

- How to Start Showmanship
- Basic Rabbit Anatomy
- Posing Your Rabbit



May 18th topics:

- Disqualifications vs. Faults
- Winning Tips
- How to Perfect Your Rabbit Showmanship



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Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service.
K-State Research and Extension is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Welcome! Or welcome back!

I'm Eve Rider. I have been raising rabbits for 6 years but showing for 2 years. I was the 2022 Kansas State Fair 13-14 rabbit showmanship Grand Champion.



Rabbit showmanship

An opportunity for you get to show your knowledge of rabbits and your rabbit and its breed to a judge.

An important skill that can be used to learn more about your rabbit and the rabbit judging process-ARBA showman guidelines

Disqualification VS fault

A disqualification is one or more defects, deformities, or blemishes that render a rabbit ineligible for competition. There are general disqualifications and also breed specific disqualifications. Some general disqualifications are, mismatched eyes, malocclusion, broken tail, missing toenails, conjunctivitis, deviated spine, any parasites.

A fault is a deviation from perfection or a physical imperfection. The rabbit gets points taken off on its overall score which is out of 100 but can still be shown. They are more breed specific than disqualifications. General faults are fur condition, open coat, chopped body type (an abrupt vertical fall from the top of the hip to the tail. Not well rounded).

RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP SCORE SHEET

NAME: _____

AGE GROUP: _____

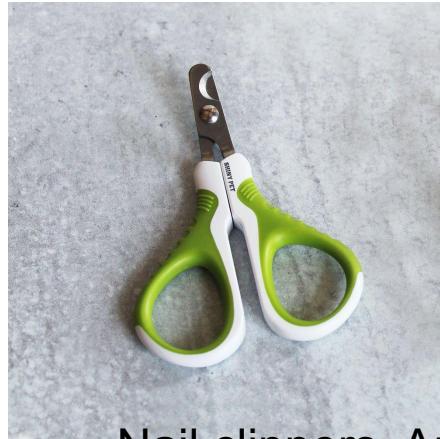
Statement of Purpose: To demonstrate working knowledge of an effective examination and evaluation of a rabbit. To explore critical thinking skills, know what to check for and why. . .

INTRODUCTION AND CARRY Controlled tuck carry to table Personal introduction Rabbit introduction Controlled tuck carry from table	(Each area worth 10 points)	CHECK BACK FEET/TOENAILS Count correct number on left Count correct number color on right Explain proper color, check hocks Know DQ's and faults	RABBIT Free of molt Free of disease Healthy appearance Meets basic requirements of breed
CHECK EARS Look into left ear for mites, cankers, etc. Look into right ear for mites, cankers, etc. Know how to treat if needed Check ear texture/blemishes Know DQ's and faults Show/Tell ear tattoo		CHECK BACK LEGS/BONE Lift and feel each bone on left Lift and feel each bone on right Know DQ's and faults	HANDLING Holds animal comfortably Controls animal naturally Turns are controlled
CHECK EYES Check left eye for proper color or disease Check right eye for proper color or disease Tell what proper color is for the variety Know diseases that can effect the eye Know DQ's and faults		CHECK SEX Doe (expose vent) Buck (expose penis), check for testicles Know possible disease to look for Know DQ's and faults Area must be clean & cared for	APPEARANCE Show jacket or long sleeves Hair groomed & away from face Hands free of distractions (jewelry, polish) Good posture
CHECK NOSE Check the nose and describe what symptoms of disease might be there Look at inside front legs for same Know what to do if discharge is found Know DQ's and faults		TAIL Check bone for breaks Check straightness & Check carriage Know DQ's and faults May check on back but also while posed	ACTIONS Confident, relaxed Courteous Good eye contact, Smiles Speaks clearly and loud enough to be heard
CHECK TEETH Look closely at front teeth, bottom & top Describe what problems effect teeth Describe proper bite Know DQ's and faults		POSE Demonstrate correct pose for breed Set tail, ears, front & hind feet Know correct body type & anatomy	KNOWLEDGE (worth 20 points) Origin Anatomy Confirmation Health & Disease Correct answers given Complete answers given Good use of terminology
CHECK FRONT FEET/TOENAILS Count correct number on left Count correct number on right Explain proper color, Pads Know DQ's and faults		CHECK BODY Upper body, feel for abscess or rupture Under body, same Sides and neck area, same Know DQ's and faults	COMMENTS: (Possible 200) TOTAL POINTS
CHECK FRONT LEGS/BONE Check each leg for straightness and breaks Check the bone thickness of each leg Know DQ's and faults		CHECK FUR Initial set-up, set fur/wool properly After examination, set fur/wool properly Explain type of fur or wool on this breed	

Kansas rabbit showmanship score sheet

Supplies needed before you get started

A carpet square or show table. Rabbits can be taught that when they are on a certain surface like carpet that it is time to be shown



Nail clippers. Animals with extra long nails don't pose as well



A Rabbit(of course)



A brush. Brushing your rabbit can help them get used to being touched and handled. Also helps handle shedding.

Lab coat or white long sleeve shirt. Prevents scratches and gives a professional look when performing your showmanship



How to prepare for a showmanship competition

A few weeks before

- Practice your showmanship routine with your rabbit.
- Make sure your brushing and taking proper care of your rabbits

A few days before

- Trim your rabbits nails
- Make sure your rabbit is healthy and ready for competition

A few minutes before

- make sure your nails are not crusty and dirty
- take off all jewelry
- if you have long hair pull it back
- put on your showmanship jacket or shirt
- brush your rabbit

How to pose: From the Proper Posing and Evaluation pages in the 2014 domestic rabbit magazine. (available on the ARBA website)

Commercial: The toes of the back legs aligned with the front of the hip, and the front feet directly under the eye.

Compact: Front feet directly under the eyes.
Toes of the rear feet aligned with the front of the hips.

Cylindrical: Front feet directly under the eyes.
Toes of the rear feet with the front of the hips.
Body elongated as much as possible with the hocks flat on the table. Topline should be stright.

Full Arch (Not normally used for showmanship) for Britannia Petite and Belgian Hare, set the hind feet and then lift from under the Jaw. The other breeds run down the table for evaluation.

High Head Mount: Holland Lops and Lionheads posed lightly on front feet.

Semi Arch: Rear feet directly under the front of the hips and front feet under the eyes

The order of showmanship

(Carry to table)

Introduction

Ears

Eyes

Back

Fur

Flip over

Nose

Teeth

Front legs

Belly

Back Legs

Sex

Tail

Questions



Carrying your rabbit to the table

When carrying your rabbit to the table the technique I use is to carry it like a football. You tuck the rabbits head into the crook of your right arm, kind of like the guys do when running with the football. You use your left hand to support the underside of the rabbit. When you get to the table you slide out your left arm and carefully place your rabbit down onto the table. You then pose your rabbit before starting your introduction.



Introduction

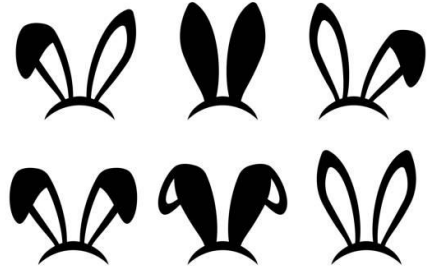
Introduce yourself, name, age, how long you've been in 4-H if it is for a 4-H show.

Introduce your rabbit, tell its name, its breed, variety, and if it is a buck or doe.

For a Hare above the competition you can Add information about the breed and its History or just a fun fact about your rabbits breed



Ears



Read the rabbit's tattoo

Look in the ear to check for mites
And Cankers (scabs and crust in the
ear caused by the mites)

Check the ear for torn or missing
portions

Eyes

Know what the proper eye color for your rabbit is
and check that the rabbit has that color. There is
5 eye colors: Blue, Blue gray, Chocolate,
Marble, and Ruby.

Check that the eye is healthy and has no
discharge. Discharge is a sign of weepy eye or
conjunctivitis (pink-eye) If found it is a DQ

Check the eye for any
Cloudiness that could
Be caused by blindness



Back

Tell the proper body type and make sure your rabbit is posed correctly.

Explain to the judge how to pose your rabbit and list the 7 body types

(Commercial, Compact, Cylindrical, Upright Cylindrical, High Head Mount, Full Arch, Semi Arch)

Feel around the body to check abscesses

Check for straight spine

Black Mini
Rex:Compact
body type



Fur

Tell the judge what color/variety your rabbit is. With your hand brush the fur towards the rabbits head to show whether your rabbit has flyback or rollback fur and tell the judge which type your rabbit has

Blow into the fur to check for any mites or lice

Flipping over

Flipping over your rabbit is one of the hardest parts of showmanship. It takes a lot of practice for your rabbit to get used to being flipped over and for you to get used to flipping them over. They might fight you in the beginning but with the proper technique they should get used to get it. The way I do it is I have the rabbits nose facing to the left then I use my right hand to flip it. I put my pointer finger between the rabbits ears and use my thumb and middle finger to gently but firmly squeeze the rabbits head and lift it up gently while using my left hand to sweep under its body before laying its back down gently onto the table. You want to make sure your holding the rabbit firmly or it will try to wiggle and flip back over but also that your not squeezing its head too hard. It takes practice but with time it will get easier. The rabbit will be on its back for a majority of the rest of the showmanship so one hand will be used to hold the rabbits head and another to point to the body parts.

If it flips back over. Don't panic and just re-flip it.

Nose

Look at the nose and check for any discharge which is a sign of cold.

Check also the insides of the front paws to see if they've been wiping any discharge. If any is found it is a disqualification

A good piece of information to tell the judge is that the Rabbit only breathes out of its nose



Teeth

Open the mouth and tell the judge your rabbit has all 28 teeth and make sure none are broken

Check for proper bite (the upper incisors overlapping the lower

incisors) and no

Malocclusion (the teeth butting or the lower incisors overlapping the upper incisors) which is a DQ

Front and Back Legs and Belly

First extend the front leg to make sure it is not broken and then count the toenails (4 and a dewclaw). Check that the toenails are not missing or mismatched, if they are then that is a DQ

Feel the belly to make sure it has no abscesses. If it does that is a DQ

Then on the back legs do the same as the front, extend the leg to check for breaks and bowed legs (legs that curve outward or inward from the middle. A DQ) Count the toenails(4 toenails) making sure none are missing or mismatched. Check the hocks for sore hocks (Rawness of the footpad or hock caused by irritation and rubbing from the wire. A DQ if bleeding or infected)Then repeat on the other leg.



Sex

Know if you have a buck or a doe. If it is a doe explain that it has a vent. If it is a buck explain that it has a penis and two testicles

Check for Vent disease. A disease that affects both sexes and is indicated by scabby, reddened genitalia. A DQ

If a buck check for split penis. If found it is a DQ

Tail

Find the tail and extend it to make sure it isn't broken.

Check for screw tail (tail that is bent or twisted to one side. A DQ) Bob tail (a tail noticeably shorter than normal. A DQ)



Questions

At the end of your showmanship ask the judge if they have any questions. The judge will normally have a few questions, the level of difficulty depends on your age.

Some good resources to have to help prepare for the questions are the ARBA Standard of Perfection, The Guidebook to raising Rabbits and Cavies. Both can be bought at <https://arba.net/product-category/publications/>



Additional info

I added a lot of the general disqualifications to this list but if you are interested in taking your showmanship a step further then I would suggest adding more breed specific disqualifications and faults to your showmanship presentation. Like for my polish I add the fact that there ears cannot exceed 3 inches and that they cannot have a dewlap. Both are breed specific disqualifications. I also check for white spots or scattered whites because that is a fault for the chocolate polish. Details like that give a little extra pizzaz to your showmanship. Those can be found in the ARBA standard of perfection.



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