

A.R.B.A. Showmanship Standard

A) - Disclaimer: In no way is this an endorsement that a local youth contest of showmanship be held. Nor is this an attempt to change any currently practiced method of showmanship. This is offered to help guide those showmanship contests that are currently held without standardized processes.

B) - Purpose: Showmanship is to demonstrate a working and practical knowledge of an effective examination, evaluation and posing of a rabbit or cavy, to explore critical thinking skills and to know and demonstrate what to check for and why.

C) - Basis in ARBA Exhibition: The ARBA method for judging rabbits and cavies is "judge based" not "handler based", as it is for most other animal species. The ARBA Judge poses and handles the exhibition animals. The judge is charged with giving the animal an opportunity to be its best. Showmanship is generally the handling and fitting of an animal for exhibition. ARBA Showmanship will combine the participant's ability to handle, pose and exhibit their animal to its best.

D) - Scoring: Participants will start with a clean slate and be awarded points, not deducted points, for their abilities and knowledge. It is recommended that when possible a written evaluation of the youth's performance be provided as guidance for improvement and constructive comments.

E) - Contestant's Appearance: Appearance or attire worn by the participant will not be weighed more than 10% of the total possible points allocated for the contest. In contests that require official uniforms, improper attire may result in the contestant's disqualification from winning any awards. In these contests appearance points should be relegated to the Physical Examination.

F) - Animal Quality: Appearance or quality of the animal used in showmanship will not be weighted more than 10% of the total possible points allocated for the contest.

G) - Knowledge Base: Verbal knowledge conveyed to the showmanship judge either through answering direct questions or during the course of the physical examination of the animal will not be weighted more than 20% of the total possible points allocated for the contest.

1) What to know:

a) Origin

- i) When and from where the breed you are showing was introduced to the USA
- ii) What was it's original use
- iii) What are common uses today

b) Anatomy

- i) Know the parts of the animal
- ii) Be able to identify and name as many parts as possible

c) Confirmation

- i) Know what the breed and variety you are showing should look like
- ii) Know ARBA body types
- iii) Know the Standard of Perfection for the breed
- iv) Know any specific characteristics for the breed

d) Health & Diseases

- i) Know common diseases, parasites and health concerns for your animal
- ii) Know the normal gestation period for your animal
- iii) Know something about basic first aid for your animal

e) Terminology

- i) Know basic terms used concerning your animal
- ii) Know specific terms used concerning the breed or variety for your animal
- iii) Know terms used during and concerning the exhibition or showing of your animal

f) Your Showmanship Animal

- i) Know about the individual animal used in this showmanship contest, its breed, variety, age, gender, registration variety, etc.
- ii) Know any exhibition faults your animal may have
- iii) Know any exhibition disqualifications your animal may have

H) - Physical Examination: The ability to correctly control, handle, pose, properly evaluate the animal and to convey the reasons and purpose for what and why the contestant does with the animal will be weighted a minimum of 60% of the total possible points allocated for the contest. This examination process should be based on ARBA Standard of Perfection's photo articles *Handling and Examination During Judging* (for rabbits) and *Handling A Cavy*. The contestant should demonstrate an economy of movements, awareness of the animal and a thoroughness of the evaluation without stress. The contestant is doing the evaluation. They are not showing the animal to the showmanship judge. The judge is an observer to and evaluator of the process demonstrated by the contestant.

Based on the above standard showmanship guidelines the following sample would be a useable scoring system.

Sample Showmanship Form

Contestants present one at a time.

The contestant should express information and knowledge during the course of the Physical Examination and additional knowledge should be demonstrated in the answering of direct questions from the judge.

Physical Examination: 60 pts.

Contestant does the following correctly, properly, and with ease

- Carries animal to table
- Places animal on judging table
- Poses animal for initial evaluation
- Evaluates the top side of the animal
- Turns the animal onto its back with control at all times
- Evaluates the bottom side of the animal while on back
- Sexes animal using correct form
- Safely and correctly returns animal to upright position
- Repose and control animal during Knowledge interview
- Remove animal from judging table and carry away under control

Knowledge Interview: 20 pts.

Answers questions concerning their animal and the exhibition of their animal species/breed/variety in concise, confident and accurate form over and above information conveyed during the Physical Examination

Contestant's Appearance: 10 pts.

Dress is appropriate for task and overall appearance

Animal Quality: 10 pts.

Condition, faults, disqualifications and overall appearance

Total points possible 100 pts.

Contestants present as a group.

Contestant does Physical Examination as a group without verbal exchange with judge. During the Knowledge Interview additional information should be conveyed to the judge demonstrating additional knowledge of the physical examination. When this approach is used the total points allowed for both the Physical Examination and the Knowledge Interview should be added together and then divided evenly between the two areas.

RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP SCORE SHEET

NAME _____

AGE GROUP _____

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

<p>INTRODUCTION AND CARRY Controlled tuck carry to table Personal introduction Rabbit introduction</p>		<p>EVALUATE ANIMAL ON BACK CHECK NOSE CHECK TEETH Describe proper bite CHECK FRONT LEGS/BONE CHECK FRONT FEET/TOENAILS CHECK BACK LEGS/BONE CHECK BACK FEET/TOENAILS</p>	<p>POINTS TO WATCH FOR: Holds animal comfortably Controls animal naturally Turns are controlled ACTIONS Confident, relaxed Courteous Good eye contact, Smiles Clear speaking</p>	
<p>ANIMAL ONTO TABLE Safe, controlled movements</p>		<p>CHECK SEX Doe (expose vent) Buck (expose penis), check for testicles Area must be clean & cared for TAIL Check bone for breaks May check on back but also while posed</p>	<p>APPEARANCE (worth 10 points) Show jacket or long sleeves Hair groomed & away from face Hands free of distractions (jewelry, polish) Good posture</p>	
<p>POSE Demonstrates correct pose for breed Set tail, ears, front & hind feet Know correct body type CHECK EYES Look into both eyes for proper color or disease</p>		<p>RETURN TO UPRIGHT POSITION Controlled return to initial pose position</p>	<p>RABBIT (worth 10 points) Free of molt Free of disease Healthy appearance Meets basic requirements of breed</p>	
<p>EVALUATE BODY Upper body, feel for abscess or rupture Sides and neck area, same CHECK EARS Look into both ears for mites, cankers, etc.</p>		<p>REPOSE AND CONTROL Check Fur, set fur/wool properly Explain type of fur or wool on this breed Wait for judge to interview</p>	<p>KNOWLEDGE (worth 20 points) Correct answers given Complete answers given Good use of terms</p>	
<p>TURN ANIMAL ONTO BACK Controlled, safe turn of animal onto back</p>		<p>REMOVE ANIMAL AND EXIT Controlled tuck carry from table</p>	<p>COMMENTS:</p>	
<p>(Possible 100)..... TOTAL POINTS</p>				