

RABBIT SHOW ETIQUETTE

Provided by Blue Ribbon Rabbitry

Arriving at the show

Once you arrive, the first thing you will want to do is unload your rabbits. If you choose to park near the door to unload, make sure you are not blocking the entrance. Unload quickly and move your vehicle to a more appropriate parking spot.

As you set up in the showroom, consider how large the room is and how many people are there. Do not spread out your rabbits or chairs. Instead, stack your carriers and try your best to not take up a large amount of space. Be sure if you are setting up near others that you are not blocking their path to get themselves and their rabbits to and from the show table.

Be ready...

At most shows there will be a list by each judging table with the breeds that will be shown on that table. A complete list may not be ready at the beginning of the show. Some breeds will likely be added as the show goes on. Be sure to take a look around every once in a while to see if your breed is listed.

Some shows will announce the breed over a loud system and some may not. Being aware of which table your breed will be at and their place on the list is important. Be ready as soon as it is time for your breed to be shown. As the breed before yours comes to a close, have your rabbits nearby and ready to go.

It's show time!

If you are really new to showing, do your research in advance. Knowing how the show process works is important to ensure everything runs smoothly.

Stay close by and be ready when it time for your rabbit to be placed on the show table. Once it is time for your rabbits to be placed on the table, do so quickly and get out of the way of other exhibitors. If someone has multiple rabbits in a class, it is never a bad thing to offer that exhibitor help placing their animals on the table.

Be quiet during the judging process. It is fine to speak to other breeders, but be sure you are not distracting the judge or other exhibitors. Once the judge begins placing rabbits and giving comments, be quiet so both the writer and the owner of the rabbit can hear.

Once your animal is placed, take it off the table quickly. If you are not happy with the placement, keep your comments to yourself. It is **never** appropriate to criticize the judge or others' rabbits.

Do not discuss how rabbits have placed at past shows, give your opinion of which one should win or do anything that could possibly influence the judge.

Do not give any indication as to which animal belongs to you. This may be difficult if you raise a breed that requires you to stay nearby to keep them in the holding coops (such as Tans). Do not verbalize to the judge or other breeders which animals are yours. Be a team player and hold in the rabbits in front of you and do not worry about where your rabbit is located until it time to remove your rabbits from the table.

After it is over

Congratulate the winner! And once again, hold back any disappointment. Do not make any rude or disparaging comments about the judge, other exhibitors or their rabbits. Once you are ready to leave for the day, be sure to clean up after yourself and not leave any trash behind.

Parents of youth breeders (and 4-Hers)

Having been a youth breeder and 4-Her myself in the past, I understand the importance of parents letting their kids do the bulk of the work. At too many shows I see parents grooming rabbits beforehand, feeding and watering, etc.

Etiquette wise, the biggest breach I see amongst parents involves crowding the show table. When I showed in youth I cannot tell you how many times I could not get to my rabbit or hear the judges' comments because parents were in the way. It is appropriate to be nearby to support your kids, but you should stand back a decent distance from the show table.

Parents cannot take rabbits to the youth show table. All rabbits must be carried to the table by youth. If your child needs assistance, be sure to have an older sibling or a fellow youth breeder ready to assist.