



2005 Livestock Fitting & Showing Clinic



Showmanship Tips for a Champion!

It all starts at home...

- Keep your animal healthy (free of external, internal parasites)
- Train your animal to be a show animal; so walk or work with him daily
- Practice showing using your parent/grandparent as a judge
- Keep animal in a clean place with dry bedding
- Wash animal at home using mild soap and rinse
- Train your animal to walk properly (example: for swine, with head up)

In the show ring...

- Be ready in plenty of time for your show, and make sure you have equipment needed
- Pay attention in the holding pen before entering the ring - locate judge
- Always shut gate behind you
- Stay in view of judge at all times. (example: for swine, head him off before he gets to a corner and try to stay out of groups)
- Show intensity by being focused.
- Stay proper distance from judge. (example: for swine, keep hog moving 10-15 feet away from the judge)
- Do not pass between judge and animal.
- Keep one eye on the animal and one on the judge!
- Work at a slow pace - do not look like you are anxious and/or following your animal. You want to appear relaxed and in complete control of animal.
- Give judge different views of your animal
- Brush your animal if needed - for swine, when animal gets dirty or after judge handles pig; keep your brush in your back pocket
- Don't over use your instrument used to show (cane or whip), and always keep the instrument where there's no chance it will strike your neighbor competitor
- Display appropriate posture. For swine, posture slightly bent over with cane or whip level with the back of the animal. Never place a show stick/instrument between judge and animal.
- When you are asked to line up your animal, be sure to leave enough space (2-4 feet depending on specie) between animals so the judge can easily walk around each animal.
- Never stop showing - even if you think the judge has made his/her decisions.
- Come to the showmanship classes PRIOR to yours so you can observe and learn from the older members as they show.

Dress for the Show...

- Wear comfortable APPROPRIATE clothes -- Nice jeans and shirt with collar, tucked in.
- Wear hard sole shoes, preferably boots
- No hats, no flashy jewelry, no hair hanging down in face, no chewing gum!
- Remember to smile!

Good luck at the Fair!!