

Indiana

4-H

Rabbit

Ambassador

Handbook

Mission Statement

The Rabbit Ambassador Contest is dedicated to recognizing youth who excel in their general knowledge of rabbits, their ability to identify breeds and varieties of rabbits, and their ability to determine the quality of an animal through a comprehensive examination process.

OVERVIEW OF CONTEST

The Rabbit Ambassador Contest is a comprehensive evaluation of a 4-H member's knowledge and skills in the area of rabbits. The evaluation has three components: written test, breed identification, and showmanship. The format and procedures published here for each area have been established by the Indiana State Fair 4-H Rabbit Ambassador Contest Chairperson to facilitate the 4-H member's participation in this contest.

In this contest boys and girls compete in the same category according to the grade in which they were enrolled on January 1 of the current year. See your local extension educator for procedures in the case of grade retention. The grades are divided into the following five categories.

- Grades 3 and 4.....Novice category
- Grades 5 and 6.....Junior category
- Grades 7 and 8.....Intermediate category
- Grades 9 and 10.....Senior category
- Grades 11 and 12.....Master category

Once a contestant has won a category at the state fair, s/he would move up to the next category if competing the following year. Correct category participation at state fair can be simplified with assistance from the county program. It is recommended that a category winner not advance to the next level unless s/he has won that category at state fair. The exception would be for contestants who are advancing with their age group.

The contestant has responsibilities to be prepared for the competition. The contestant should supply number 2 pencils for the written and breed id portions of the competition. The contestant will need to bring a rabbit in a closed bottom carrier for the showmanship portion of the contest. It is the contestant's responsibility to be familiar with the rules and procedures.

The Indiana State Fair 4-H Rabbit Ambassador Contest Chairperson strives to meet the special needs of contestants in all areas of the competition. This is best achieved by contacting

the state fair rabbit office (317-927-1478) by the Friday prior to the competition. The accommodations needed should be specified (i.e. read test, read breed id, marking answers, etc.)

WRITTEN TEST

The resources for the written test for all categories are Ohio State Rabbit Resource and the current Standard of Perfection (published by the ARBA). In the event of a conflict of information, the Standard of Perfection is considered the authority.

The number of questions varies according to the category. The test for the novice and junior categories has 25 questions, each worth four (4) points. The test for the intermediate, senior, and master categories has 50 questions, each worth two (2) points. The questions may be true/false, multiple choice, matching, or a combination. The questions, particularly at the younger levels (novice, junior), are intended to be general knowledge. Upper level (intermediate, senior, master) contestants are more knowledgeable and will find more specific questions on the test. A total of 100 points is awarded to this portion of the contest.

The contestant is given a copy of the test questions and an answer sheet. The answer sheet is a scantron answer sheet similar to those used for achievement tests in the school setting.

Suggested strategies for optimum performance follow.

1. Write your answers on the test first.
2. Remember, your first response is usually right.
3. If you don't know the answer, go on to another question and come back to that one.
4. Transfer your answers CAREFULLY to the scantron sheet.
5. Be sure to mark your answer within the area. If you change an answer, erase the first answer well before marking another answer.
6. Assistants in the test area can aid in pronunciation of a word but not in the meaning of a word.

BREED IDENTIFICATION

The breed identification portion of the contest allows the contestant to demonstrate his/her knowledge of breeds of rabbits and the format in which rabbits are entered in a show. The contestant identifies each of ten (10) animals according to the breed, showroom classification, and class. All of the animals in the breed identification portion are senior animals of breeds recognized by the ARBA. This portion of the contest is worth sixty (60) points.

Terms used in the breed identification contest are found in the Standard of Perfection published by the American Rabbit Breeders Association. "Breed" refers to a class of rabbits with distinctive characteristics. "Showroom Classification" refers to the term used for judging/showing. This information may be found in the Standard of Perfection or the Breed Id Study Guide found in the appendix. If a showroom classification is not specified, the correct response would be NOV or "no other variety". Pay particular attention to the Jersey Wooly and Netherland Dwarf breeds. The Jersey Wooly is shown by groups so the correct showroom classification would be a group. The Netherland Dwarf is shown by variety so the correct showroom classification would be a variety. The purpose of being specific is to assist the contestant in developing the life skill needed to successfully participate in shows by entering animals appropriately. The Standard of Perfection is considered the authority. All responses should be as indicated in the first edition of the most recent Standard of Perfection. The information in the "Class" column refers to whether the rabbit is a 4 class animal or a 6 class animal. Four class animals show in four classes: senior bucks, senior does, junior bucks, junior does. Six class rabbits show in six classes: senior bucks, senior does, 6/8 (intermediate) bucks, 6/8 (intermediate) does, junior bucks, junior does.

The format of the breed identification portion of the contest is similar to a multiple choice test. Refer to the "Rabbit 1" page and the "Breed Identification Worksheet" pages at the end of this publication as you read through the following procedures.

Each of the ten rabbits/cages in breed identification will have a form on it listing Rabbit 1, Rabbit 2, Rabbit 3, etc. through Rabbit 10. The rabbit "number" on the cage correlates to the Rabbit 1, Rabbit 2, Rabbit 3, down the left side of the worksheet. The numbers below the columns correlate with breed, showroom classification, and class going across the worksheet. The numbers within each column are matched with the appropriate box on the worksheet to record an answer. It's not as confusing as it sounds. Let's try it!

Example

You are facing the first cage of Breed Id. The sign on the cage says "Rabbit 1" so you will be using the first row on your worksheet. Look at the "Breed" column on the cage and determine the breed of the rabbit in the cage. Okay, it's a Flemish Giant, you say, which is number 55. At the bottom of the column is a 1). Go to your worksheet, find 1), and circle the 55. Now decide the showroom classification. You think it's a blue. That's number 44 and 2) is at the bottom of that column. Go to your worksheet, find 2), and circle the 44. Now, is it six class or four class? Right, six. At the bottom of that column is a 3). Go to the 3) on your worksheet and circle the 33. Good job, Rabbit 1 is done!

Proceed to Rabbit 2. Here you will be answering questions 4, 5, and 6 on your worksheet. Follow the same procedure of deciding the breed, the showroom classification, and the class and marking the number on the worksheet. Continue the same procedure for all ten rabbits. After you have completed the worksheet you will be seated at a table to transfer your answers to the scantron form. There will be volunteers to help throughout the Breed Identification process. There is a study guide provided in the appendix to assist contestants in preparing for this portion of the contest.

SHOWMANSHIP

In the showmanship portion of the Rabbit Ambassador Contest, the contestant demonstrates ability to evaluate a rabbit according to the standard for type and disqualifications. This life skill allows the contestant, as a rabbit breeder, to select animals for the purpose of breeding, showing, or culling.

The showmanship form and expectations reflect the mission of showmanship: to compare a rabbit to the standard for its breed and determine the best use of that rabbit in a herd. The most important aspect of the showmanship procedure, beyond the steps on the scoresheet, is to provide necessary information while omitting extraneous information. For example, the length of ears required for showing an English Lop is necessary information; the history of the breed is extraneous information. If the contestant thinks in terms of a life skill, of performing this procedure with a large number of rabbits to determine the best use of the animal, s/he will be more successful in this event.

It is the contestant's responsibility to bring a rabbit in a closed bottom carrier for this portion of the competition. The current showmanship form (4-H 847) should be studied before the competition. Both the form and a description of procedures are included in the appendix. The showmanship form may also be obtained from the Purdue University website www.four-h.purdue.edu/rabbits. Suggestions for success with the showmanship procedure follow.

1. Be concise. Think in terms of doing this with 50 rabbits. Only impart information that is necessary.
2. Think of the procedure as "head to tail".
3. Be sure to TALK! The judge has to score your sheet and may miss something if you do not verbalize what you are doing.
4. It is not uncommon for contestants to have a "showmanship rabbit", one that is trained, so to speak, for showmanship.
5. Go through the routine in the order it is presented on the form.

SHOWMANSHIP

In the showmanship portion of the Rabbit Ambassador Contest, the contestant demonstrates ability to evaluate a rabbit according to the standard for type and disposition. The life skill allows the contestant, as a rabbit breeder, to select animals for the purpose of breeding, showing or selling.

The showmanship form and expectations reflect the mission of showmanship: to compare a rabbit to the standard for its breed and determine the best use of that rabbit in a herd. The most important aspect of the showmanship procedure, beyond the steps on the score sheet, is to

provide necessary information by omitting extraneous information. For example, the length of ears required for showing in English Lop is necessary information; the history of the breed is

extraneous information. If the contestant has a long history of life skill, of performing this procedure with a large number of rabbits to determine the best use of the animal, she will be

more successful in the event. It is the contestant's responsibility to bring a rabbit in a closed bottom carrier for this portion

of the contest. The contest showmanship form (4-H 847) and a description of the competition. Both the form and a description of the competition may also be obtained from the Purdue University website. The appendix.

showmanship form may also be obtained from the Purdue University website. Suggestions for success with the showmanship procedure.

1. Be concise. Think in terms of doing this with 50 rabbits. Only input information that is necessary.

2. Think of the location as "head to tail."

3. Be sure to TALK! The judge has to score your sheet and may miss something if you do not verbalize what you are doing.

4. It is not uncommon for contestants to have a "showmanship rabbit," one that is trained, so to speak, for showmanship.

5. Go through the routine in the order it is presented on the form.

Appendix

Includes:

Rabbit 1 sample cage card

Breed Identification worksheet

Breed Study Guide

Showmanship form

Showmanship procedures

Rabbit 1

Breed	Showroom Classification	Class
33 American	33 Lilac	33 Six
44 Beveren	44 Blue	44 Four
55 Flemish Giant	55 Light Gray	
66 New Zealand	66 Standard/NOV	

1)

2)

3)

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BREED IDENTIFICATION WORKSHEET

Name _____

Circle the **NUMBER** that matches the breed, showroom classification, and class for each rabbit.

Place label here

	Breed	Showroom Classification	Class
Rabbit 1	1) 33 44 55 66	2) 33 44 55 66	3) 33 44
Rabbit 2	4) 33 44 55 66	5) 33 44 55 66	6) 33 44
Rabbit 3	7) 33 44 55 66	8) 33 44 55 66	9) 33 44
Rabbit 4	10) 33 44 55 66	11) 33 44 55 66	12) 33 44
Rabbit 5	13) 33 44 55 66	14) 33 44 55 66	15) 33 44
Rabbit 6	16) 33 44 55 66	17) 33 44 55 66	18) 33 44
Rabbit 7	19) 33 44 55 66	20) 33 44 55 66	21) 33 44
Rabbit 8	22) 33 44 55 66	23) 33 44 55 66	24) 33 44
Rabbit 9	25) 33 44 55 66	26) 33 44 55 66	27) 33 44
Rabbit 10	28) 33 44 55 66	29) 33 44 55 66	30) 33 44

You must now transfer your answers to a scantron answer sheet.

4-H RABBIT AMBASSADOR BREED STUDY GUIDE

BREED	4 OR 6 CLASS	SHOWROOM CLASSIFICATION	BODY TYPE	MOST POINTS	FUR TYPE
AMERICAN	6 CLASS	BLUE and WHITE	SEMI ARCH	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK
AMERICAN FUZZY LOP	4 CLASS	BROKEN PATTERN SOLID PATTERN	COMPACT	GENERAL TYPE	WOOL
AMERICAN SABLE	4 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY	COMMERCIAL	GENERAL TYPE	ROLLBACK
ENGLISH ANGORA	4 CLASS	COLORED and WHITE	COMPACT	WOOL	WOOL
FRENCH ANGORA	4 CLASS	COLORED and WHITE	COMMERCIAL	WOOL	WOOL
GIANT ANGORA	6 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY	COMMERCIAL	WOOL	WOOL
SATIN ANGORA	4 CLASS	COLORED and WHITE	COMMERCIAL	WOOL	WOOL
ARGENT BRUN	6 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY	COMMERCIAL	WOOL	WOOL
BELGIAN HARE	4 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY	COMMERCIAL	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK
BEVEREN	6 CLASS	BLACK - BLUE - WHITE	FULL ARCH	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK
BLANC de HOTOT	6 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY	SEMI ARCH	GENERAL TYPE	ROLLBACK
BRITANNIA PETITE	4 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY	COMMERCIAL	GENERAL TYPE	ROLLBACK
		BLACK - BLACK OTTER	FULL ARCH	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK
		BLUE EYED WHITE - BROKEN			
		CHESTNUT AGOUTI			
		RUBY EYED WHITE			
		SABLE MARTEN			
CALIFORNIAN	6 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY			
CHAMPAGNE D'ARGENT	6 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY	COMMERCIAL	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK
CHECKERED GIANT	6 CLASS	BLACK and BLUE	COMMERCIAL	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK
AMERICAN CHINCHILLA	6 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY	FULL ARCH	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK
GIANT CHINCHILLA	6 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY	COMMERCIAL	GENERAL TYPE	ROLLBACK
STANDARD CHINCHILLA	4 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY	SEMI ARCH	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK
CINNAMON	6 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY	COMPACT	COLOR	ROLLBACK
CREME D'ARGENT	6 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY	COMMERCIAL	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK
DUTCH	4 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY	COMMERCIAL	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK
		BLACK - BLUE - CHINCHILLA	COMPACT	MARKINGS	FLYBACK
		CHOCOLATE - GRAY - STEEL			
		TORTOISE			
DWARF HOTOT	4 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY (BLACK and CHOCOLATE EYE BANDS SHOWN TOGETHER)	COMPACT	GENERAL TYPE	ROLLBACK

4-H RABBIT AMBASSADOR BREED STUDY GUIDE

BREED	4 OR 6 CLASS	SHOWROOM CLASSIFICATION	BODY TYPE	MOST POINTS	FUR TYPE
ENGLISH LOP	6 CLASS	BROKEN PATTERN SOLID PATTERN	SEMI ARCH	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK
ENGLISH SPOT	4 CLASS	BLACK - BLUE - CHOCOLATE GOLD - GRAY - LILAC - TORTOISE	FULL ARCH	MARKINGS	FLYBACK
FLEMISH GIANT	6 CLASS	BLACK - BLUE - FAWN LIGHT GRAY - SANDY STEEL GRAY - WHITE	SEMI ARCH	GENERAL TYPE	ROLLBACK
FLORIDA WHITE	4 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY	COMPACT	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK
FRENCH LOP	6 CLASS	BROKEN PATTERN SOLID PATTERN	COMMERCIAL	GENERAL TYPE	ROLLBACK
HARLEQUIN	4 CLASS	JAPANESE GROUP MAGPIE GROUP	COMMERCIAL	MARKINGS	FLYBACK
HAVANA	4 CLASS	BLACK - BLUE - BROKEN CHOCOLATE - LILAC	COMPACT	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK
HIMALAYAN	4 CLASS	BLACK - BLUE - CHOCOLATE LILAC	CYLINDRICAL	GENERAL TYPE and MARKINGS 41 PTS EACH	FLYBACK
HOLLAND LOP	4 CLASS	BROKEN PATTERN SOLID PATTERN	COMPACT	GENERAL TYPE	ROLLBACK
JERSEY WOOLY	4 CLASS	AGOUTI - AOV - BROKEN SELF - SHADED - TAN PATTERN	COMPACT	GENERAL TYPE	WOOL
LILAC	4 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY	COMPACT	GENERAL TYPE	ROLLBACK
LIONHEAD	4 CLASS	CHOCOLATE - RUBY EYED WHITE SEAL - SIAMESE SABLE - TORTOISE	COMPACT	GENERAL TYPE FUR	ROLLBACK
MINI LOP	4 CLASS	BROKEN PATTERN SOLID PATTERN	COMPACT	GENERAL TYPE	ROLLBACK
MINI REX	4 CLASS	BLACK - BLUE - BLUE-EYED WHITE BROKEN GROUP - CASTOR CHINCHILLA - CHOCOLATE HIMALAYAN - LILAC - LYNX OPAL - OTTER - RED - SABLE SABLE POINT - SEAL SILVER MARTEN - SMOKE PEARL TORTOISE - WHITE	COMPACT	GENERAL TYPE	REX

4-H RABBIT AMBASSADOR BREED STUDY GUIDE

BREED	4 OR 6 CLASS	SHOWROOM CLASSIFICATION	BODY TYPE	MOST POINTS	FUR TYPE
MINI SATIN	4 CLASS	BLACK - BLUE - BROKEN CHINCHILLA - CHOCOLATE CHOCOLATE AGOUTI - COPPER HIMALAYAN - OPAL - OTTER RED - SIAMESE - SILVER MARTEN SQUIRREL - TORTOISE - WHITE	COMPACT	GENERAL TYPE	SATIN
NETHERLAND DWARF	4 CLASS	SELF GROUP: BLACK - BLUE - CHOCOLATE LILAC - BLUE EYED WHITE RUBY EYED WHITE SHADED GROUP: SABLE POINT - SIAMESE SABLE SIAMESE SMOKE PEARL TORTOISE SHELL & BLUE TORTOISE SHELL (are shown together) AGOUTI: CHESTNUT - CHINCHILLA LYNX - OPAL - SQUIRREL TAN PATTERN GROUP OTTER - SABLE MARTEN SILVER MARTEN PEARL MARTEN - TANS AOV GROUP: BROKEN - FAWN - HIMALAYAN ORANGE - STEEL	COMPACT	GENERAL TYPE	ROLLBACK
NEW ZEALAND	6 CLASS	BLACK - BLUE - BROKEN RED - WHITE	COMMERCIAL	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK
PALOMINO	6 CLASS	GOLDEN and LYNX	COMMERCIAL	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK
POLISH	4 CLASS	BLACK - BLUE - BROKEN CHOCOLATE - BLUE EYED WHITE RUBY EYED WHITE	COMPACT	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK
REX	4 CLASS	AMBER - BLACK - BLUE BROKEN GROUP - CALIFORNIAN CASTOR - CHINCHILLA CHOCOLATE - LILAC - LYNX OPAL - OTTER - RED - SABLE SEAL - WHITE	COMMERCIAL	GENERAL TYPE	REX
RHINELANDER	4 CLASS	BLACK and BLUE	FULL ARCH	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK

4-H RABBIT AMBASSADOR BREED STUDY GUIDE

BREED	4 OR 6 CLASS	SHOWROOM CLASSIFICATION	BODY TYPE	MOST POINTS	FUR TYPE
SATIN	6 CLASS	BLACK - BLUE - BROKEN GROUP CALIFORNIAN - CHINCHILLA CHOCOLATE - COPPER - OTTER RED - SIAMESE - WHITE	COMMERCIAL	GENERAL TYPE	SATIN
SILVER	4 CLASS	BLACK - BROWN - FAWN -	COMPACT	COLOR	FLYBACK
SILVER FOX	6 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY	COMMERCIAL	GENERAL TYPE	STANDING
SILVER MARTEN	4 CLASS	BLACK - BLUE CHOCOLATE - SABLE	COMMERCIAL	GENERAL TYPE	FLYBACK
TAN	4 CLASS	BLACK - BLUE - CHOCOLATE LILAC	FULL ARCH	GENERAL TYPE and MARKINGS 30 PTS EACH	FLYBACK
THRIANTA	4 CLASS	NO OTHER VARIETY	COMPACT	GENERAL TYPE	ROLLBACK
TOTAL 49 - BREEDS					
MEAT PEN	10 WEEKS	3 1/2 - 5 1/2 POUNDS		MEAT TYPE	
SINGLE FRYER	10 WEEKS	3 1/2 - 5 1/2 POUNDS		MEAT TYPE	
ROASTER	UNDER 6 MONTHS	OVER 5 1/2 TO 9 POUNDS		MEAT TYPE	
STEWER	6 MONTHS AND OVER	OVER 8 POUNDS		MEAT TYPE	
REVISED FOR 2018 JET					

Indiana 4-H Rabbit Ambassador
RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP SCORE SHEET

4-H 847 Rev. 3/08

CIRCLE ONE: Novice Junior Intermediate

Senior Master

PLACE LABEL HERE
JUDGES: DO NOT GIVE HALF POINTS

A: action T: term R: reason	PTS.
PROCEDURE	
LIFT & CARRY Max Pts. 4	
Proper removal from carrier/cage ...A...1... []	
Proper support of body & headA...1... []	
Maintain hold on rabbit.....A...1... []	
Close & latch carrier/cage.....A...1... []	
POSE Max Pts. 2	
Correct pose for breedA...1... []	
Behaved animalA...1... []	
CHECK EARS Max Pts. 4	
<i>(canals must be properly exposed)</i>	
Check both ears..... A...A...R...3... []	
Read tattoo..... A...1... []	
LIFT & TURN OVERMax Pts. 3	
Proper techniqueA...1... []	
Smooth motion & maintain control .A....1... []	
Rest weight of rabbit on tableA...1... []	
CHECK EYES Max Pts. 3	
Show both eyesA...R...2... []	
Eyes properly open (not forced)A...1... []	
CHECK NOSE Max Pts. 6	
Show both nostrilsA...R...2... []	
Proper position of hand & rabbitA...1... []	
Check front legs (1pt/leg). A...A...R...3... []	
CHECK TEETH Max Pts. 5	
Show top & bottom teeth . A...R...T...3... []	
Proper hand position.....A...1... []	
Shows teeth on first attemptA...1... []	
CHECK FRONT FEET & LEGS Max Pts.12	
Check front legs A...A...R...3... []	
Check front toenails..... A...A...R...3... []	
Name dewclaws T1... []	
Check front pads A...A...R...T...4... []	
Proper placement of thumbA...1... []	
CHECK BELLY Max Pts.10	
Check under jawA...T...2... []	
Check chest.....A...T...2... []	
Check belly area A...T...R...3... []	
Check side body areaA...1... []	
Deliberate, firm motions.....A...1... []	
Maintains control of animalA...1... []	
CHECK REAR FEET & LEGSMax Pts. 12	
Check rear legs..... A...A...R...3... []	
Check rear toenails..... A...A...R...3... []	
Check hocks A...A...R...T...4... []	
Proper use of thumbA...1... []	
Proper position of hands & rabbit...A....1... []	

PROCEDURE	PTS.
CHECK SEX & TAIL Max Pts. 9	
Proper turn & position of rabbitA...1... []	
Check sex A...T...2... []	
Properly expose vent/penis & testicles .. A... T... R...3... []	
Check tail A...R...2... []	
Maintains control of animalA...1... []	
EVALUATE RABBIT Max Pts. 11	
Head.....A...1... []	
Ear carriage.....A...1... []	
Shoulders.....A...1... []	
Ribs/midsection.....A...1... []	
LoinA...1... []	
Rump.....A...1... []	
Lower hindquartersA...1... []	
Show flyback/rollback on normal fur OR show Rex or Angora properly..A...1... []	
Show density, texture, condition A...R...2... []	
Deliberate, firm motionsA...1... []	
FINAL POSE Max Pts. 5	
Show correct pose for breedA...1... []	
Tail showing properlyA...1... []	
Feet tucked in properlyA...1... []	
Proper lift & turnA...1... []	
Show all 4 viewsA...1... []	
RETURN RABBIT Max Pts. 4	
Proper lift from table.....A...1... []	
Proper support of body & headA...1... []	
Maintain hold on rabbit.....A...1... []	
Close & latch carrier/cage.....A...1... []	
PRESENTATION Max Pts. 10	
Contestant appearance	
Appropriate clothing1... []	
Good posture.....1... []	
Hair neatly groomed1... []	
Relevant information only.....2... []	
Good eye contact with judge1... []	
Smooth & organized presentation1... []	
Follows judge's directions1... []	
General health, cleanliness of animal1... []	
Handles rabbit gently, safely1... []	

SCORE/100PTS
DO NOT GIVE HALF POINTS

SHOWMANSHIP PROCEDURES

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- First priority is the safety of the animal and the exhibitor.
- EVERY TIME a rabbit is picked up, the BART procedure should be used. One hand under the Belly And one hand supporting the Rump, then Tuck along the arm.
(Think: Belly And Rump, Tuck)
- TALK so the judge does not miss a procedure while looking at the scoresheet.
- Be concise. Do not include information that is not relevant.
- The following code is used to specify how the points are distributed. **A**=action **R**=reason **T**=term

LIFT AND CARRY

- Properly lift the rabbit and carry to the table.
- Close the carrier while holding the rabbit in the BART position OR
- Place the rabbit on the table, maintain one hand on it, and close the carrier.

POSE

- See the Standard of Perfection for the correct pose for your breed.
- Running breeds should be run, not posed and this should be explained to the judge.

CHECK EARS

- Expose canals thoroughly.
- Look down into each canal and explain why you are checking the canals.
- You may turn the rabbit around but it is not necessary. If you are tall enough to complete the procedure without turning the animal it is less stress on the animal.

LIFT AND TURN OVER

- Three acceptable ways to grasp the head:
 1. Grasp the nape of the neck with the two ears included.
 2. Grasp the nape of the neck while holding the ears between the index finger and the middle finger.
 3. If your hand is large, grasp the neck bringing the thumb and middle finger around each side of the head to stabilize the head.
- The opposite hand is under the rump.
- The rabbit should be rested on the table.

CHECK EYES

- Turn the head to check the eyes.
- The rabbit may be lifted from the table to turn the head.
- "Properly open" indicates naturally open. The eyes are not to be touched or forced open. It is acceptable to point to the eye or to gently place a finger near the eye.
- Explain why you are looking at the eyes.

CHECK NOSE

- The nose may be checked while checking eyes or teeth, just be sure to mention it.
- The proper position for the hand is away from the nostrils so they are both clearly exposed.
- Explain why you are looking at the nostrils and front legs.

CHECK TEETH

- Place the hand over the bridge of the rabbit's nose. Using the thumb and index finger on each side, carefully pull backward to show top and bottom teeth.
- Explain why you are looking at the teeth.

CHECK FRONT FEET & LEGS

- Place the thumb on the pad of the foot and press gently causing the toenails to extend.
- Use the index finger to check each toenail.
- Gently extend the legs by grasping the foot and pulling upward.
- Explain why you are looking at the toenails, pads, and legs.
- It is not necessary to count the toenails, but you should mention that there should be four, plus the dewclaw.
- Go slow. There are a lot of points on this section and going too fast can make scoring difficult for the judge.

CHECK BELLY

- Be thorough. Use firm motions.
- Explain why you are looking at the jaw, chest, belly, and sides.

CHECK REAR FEET & LEGS

- Place the thumb on the pad of the foot and press gently causing the toenails to extend.
- Use the index finger to check each toenail.
- The rabbit should be turned parallel with the edge of the table to check the hind legs.
- Explain why you are looking at the rear legs, toenails, and hocks.

CHECK SEX & TAIL

- The rabbit should remain parallel to the edge of the table. If the contestant is able to turn the rabbit completely towards the judge while maintaining control, that is acceptable.
- Sex should be checked by grasping the tail between the index finger and middle finger and pulling backward while pushing down with the thumb to expose sex.
- Check the tail by moving it from side to side and running your thumb and forefinger down the tailbone to check for curve or breakage.

EVALUATE THE RABBIT

- Contestant evaluates each area of the rabbit.
- TOUCH each area as you refer to it. (see next comment)
- Refer to the head and assess it but do not touch it.
- Contestant is given credit for evaluation as long as each area of the rabbit is evaluated. Credit may be denied if there is an obvious discrepancy between the contestant's evaluation and the judge's visual evaluation (as in condition of the coat).

FINAL POSE

- Pose in all four positions using proper lift technique.
- Step back between each pose to evaluate overall look of the animal.
- Running breeds should be 'posed' by allowing the animal to run to the right, left, away from , and toward the contestant.

RETURN RABBIT

- Properly lift and carry the rabbit from the table
- Open the carrier and properly place the rabbit in it.
- Close and latch carrier.
- Return to the table for dismissal,

PRESENTATION

- Proper clothing
 1. long sleeves, any color
 2. jeans or slacks unless there is a religious objection, neat/no holes in jeans
 3. closed-toe shoes
 4. no jewelry except post ear rings (no watch, rings, pins, bangles, etc.)
- Posture-do not lean on the table.
- Long hair should be tied back.