2021 Cumberland Fair 4-H Rabbit Show

If you are interested in participating in the 4-H Rabbit Show, please complete the online form or email 4hrabbiteersofmaine@gmail.com for an entry form.

Note: A minimum of five entries are required to hold the 4-H rabbit show.

**Arrival:** If you would like to exhibit your rabbit during the week of the fair, please bring your rabbit Saturday, September 25th between 8:00am – 5:00pm to the rabbit barn.

**Arrival day of show:** 8:00 A.M. Saturday, October 2

**Show Time:** 9:00 A.M. Saturday, October 2

**Departure:** After show, Saturday, October 2

**Eligibility:** Open to any 4-H member enrolled by April 1, 2021. No animal approval form or specific club membership required!

**Classes:**

1. Showmanship
   a. Senior 14-18
   b. Intermediate 12-13
   c. Junior 9-11
   d. Cloverbuds 5-8 year olds (Educational non-competitive Demonstration)

**Premiums:**
Blue: $10.00, Red: $9.00, White: $8.00 Cloverbuds Honorarium: $3.00

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### 4-H Rabbit Showmanship Guidelines

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**Showmanship**

Showmanship is a combination of: (1) your appearance; (2) knowledge about rabbits; (3) handling and showing your rabbit, including knowing its faults according to the ARBA breed standard; and (4) sportsmanship and show ring ethics.

1. Once your rabbit is used to being handled, begin practicing showmanship.
2. Work with your rabbit every day or every other day.
3. Get your rabbit used to being around other people, strange noises, other rabbits.

**Showmanship Helpful Hints**

I. Carry rabbit to judging table or removing rabbit from cage.

II. Properly pose your rabbit. Examine your rabbit in the following order. Tell your judge what you are looking for.

   a. Check Ears for:
      i. Ear canker or mites
      ii. Illegible or missing tattoo
      iii. Size and carriage of ears
      iv. Torn or missing part of ear

   b. Check Eyes for:
      i. Mismatched eye color
      ii. Runny or weepy eyes

   c. Check Nose for:
i. Colds (white nasal discharge)
d. Check Teeth for:
   i. Malocclusion (buck or wolf teeth)
   ii. Simple malocclusion (butting teeth)
   iii. Broken or missing tooth
e. Check Front Legs for:
   i. Bent, bowed or deformed
f. Check Front Feet and Toenails for:
   i. Missing toenails (5 on each front foot), including dewclaw
   ii. Broken toenails (too short to determine color)
   iii. Unmatched toenails
   iv. Nail color not meeting breed standard
g. Check Abdomen for:
   i. Mastitis or swollen teats
   ii. Tumor
   iii. Rupture or hernia
   iv. Abscesses
h. Check Hind Legs for:
   i. Bent, bowed, deformed, or severely cow hocked
i. Check Hocks for:
   i. Sore hocks (bloody)
j. Check Hind Feet and Toenails for:
   i. Missing toenails (4 on each hind foot)
   ii. Broken toenails (too short to determine color)
   iii. Unmatched toenails
   iv. Nail color not meeting breed standard
k. Check Sex for:
   i. Vent disease
   ii. Missing testicle(s) on Senior Buck
   iii. Junior Buck with only one testicle showing; split penis
l. Check Tail for:
   i. Stub, broken or wry tail

III. Condition of the rabbit
    a. Appearance – clean
    b. Free from moult
    c. Healthy Appearance

IV. Appearance of showman
    a. Neatness
       i. Neatly dressed
       ii. Well groomed
       iii. Clean
    b. Actions
       i. Natural
       ii. Graceful
       iii. Confident
1. Wear long sleeves to protect your arms from getting scratched.
2. Handle your rabbit with care.
3. Handle your rabbit often.
4. NEVER lift or carry a rabbit by its ears. This is painful for the rabbit. Lifting by the ears causes damage to the ear veins. Also, without the entire body being supported, when a rabbit kicks to free itself, it may cause bone fractures in its back or hind legs, and cause injury to nerves or tendons.
5. NEVER lift a rabbit by its legs. This is painful, as well as can cause injury as mentioned in No. 4.
6. NEVER lift a rabbit by the scruff of its neck without supporting the entire body weight, as injuries can occur as mentioned in No. 4.
7. Put a rug or piece of carpet on the table or area where you are handling your rabbit, so it can get a foothold when being worked with. Smooth surfaces cause a rabbit to slide, making it hard to handle, groom, and pose. A rabbit will not feel secure on smooth places, and may become afraid.
8. Handle your rabbit during the cool part of the day. Handling rabbits when it is too hot can cause unnecessary stress and heat stroke.
9. Carry your rabbit by tucking its head under your arm while supporting its body between your side and your same arm -- your elbow should cover the rabbit’s eyes. Support the hindquarters with your free hand.

4-H Rabbit Showmanship

Getting Ready for a Show

Posing Your Rabbit
1. While grooming, put your rabbit in the proper show position for its breed, and teach it to stay in that position.
2. If you do not know the show position for your breed, put it in the most common pose as follows:
   a. Place it on the table. Face the rabbit to your right if you are left-handed or to your left if you are right-handed. (This makes it easier to pick the rabbit up.)
   b. Place the tip of the front feet so they are even with the rabbit’s eyes.
   c. Place the tip of the hind feet even with the rabbit’s hipbones.
   d. Make sure the rabbit’s tail is showing and not tucked under its body.
   e. Start grooming your rabbit at least six weeks before the show.
   f. Groom in the cool part of the day.
3. Use a table covered with a rug or piece of carpet as a grooming stand.
4. Moisten your hands and rub them through the rabbit’s fur (from head to tail) until it is damp.
5. Once the fur is damp, stroke the rabbit from head to tail several times to remove dead fur.
6. Do not rub the fur backwards (from tail to head) as that can break the guard hairs.
7. Repeat steps 4 through 6 for several days.
8. Then continue to groom your rabbit daily by stroking the fur from head to tail without dampening the fur. This makes the fur shiny and tight.
8. Daily grooming improves the appearance of your rabbit, and tames it, making it easier to handle.
### Rabbit Showmanship

**General Note to Judge:** Judge the contestant’s actions and knowledge. Do not judge the condition or behavior of the rabbit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Actions</th>
<th>pts</th>
<th>Terms</th>
<th>pts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carry</td>
<td>Proper support Maintain control</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Breed, Compact, Cylindrical, Full Arch Mandolin, Semi-Arch, Commercial</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pose</td>
<td>Correct pose for breed Introduction: Greeting, Name, Step-back</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mites, Canker, Carriage, Thickness, Color, Torn or Missing Portions, Fur Covering</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ears</td>
<td>Check both ears Read tattoo</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turn-Over</td>
<td>Smooth motion, proper control Rest weight on table</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eyes</td>
<td>Properly Open Eyes Not forcing open</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Proper Color, Blindness, Wall Eye, Moon Eye, Weepy Eye or signs of conjunctivitis</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nose</td>
<td>Proper hand position Show both nostrils Check inside legs for nasal discharge</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Snuffles, Nasal Discharge Foreign Spots, or Colors</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teeth</td>
<td>Proper hand position Show upper &amp; lower incisors</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Malocclusion, Buck Teeth, Wolf Teeth Peg Teeth, Broken Teeth</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Front Feet/Legs</td>
<td>Check straightness of legs Check toenails, pad, &amp; dewclaw Proper thumb position</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Broken, Extra, Missing Toes Mismatched, White, Missing Toenails Bone Density, Dew Claw, Pads</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belly</td>
<td>Check under jaw &amp; chest Check abdomen &amp; sides Smooth &amp; complete coverage</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Abscess, Tumor, Abnormalities Pigeon Breast, Blemishes, Mastitis</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear Feet/Legs</td>
<td>Check straightness of legs Check toenails &amp; hocks Proper thumb position</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Broken &amp; Missing Toes Mismatched, White, Missing Toenails Bone Density, Straightness, Sore Hocks</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Proper position of rabbit &amp; hand Expose vent/penis &amp; testicles</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Buck/Doe, Vent Disease, Hutch Burn Split Penis, Descended Testicles in Int/Sr</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tail</td>
<td>Extend tail; Move side to side Examine underside</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Wry, Dead, Bobbed, Broken Color, Straightness</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fur</td>
<td>Return to pose; Smooth motion Proper control; Stroke coat from tail to head to show fur type</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Density, Texture, Sheen, Luster Rollback, Flyback, Rex, Standing, Wool</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judging Comments</td>
<td>Final pose: Head, Ears, Shoulder, Chest, Midsection, Loin, Hindquarters, Rump, Breed specific (markings/color)</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Balance Condition, Finish Did not use word, “Nice”!</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall Presentation</td>
<td>Show Coat/Apron/Long Sleeves Smile, Hair Neat No Rings, No dangling jewelry</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Humane treatment/Controls animal at all times Good eye contact, Follows directions, Thanks Judge</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge</td>
<td>Answers to questions</td>
<td>10</td>
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**Judge**

**TOTAL SCORE** 100

**Comments:**