



GET A "HARE" ABOVE THE COMPETITION

RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP ZOOM

MAY 11 AND 18TH

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Hosted by Eve Rider, 2022 Kansas 4-H
Rabbit 13-14 Showmanship Champion

May 11th topics include:

- How to Start Showmanship
- Basic Rabbit Anatomy
- Posing Your Rabbit

May 18th topics:

- Disqualifications vs. Faults
- Winning Tips
- How to Perfect Your Rabbit Showmanship



Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service.
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Welcome!

I'm Eve Rider. I have been raising rabbits for 6 years but showing for 2 years. I was the 2022 Kansas State Fair 13-14 rabbit showmanship Grand Champion.



Rabbit showmanship

An important skill that can be used to learn more about your rabbit and the rabbit judging process-ARBA showman guidelines

Showmanship is a “vet check” on your animal. It’s like the process judges and registrars go through while checking animals. This process should make sure your animal is a quality show animal. It also demonstrates your knowledge and handling of the animal-arba.net/rabbit-showmanship/

Showmanship is an opportunity for a 4-H member to show how much he or she knows about rabbits and how well they can handle them. A good showman is a combination of their knowledge, manners, proper dress and handling skills-Douglas County Guide to Rabbit Showmanship and Show Etiquette

Supplies needed before you get started

A carpet square or show table. Rabbits can be taught that when they are on a certain surface like carpet that it is time to be shown



Nail clippers. Animals with extra long nails don't pose as well



A Rabbit(of course)



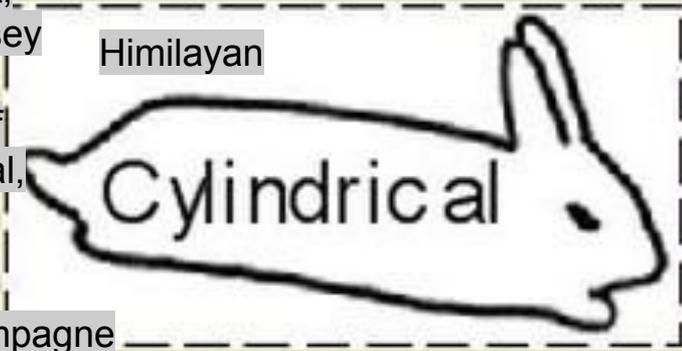
A brush. Brushing your rabbit can help them get used to being touched and handled. Also helps handle shedding.

Lab coat or white long sleeve shirt. Prevents scratches and gives a professional look when performing your showmanship

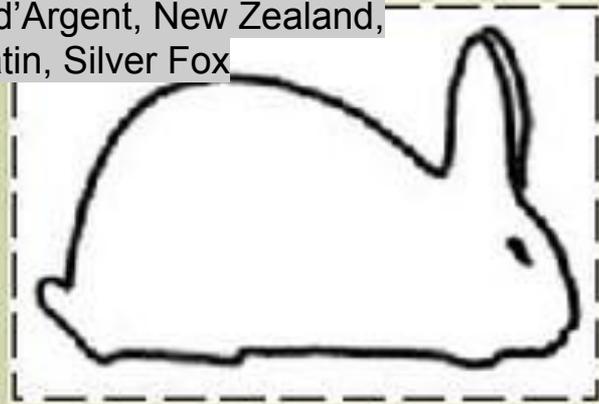


not listed:

High Head mount,
Dutch Lop, Jersey
Wooly, Lionhead,
Netherland Dwarf
Bright Cylindrical,
Beck Frosty



Californian, Champagne
d'Argent, American Chinchilla,
d'Argent, New Zealand,
Rex, Satin, Silver Fox



Mini Rex, Polish,
Dutch, Mini Satin,
Standard Chinchilla,
Dwarf Hotot, Silver,
Florida White



How to pose: From the Proper Posing and Evaluation pages in the 2014 domestic rabbit magazine. (available on the ARBA website)

Commercial: The toes of the back legs aligned with the front of the hip, and the front feet directly under the eye.

Compact: Front feet directly under the eyes.
Toes of the rear feet aligned with the front of the hips.

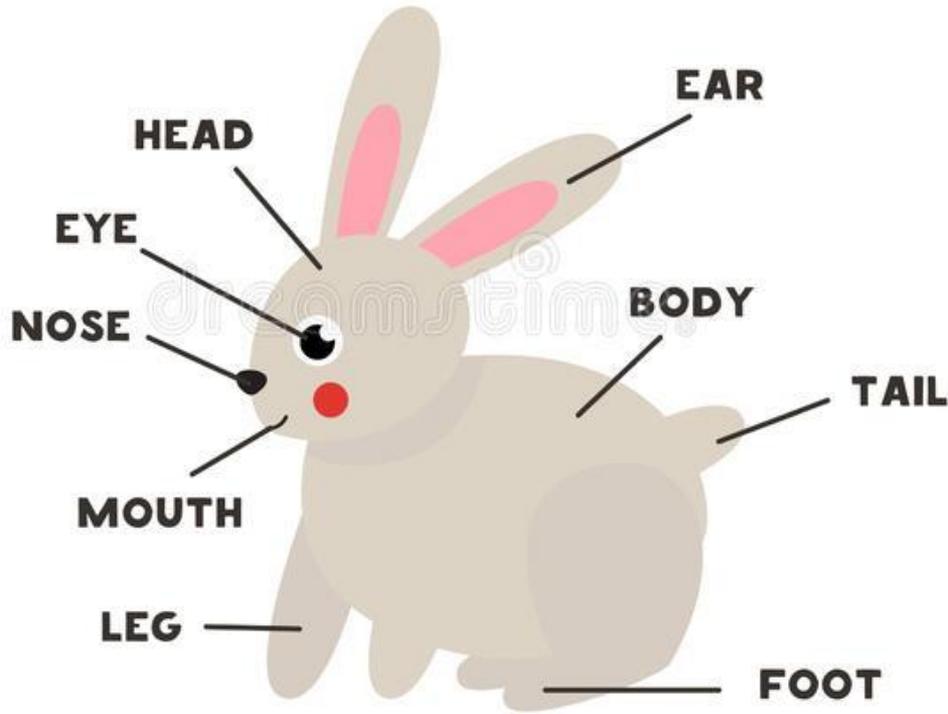
Cylindrical: Front feet directly under the eyes.
Toes of the rear feet with the front of the hips.
Body elongated as much as possible with the hocks flat on the table. Topline should be stright.

Full Arch (Not normally used for showmanship) for Britannia Petite and Belgian Hare, set the hind feet and then lift from under the Jaw. The other breeds run down the table for evaluation.

High Head Mount: Holland Lops and Lionheads posed lightly on front feet.

Semi Arch: Rear feet directly under the front of the hips and front feet under the eyes

BODY PARTS OF RABBIT



To begin with rabbit showmanship you want to identify the basic body parts.

The ears, eyes, back, fur, nose, mouth, front and back legs, the belly, the sex and the tail.



Rabbit Showmanship

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

| Step | Actions | pts | Terms | pts | pts |
|-------------------------|--|-----|---|-----|------------|
| Carry | Proper support Maintain control | 5 | | | 5 |
| Pose | Correct pose for breed Introduction: Greeting, Name, Step-back | 3 | Breed, Compact, Cylindrical, Full Arch Mandolin, Semi-Arch, Commercial | 2 | 5 |
| Ears | Check both ears Read tattoo | 3 | Mites, Canker, Carriage, Thickness, Color, Torn or Missing Portions, Fur Covering | 2 | 5 |
| Turn-Over | Smooth motion, proper control Rest weight on table | 5 | | | 5 |
| Eyes | Properly Open Eyes Not forcing open | 3 | Proper Color, Blindness, Wall Eye, Moon Eye, Weepy Eye or signs of conjunctivitis | 2 | 5 |
| Nose | Proper hand position Show both nostrils Check inside legs for nasal discharge | 3 | Snuffles, Nasal Discharge Foreign Spots, or Colors | 2 | 5 |
| Teeth | Proper hand position Show upper & lower incisors | 3 | Malocclusion, Buck Teeth, Wolf Teeth Peg Teeth, Broken Teeth | 2 | 5 |
| Front Feet/Legs | Check straightness of legs Check toenails, pad, & dewclaw Proper thumb position | 3 | Broken, Extra, Missing Toes Mismatched, White, Missing Toenails Bone Density, Dew Claw, Pads | 2 | 5 |
| Belly | Check under jaw & chest Check abdomen & sides Smooth & complete coverage | 3 | Abscess, Tumor, Abnormalities Pigeon Breast, Blemishes, Mastitis | 2 | 5 |
| Rear Feet/Legs | Check straightness of legs Check toenails & hocks Proper thumb position | 3 | Broken & Missing Toes Mismatched, White, Missing Toenails Bone Density, Straightness, Sore Hocks | 2 | 5 |
| Sex | Proper position of rabbit & hand Expose vent/penis & testicles | 3 | Buck/Doe, Vent Disease, Hutch Burn Split Penis, Descended Testicles in Int/Sr | 2 | 5 |
| Tail | Extend tail; Move side to side Examine underside | 3 | Wry, Dead, Bobbed, Broken Color, Straightness | 2 | 5 |
| Fur | Return to pose; Smooth motion Proper control; Stroke coat from tail to head to show fur type | 3 | Density, Texture, Sheen, Luster Rollback, Flyback, Rex, Standing, Wool | 2 | 5 |
| Judging Comments | Final pose: Head, Ears, Shoulder, Chest, Midsection, Loin, Hindquarters, Rump, Breed specific (markings/color) | 10 | Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor, Balance Condition, Finish Did not use word, "Nice"! | 5 | 15 |
| Overall Presentation | Show Coat/Apron/Long Sleeves Smile, Hair Neat No Rings, No dangling jewelry | 5 | Humane treatment/Controls animal at all times Good eye contact, Follows directions, Thanks Judge | 5 | 10 |
| Knowledge | | | Answers to questions | 10 | 10 |
| Judge | | | TOTAL SCORE | | 100 |

Comments:

American Rabbit Breeders Association (ARBA) rabbit showmanship scoresheet.

Carrying your rabbit to the table

When carrying your rabbit to the table the technique I use is to carry it like a football. You tuck the rabbits head into the crook of your right arm, kind of like the guys do when running with the football. You use your left hand to support the underside of the rabbit. When you get to the table you slide out your left arm and carefully place your rabbit down onto the table. You then pose your rabbit before starting your introduction.

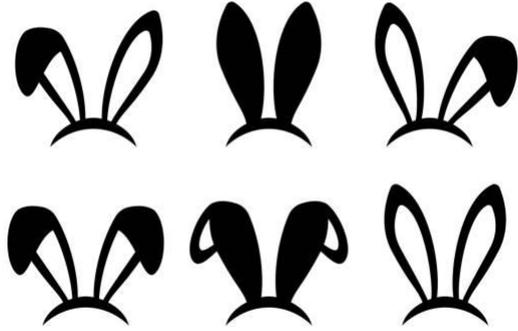
Introduction

Introduce yourself, name, age, how long you've been in 4-H if it is for a 4-H show.

Introduce your rabbit, tell its name, its breed, color, and if it is a buck or doe.



Ears



Read the rabbit's tattoo

Look in the ear to check for mites

Eyes

Know what the proper eye color for your rabbit is and check that the rabbit has that color. There is 5 eye colors: Blue, Blue gray, Chocolate, Marble, and Ruby.

Check that the eye is healthy and has no discharge



Back

Tell the proper body type and make sure your rabbit is posed correctly.

Feel around the body to check for abscesses



Fur

Tell the judge what color/variety your rabbit is

Blow into the fur to check for any mites or lice

***Flip over
your rabbit***

Flipping over

Flipping over your rabbit is one of the hardest parts of showmanship. It takes a lot of practice for your rabbit to get used to being flipped over and for you to get used to flipping them over. They might fight you in the beginning but with the proper technique they should get used to get it. The way I do it is I have the rabbits nose facing to the left then I use my right hand to flip it. I put my pointer finger between the rabbits ears and use my thumb and middle finger to gently but firmly squeeze the rabbits head and lift it up gently while using my left hand to sweep under its body before laying its back down gently onto the table. You want to make sure your holding the rabbit firmly or it will try to wiggle and flip back over but also that your not squeezing its head too hard. It takes practice but with time it will get easier. The rabbit will be on its back for a majority of the rest of the showmanship so one hand will be used to hold the rabbits head and another to point to the body parts.

If it flips back over. Dont panic and just reflip it.

Nose

Look at the nose and check for any discharge which is a sign of cold

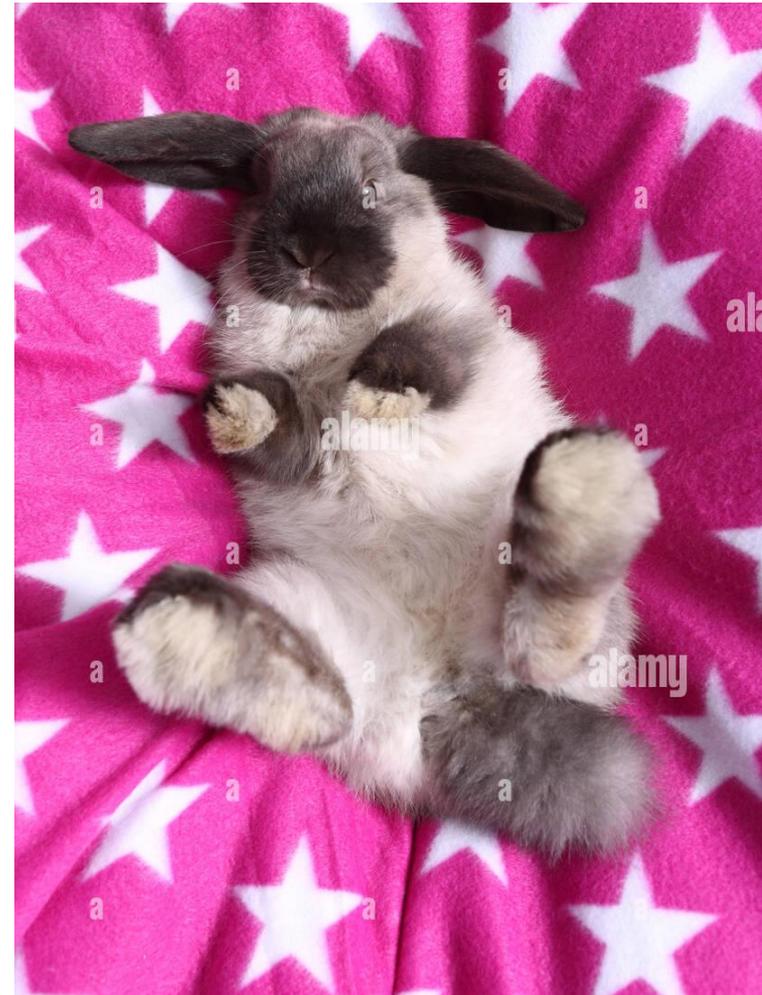
Teeth

Open the mouth and tell the judge your rabbit has all 28 teeth and make sure none are broken



Front Back Legs and Belly

First extend the front leg to make sure it is not broken and then count the toenails. Do the same on the other leg. The front legs should have 4 toenails and a dewclaw. Then feel the belly to make sure it has no abscesses. Then on the back legs do the same as the front, extend the leg to check for breaks and then count the toenails. Then repeat on the other leg. The back legs should have 4 toenails



Sex

Know if you have a buck or a doe. If it is a doe explain that it has a vent. If it is a buck explain that it has a penis and two testicles

Tail

Find the tail and extend it to make sure it isn't broken



Questions

At the end of your showmanship ask the judge if they have any questions. The judge will normally have a few questions, the level of difficulty depends on your age.

Now I'm gonna ask you guys if you have any questions.





KANSAS 4-H ANIMAL SCIENCE SERIES

MAY 11 & 18 AT 7:00 PM

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Hosted by Eve Rider, 2022 Kansas 4-H Rabbit 13-14 Showmanship Champion

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Thank you for coming! I hope you plan to attend the next session May 18th at 7:00.



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