

The Survival Guide to Rabbit Showmanship

BY: Adrienne Hancock

The Survival Guide to Rabbit Showmanship 2

There are two parts of Showmanship

Part 1: Written Test

Test will include True/False, Multiple Choice and Matching

Part 2: Skills Test

This is a hand on portion where you show your skills and knowledge using one of your rabbits.

This guide will go over the skills portion of the Showmanship process as well as a few study tips for the written portion as well.

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STEP 1

Carrying the Rabbit to the Showmanship Table

- ❖ Rabbit needs to have its head tucked under the arm.
- ❖ Rabbit needs to be having its weight supported by the same arm.
- ❖ The rabbit is said to be tucked and carried like a football.
- ❖ In your other hand should be your show board

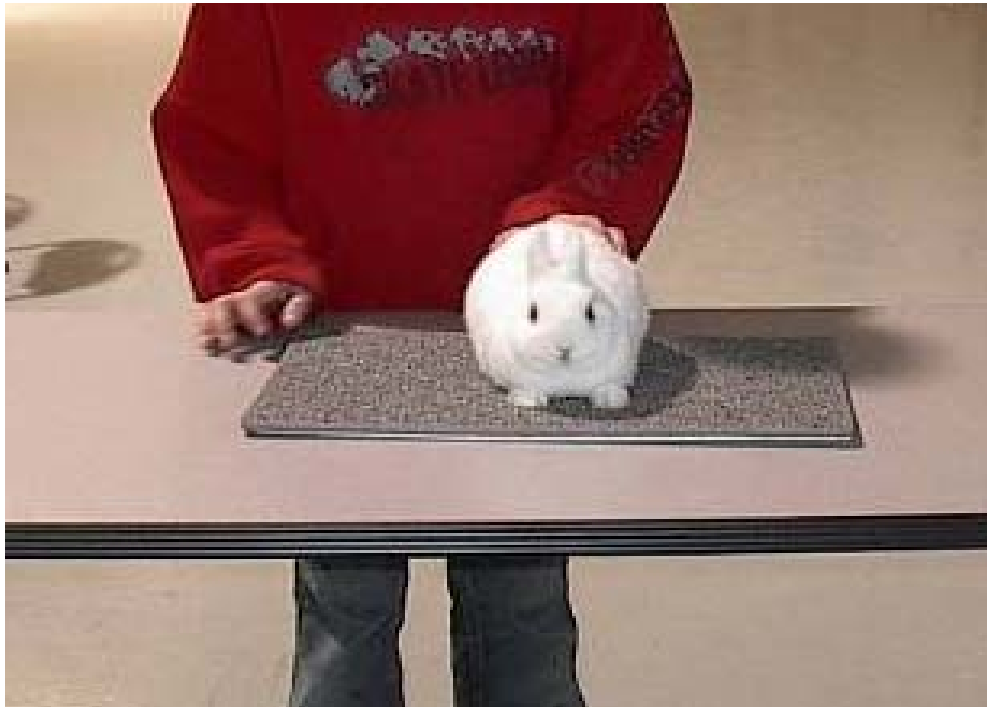


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STEP 2

Beginning the Presentation

- ❖ The rabbit should be posed so it is facing the judge.
- ❖ 4-Her should then tell the judge their name or number



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STEP 3

The Presentation

(During this time, the Judge will ask a series of questions)

Question 1

Can you show me how to check for **EAR MITES/EAR CANKER?**

- ❖ To check for ear mites/ear canker you will look into the rabbit's ear. You might notice that it is red or have a build up of scabs



Senior Participants might be asked additional questions i.e. : How can you cure it?

Answer: Baby Oil, Mineral Oil, etc

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The Survival Guide to Rabbit Showmanship 6

STEP 3

The Presentation

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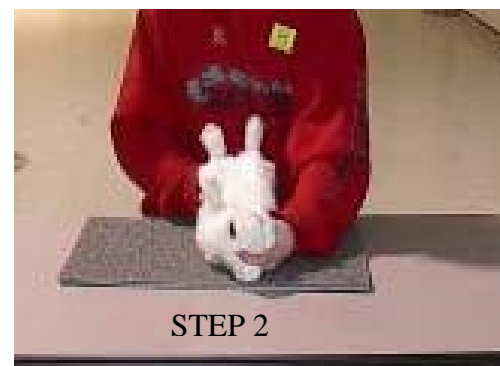
Question 2

Can you show me how to check the rabbit for **SORE HOCKS**?

- ❖ To check for sore hocks you are going to
 - 1) Place right hand on rump of animal.
 - 2) Place left hand at scruff of the neck (just as you are going to pick up the rabbit)
(Reverse the above directions if you are a lefty)
 - 3) Gently and slowly, roll the rabbit over.
 - 4) Rub your hand on the pads of the back feet, checking for scabs or open wounds.



Senior Participants might be asked additional questions i.e.:
How can you cure it/what causes it?



Answer: You can cure it by making sure the cage is clean, as well as having something for the rabbits to stand on i.e.: Board

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STEP 3

The Presentation

(During this time, the Judge will ask a series of questions)

Question 3

Can you show me how to check the rabbit for **BUCK TEETH**?

- 1) Place right hand on rump of animal.
- 2) Place left hand at scruff of the neck (just as you are going to pick up the rabbit)
(Reverse the above directions if you are a lefty)
- 3) Gently and slowly, roll the rabbit over
 - ❖ The teeth need to be checked for normal teeth, butting teeth, misalignment of teeth and growth of teeth.
 - ❖ This is done with the thumb and first finger of the free hand.



Senior Participants might be asked additional questions i.e.: How can you cure it/what causes it?



Answer: You cannot cure it, you can have their teeth clipped but they will grow back.

The Survival Guide to Rabbit Showmanship 8

STEP 3

The Presentation

(During this time, the Judge will ask a series of questions)

Question 4

Can you show me how to check the rabbit for **Sniffles**?

- 1) Place right hand on rump of animal.
- 2) Place left hand at scruff of the neck (just as you are going to pick up the rabbit)
(Reverse the above directions if you are a lefty)
- 3) Gently and slowly, roll the rabbit over
 - ❖ The nose needs to be checked and should be clear and healthy with no nasal discharge



Senior Participants might be asked additional questions i.e.: How can you cure it/what causes it?



Answer: It can be treated but if it returns, you should think about removing from your stock. A clean barn will help with healthy bunnies!

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STEP 3

The Presentation

(During this time, the Judge will ask a series of questions)

Question 5

Can you show me how to check the rabbit for **Blindness?**

- 1) Place right hand on rump of animal.
- 2) Place left hand at scruff of the neck (just as you are going to pick up the rabbit)
(Reverse the above directions if you are a lefty)
- 3) Gently and slowly, roll the rabbit over
 - ❖ Using your index finger hover over the eye, the rabbit should blink, also look for clear eyes, no cloudiness



Senior Participants might be asked additional questions i.e.: How can you cure it/what causes it?

Answer: Blindness cannot be cured. You do not want a blind rabbit in your stock.

HELPFUL TIPS

- 1) Your appearance is very important. You should be neat and appropriately dressed.
- 2) Be Confident
- 3) Be considerate and courtesy to the judge, your rabbit and fellow 4-Her's (you never know who is watching)
- 4) Have Fun
- 5) Don't forget to SMILE



Should you have any questions or concerns PLEASE let me know, I can be reached at 210-788-5991 or at h2_rabbit_ranch@yahoo.com

The Survival Guide to Rabbit Showmanship 11

Here is part of the study guide for the written portion. On the next page, you will find a blank one that is good for practice.

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