

4-H

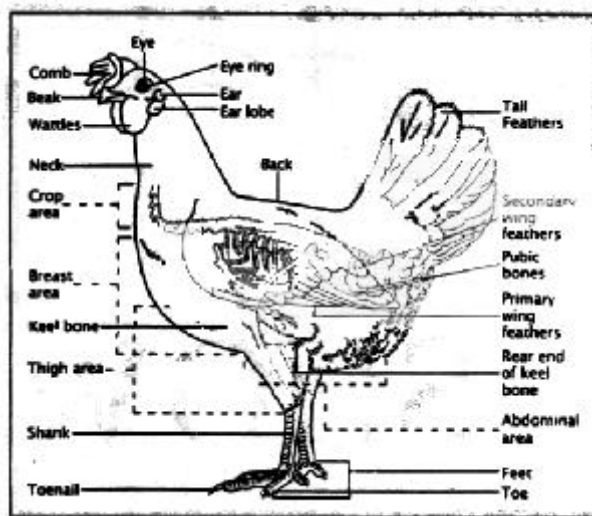
SHOW

PREPARATION

PREPARING POULTRY FOR SHOW

Showing poultry does not begin when you enter the judging ring. It starts at least several weeks before with these steps.

- g Choose your bird for show.** Start by looking at all parts of the bird as a whole picture. What you want is a blending of all parts of the bird viewed as a whole. A quality called symmetry.
- g Go over your bird carefully.** Go over each part carefully so you do not miss some defect or disqualification that the judge will probably find.



- g Your bird should be cage trained** if it is to be at its best with a judge. Place it in a coop for a week or so before you wash it or show it. Teach it to stand quietly and properly to show itself to the best advantage. Handle it daily, moving it gently about the cage. After the bird has quieted down and doesn't get excited easily, take it out of the cage. Handle it quietly, smoothing down its feathers and extending the wing, much as a judge will do.

When taking the bird out of the cage, a large fowl especially, turn it to face the door and then gently take hold of the left wing with your right hand. At the same time, place your left hand under the bird to grasp the legs between your thumb and fingers. If properly done, it will not struggle too much.

- g Washing** consists of three parts: washing, rinsing and drying. Each is very important to a good finished job. It will help, especially for large birds, to have someone to help with the washing job.

For large fowl, you will need four large tubs and for bantams, small tubs or large pails will do. You will need mild liquid soap, or detergent, and several towels or soft absorbent cloths to wrap the bird in after the wash.

Wash:

In the first tub, make lots of suds. The water should be about the temperature of your arm. Keep your bird upright and push it up and down in the water to get it thoroughly soaked right down to the skin. Wash it carefully, always working your fingers with the feathers, never against, so as to not break any feathers. See that the legs are clean and that there is no dirt under the scales of the leg. Use a toothpick carefully to get the dirt out from under these scales.

Rinse:

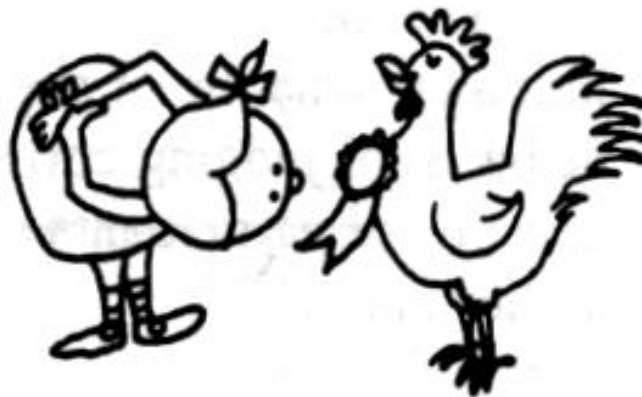
After it has been well soaped and washed, it should then go through the rinse process in the next two tubs. Be sure to get all the soap out of the feathers. If you do not, the bird will be sticky and look worse than before washing, and the feathers just will not work.

The last tub should be cooler but not cold. It helps to put 125 ml (1/2 cup) of lemon juice in this water as it will help to cut any soap left. After rinsing, wrap the bird loosely in a towel to soak up as much wetness as possible before placing it in a clean coop to dry. Have the temperature warm enough so that the bird will not shiver but so that the feathers will not dry too fast. The washing should be done in the morning so that the bird will not sleep on its damp feathers and get them out of shape.

Dry:

Birds should be watched as they dry to make sure that the feathers smooth out and do not curl. Dusting the bird with cornstarch when they are nearly dry will whiten the feathers and help the drying process.

Coloured birds can be improved by gently rubbing the feathers with your hand or a silk cloth at least once a day to give them a glossy shine.



POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP GUIDE

A poultry show person is one who has learned the art of selecting, fitting and presenting poultry to advantage at a show. The confidence and ability displayed by the member and the bird's response suggests previous work done with the bird. Knowledge of the show person in response to questions about parts, defects, disqualifications, breed, and variety characteristics and the appearance of the bird shows an ability to select and fit for show.




SHOWING BIRDS IN 4-H


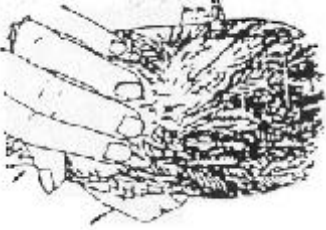


- C** The birds should be displayed in neat, properly constructed cages. **The name or number of the exhibitor should be on each cage.** The cage should have a hinged or sliding door on the side to enable ease of removing birds from the cage. A wire cage is suitable. It should meet all requirements for size and mesh size set out by the Nova Scotia 4-H program. Please refer to the Poultry Newsletter for specifics.
- C** The show person should be wearing white clothes. A lab coat is often a good idea as well. 4-H members exhibiting in an outdoor ring are permitted to wear a sun-safe hat.
- C** Birds should be removed head first from the cage. This is done by placing your hand under the bird, along the keel bone, and this manner of removing a bird from the cage avoids excitement and gives better control. Do not pull the bird from the cage by grabbing the legs.
- C** When showing the bird, hold it in either hand. The bird should rest along the flat of the arm from the wrist to the elbow. The hand holds the legs tightly to avoid escape by the bird. The other hand can be used to stroke the bird along the back or to open the wing or turn the head, if requested by the judge.
- C** The bird should be placed back in the cage head first. Gentle handling of the bird is important. Considerable previous handling by the owner will avoid much confusion and excitement of the birds at the show.




IN THE 4-H SHOW RING

In poultry showmanship, the show person carries the bird directly to a table where the show person presents the bird to the judge. The value of poultry showmanship is being recognized by people interested in poultry projects for teaching skills and knowledge to young people. At the show table there is every opportunity to see differences in quality, hear all the comments of the judges on your exhibit and to learn by observation the finer points of poultry showmanship. The audience, too, can follow the judging and learn from the experience. The important thing is that the handling of the bird is natural and comfortable for both the show person and the bird and helps the judge see what he or she is looking for. Contests, however, must have some basis for judging correctness and often judges prefer to use the recommended procedures available to all participants as a basis for correct handling. The recommended procedures follow in the chart.

POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP - Steps in showing a poultry exhibit.

STEP		YOU WILL DO	JUDGE WILL DO
I. Remove the bird from coop and carry to the show table			
1. Remove the bird from exhibition coop		Take the bird from the coop by grasping the left wing with hand and turn bird's head toward the door. Place left hand beneath body with the index finger between the legs and the remaining three fingers grasping one leg and the thumb the other. Place right hand on the back and remove head first.	In a large show the judge will often not see the show person removing the bird from the coop but will see that show person for the first time as he/she approaches the judging table carrying his/her exhibit. If you see the coop watch for the proper removal of the bird.
2. Carrying the bird to the judging table.		The proper way to carry a bird is to use the same left-hand hold as in removing from the coop with the head under the elbow with right hand placed on the back.	Observe the way the show person is holding and carrying the bird. When you ask the show person to move their birds at the table they should pick up the bird in carrying position before moving.
II. Showing your bird to the judge When asked by the judge show the following: 1. The Head		Holding the bird in the left hand, show both sides of the bird at shoulder height. Use right-hand thumb on beak to turn head while also turning left hand slightly when showing the right side of the bird's head.	Check head for defects, disqualifications and for outstanding features.

<p>2. Wings</p>		<p>Spread wings to show feather pattern and condition. Showing bird's right wing requires crossing right hand over bird with thumb up.</p>	<p>Check wings for broken or missing feathers and for color pattern in certain breeds.</p>
<p>3. Under color</p>		<p>Show under color of back and body feathers.</p>	<p>Observe under color and determine if defects or high qualities are present.</p>
<p>4. Width of body</p>		<p>Show width by using span of right hand over back.</p>	<p>Observe the width of the bird.</p>
<p>5. Breastbone</p>		<p>Show breastbone by turning the back of the bird against your body with the left hand. With right hand, grasp legs and pull to your right while sliding left hand to breast to expose breast between fingers of the left hand.</p>	<p>Observe straightness of the breastbone general condition of the bird.</p>

6. Feet & Legs		<p>Show feet and legs by placing bird against your body with head up using left hand. With right hand, show feet and spread toes.</p>	<p>Observe feet and legs and check for stubs on clean legged breeds and proper feathering on feather legged breeds.</p>
7. Pose the bird		<p>Pose the bird on the table. It is most natural to place bird on the table facing your left. Pose the bird to show it to its advantage. This is the most important part of showing a bird.</p>	<p>Check depth of body and general conformation especially as it relates to the breed and the standards for the breed.</p>
III. Appearance, actions and knowledge of show person			
1. Appearance		<p>Be neat and appropriately dressed for the occasion. White lab coats are the designated dress code.</p>	<p>Observe suitability of clothing for occasion and neatness and cleanliness of the participant.</p>
2. Actions		<p>Carry out actions confidently always being considerate of your bird, fellow show people and the judge. The judge should have your attention at all time so that he doesn't have to get your attention to move your bird or take some other actions.</p>	<p>Observe confidence of movement. If participants are constantly watching their "neighbor" before taking action it is indicative of a lack of "home work."</p>
3. Knowledge		<p>Be prepared to answer questions about your bird with reference to parts, defects, disqualifications, breed and variety characteristics.</p>	<p>Ask questions if time permits. Questions should be general in nature and on the breed exhibited.</p>
V. Carry bird from table and return to coop			
1. Return bird to coop		<p>Carry birds away and return to coop, always head first.</p>	<p>Observe the way the show person picks up bird and carries it away. If you can see the coop, notice how the show person places the bird in the coop</p>

GENERAL TIPS FOR POULTRY SHOW PEOPLE

PREPARATION:

The show person should:

- Ⓒ Be neat and clean. The show person should be wearing white clothes. A lab coat is often a good idea. 4-H members exhibiting in an outdoor ring are permitted to wear a sun-safe hat. Wearing hard soled boots or shoes is encouraged. He or she should not smoke or chew gum.
- Ⓒ **Make sure** the bird is **clean, well groomed and well trained**

ATTITUDE:

The show person should:

- Ⓒ Be **alert** but **polite** and **courteous** to the judge and fellow show people.
- Ⓒ Always remember to control his or her emotions and appear keen but relaxed despite where he or she is placed. Accept the decision of the judge like a true sports person. He or she should keep in mind that the class is not over until the final decision is made.
- Ⓒ Always keep their **bird under control** and make **frequent glances** at the judge to watch for directions.
- Ⓒ Be prepared to answer questions that would normally be asked by a judge as "Where did you get your birds?".
- Ⓒ Be prepared to **show any bird** the judge designates.
- Ⓒ **Not be late** entering the ring and **never cause delays** by visiting with other show people or spectators.

TECHNIQUE:

The show person should:

- Ⓒ Explicitly **follow the directions** of the judge.
- Ⓒ **Make sure the bird looks** its best from the time it enters the ring until it leaves.

The show person should know the basic techniques:

- Ⓒ Never stand between the judge and your exhibit.
- Ⓒ Place the bird to its best advantage. He or she should recognize the conformation faults of the bird. Show it so that faults are minimized.
- Ⓒ **Move from one position to another**, whether up or down in a class.
- Ⓒ **Make room** for a contestant, who has been moved ahead of him or her. Being discourteous in this regard should result in discrimination.
- Ⓒ **Changing birds with another member.** The conformation of the new bird should be observed quickly but carefully to show it to its best advantage. Place the bird properly.