

SHOWMANSHIP AND FITTING

prepared by Mary Katherine Biddle



SHOWMANSHIP

- I. Why is showmanship important?
 - A. Shows an animal to its best advantage
 - B. Courtesy to the judge, other exhibitors, and spectators
 - C. Demonstrates your ability to handle your doe

- II. Knowledge you should know before you step into the showing.
 - A. Know your scorecard
 - B. Background knowledge of your doe (i.e. age, freshing date and number)
 - C. Know the parts of your animal and its individual faults and good points (also important to be able to evaluate a competitor's animal)
 - D. Answer judge's questions as quickly as possible, but allow yourself time to think the question through

- III. You and your animal properly dressed and fitted
 - A. Use a collar that will not slip over the doe's head but loose enough to allow your fingers to move freely
 - B. Doe - properly fitted and trained
 - C. You - properly dressed
 - white pants and shirt
 - may have colored emblem on shirt
 - white or contrasting belt and shoes
 - clothes should be clean, shirt tucked in, absolutely no hats

******Make sure to take extra clothes******

- IV. Which doe should I use?
 - A. Types
 - puller - wants to lead you around the ring, therefore should be avoided
 - easy to lead - responsive to commands, therefore the ideal showmanship animal
 - hard to lead - spend your time forcing the animal around the ring causing a ungraceful movement around the ring, therefore should be avoided
 - B. Your size in comparison to the doe's size
 - young youth should use a small doe while older youth should definitely choose a mature doe
 - C. Is showmanship and fitting combined or separate?
 - If they are combined then choose the doe that is best fitted and shows well for you. If they are separate then you can use two different animals, using the best doe for each class

V. Showmanship positions

- A. Watching doe and judge – eyes should rotate from your doe to the judge
- B. Standing vs. Kneeling – kneeling good for young animals. In showmanship, what ever you choose to start with you need to stick with, if you do choose to kneel make sure to stay alert, not let knee rest on ground or arm slouch
- C. Setting up – this depends upon where the judge is standing
 - front or back feet first?
 - pressure pointing
 - No motions exaggerated
 - be inconspicuous (i.e. when hiding faults)
 - flow with slow smooth motion (i.e. when moving around the ring, setting up, and doing manuevers)
 - do not slouch
 - keep hands to body
 - Hand always on goat collar
 - Switching sides
 - standing still
 - on the move
 - do not stop forward motion of goat
- D. Where should you be standing?
 - judge standing in front
 - judge standing behind
 - judge on the move
 - when entering the ring
- E. How to do special manuevers
 - Head to tail move
 - Side by side
 - Two side by side moving
 - How to reposition animal if she moves
- F. Switching does
- G. Young kids
- H. Passing a doe
- I. Distance between animals in all positions
- J. Courtesy to other competitors

VI. Hiding Faults

- A. Narrow front end - wide front end
- B. Open shoulder or elbow
- C. Short neck
- D. Low chine
- E. Steep rump
- F. Posty rear legs
- G. Hocky
- H. Open toed
- I. Udder

FITTING

VII. Washing -

- A. When - before and after clipping and before the show
- B. Weather - fairly warm with little breeze
- C. Water - warm versus cold
- D. Why - to remove dirt and oil and control mites and lice
- E. With what - a mild shampoo, make sure to clean all body parts (avoid eyes and getting water in ears) and rinse well

******Always try all products at least once before the show to see if any of your animals have any reaction, and always make sure to remove all soap when rinsing******

VIII. Clipping -

- A. When - several days to two weeks before the show (dependent upon type of animal your showing)
- B. Weather - winter versus summer shows (also be very careful of the sun, goats sunburn just like we do)
- C. Why - showing, sanitation, kidding, and comfort
- D. Direction of clipping - when with hair and when against
- E. Clean and oil clippers before, during, and after use
- F. Store clippers in a dry place, get serviced as soon as possible if needed, always have extra clipper blades on hand (can get dual blades sharpened)
- G. Types of clippers

-large cattle clippers - can be used to clip most of the body (depending on individuals ability)

-small clippers - usually sizes #10 - #40. Good for clipping small areas (i.e. head), as get larger in number easier to cut animals skin/hide

-wahl - has adjustable up and down blade

-cordless portables - not for heavy clipping, great for small areas and clipping udders for show

-Use of clipper lube - spray on clippers as needed to keep clippers running well and cool

-Tooth brush - works well to clean hair out of blades

******Be reluctant to borrow or lend clippers******

H. Clipping body parts -

-Head can be clipped at home and the show using size #10 and #40, cordless great for show for last minute touch-ups around head, neck, ears, poll, forehead, nose, muzzle, jaw, throat, and dewlap

-Body clipping should be done at home

-Legs - can run over with large clippers first if experienced then use #10 and #40 for hocks, tendons, pasterns, cannon bones, hoofline, dewclaws, knees, and elbows

-Udder - best to clip when there is milk in the udder, do last minute touches the morning before the show

-Trimming of hoofs and declaws - do regularly throughout the year, clip several days before the show in case you make a mistake, rasp or sandpaper on the day of the show to make smooth

IX. Extras -

- A. Cleanliness for head and tail - make sure the top of poll, ears, and nostrils are clean. Alcohol or baby wipes work well for this. Also make sure to clean under the tail (vaseline under the tail the night before works great)
- B. Cleanliness for legs - make sure knees, hocks, and feet have been scrubbed and are clean
- C. Udder - make sure clean
- D. Hair Coat - can use show spray also make sure to have fly spray if in the summer
- E. Colors - different color of animals (ie. black vs. white)
- F. Bottle mister - can be used to dampen hair that will not lay down and to keep your animal cool on a hot day
- G. Goat coats - for cold weather to keep them warm
- H. Extra blades for clippers to take to shows