

# RABBIT TRACKS: *Showroom Tips*

## Introduction

**F**or more than 150 years, people have been exhibiting rabbits at shows. Rabbit shows made their debut in the United States in the late 1800s, and more people enjoy the competition and fellowship of these events every day. All recognized breeds and varieties of rabbits can be shown. Shows range from small 4-H club shows and county fairs to huge state and national events. This variety provides a wide range of competition for rabbit raisers.

Rabbit shows give you and other 4-H'ers a chance to display your rabbits in public and have your animals rated against those of other exhibitors. They also allow you to test your own fitting and showing skills, and earn recognition and awards. You can learn a lot and have fun talking with other 4-H'ers with similar interests. Shows are also terrific opportunities to have your rabbits evaluated and to compare them with others of the same type. In short, you can have fun and learn more about your 4-H project animals at a rabbit show.

Everyone at a judging table wants his or her rabbit to win. This spirit of competition can make you feel terrific! You must remember, however, that only one rabbit from each class will earn the highest award. Even though finishing "up the track" can be hard to handle, always do your best to be a good sport. Thank the judge for his or her opinion, and remember to congratulate the other people in your class, too. They'll appreciate a good word from you no matter how their rabbits placed.

When you enter rabbits in a show, you agree to follow the rules of that show. The rules govern not only show procedures, but proper conduct for show officials, exhibitors and visitors as well. Show rules vary, but the following list of "do's and don'ts" apply to most rabbit shows.



## Do

- . . . fill out your entry form neatly and completely, and send the form and entry fees to the show secretary **before the entry deadline**.
- . . . prepare your rabbits for show by handling and posing them often. Begin their training well before the show.
- . . . be sure your rabbits are the proper breed, variety, age, sex and weight for the class or classes you've entered them in.
- . . . bring your rabbits to the show in carrying cases that are the proper size and construction for your rabbits. Cages with leakproof bottoms are a must.
- . . . be sure to check in with the show secretary at the showroom well before judging begins.
- . . . legibly and permanently earmark or tattoo your rabbits on the left ear.

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. . . accept the feed and water provided at the show or bring your own.

. . . have your rabbits on the judging table promptly when their class is called.

. . . stay with your rabbits at the judging table when they are being judged.

. . . pay attention to the comment cards. You can pick up valuable tips on how to improve your rabbits or keep them in top form.

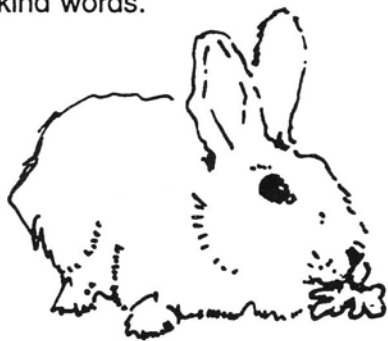
. . . respect the judge and his or her opinions. You may be permitted to discuss your exhibit with him or her during a break or after the show.

. . . pick up your awards at the show. Don't expect the show committee to mail or deliver them to you.

. . . be courteous and understanding when problems occur. Avoid negative comments. Remember the old Indian adage, "Great Spirit, grant that I may not criticize my neighbor until I have walked a mile in his moccasins."

. . . volunteer to help the show committee if you have the time and energy.

. . . compliment the judge and show committee on jobs well done. They'll appreciate your kind words.



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## Don't

. . . hesitate to show your rabbits because you're a novice. Everyone has to start some time. Your rabbits should be competitive if they conform to the "standard"; if they are healthy, well-groomed and in good condition; and if they have been handled and posed.

. . . expect the show secretary to accept late entries.

. . . bring diseased or injured animals to a show.

. . . bring animals other than rabbits (except perhaps cavies and Leader Dogs) into the showroom.

. . . handle exhibits other than your own unless you are a show official acting in an official capacity or you have the owner's permission.

. . . attempt to breed rabbits in the showroom.

. . . stand behind the judge's table while judging is in progress unless you are a show official acting in an official capacity and you don't interfere with or attempt to influence the judge.

. . . try to take your entries from the showroom until the release time. If you **must** remove them before release time, get written permission to do so from the show superintendent.

. . . expect your entry fees to be refunded if you enter rabbits in a show but don't exhibit them.



This bulletin was written by the members of the 1985-87 State 4-H Rabbit Developmental Committee. It was designed and illustrated by Cynthia Alderson, 4-H Graphic Artist. The bulletin was edited by Rebecca McKee, 4-H Publications Editor.