



Goat Showmanship Guidelines

The Show Person should be clean, neat, and well-dressed in white. It is a good idea to wear coveralls over your whites and remove them just prior to entering the ring. This avoids getting clothes dirtied while preparing the animal. Recommended dress code is listed in the front of this manual. It is recommended that long hair be tied back so as not to get into the show person's eyes. As well, hats are permitted in outdoor rings for protection from the sun.

The Animal:

- ⇒ Condition and thriftiness should show good normal growth and fat cover. (neither too fat or too thin)
- ⇒ Hair should be clean and properly groomed. Careful, special feeding six weeks prior to show day will ensure a bloom to the coat. A good deal of brushing and hand work on the hair and skin will improve the quality.
- ⇒ Hoofs should be trimmed and shaped to enable animal to walk and stand naturally. Always trim at least 10 days prior to show day to ensure your goat is not lame for the show.
- ⇒ All animals must be neatly disbudded if not naturally hornless. It is recommended that mature goats and older goats be dehorned by a veterinarian.
- ⇒ Clipping the animal all over is recommended if weather permits. Allow sufficient time for growth of neat coat before the show to ensure smoothness. Trim ears and tail, leaving tassels on end of tail.
- ⇒ The goat should be clean all over. Freedom from stains is important. Special attention is paid to knees, legs, feet, tail area, nose, and ears.

Leading the Animal:

- ⇒ Enter the ring leading at a normal walk, in a clockwise direction. Walk on the left side, holding collar in right hand.
- ⇒ Goat should lead readily and respond quickly. Regular leading and posing several weeks prior to show day will be helpful.
- ⇒ The lead equipment should be either a leather collar (saddle soaped before show), or a small link chain properly fitted. It is recommended that dairy goats use a small link chain as this makes the neck appear longer and more dairy. A leather collar is preferred for meat goats.
- ⇒ As you are circling the ring, be sure to keep the goat between you and the judge.
- ⇒ Keep the lead chain under the jaw rather than on the neck. This will avoid choking. Lead with animals head held high enough to allow for natural, attractive style and carriage.
- ⇒ Be courteous to other show persons. Gently tap a stopped animal a few times before passing.
- ⇒ If it is necessary to pass a stopped animal, always pass on the outside of the other animal.

Posing the Animal:

- ⇒ When posing the animal, avoid exaggerated positions such as crossing behind the goat. Always cross in front of your goat when changing leads. Never cross over or behind your animal.
- ⇒ Stand or squatting position is preferred as it allows the showperson to move more freely and smoothly around the goat. Do not place your knee on the ground.
- ⇒ Stand animal with front feet squarely beneath and hind feet slightly spread. Face animal upstage with slight incline where possible. Neither crowd other exhibitors nor leave too much space when leading into a side-by-side position.



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Posing the Animal Continued:

- ⇒ Move around your animal calmly and naturally.
- ⇒ Stand animal with front feet squarely beneath and hind feet slightly spread. Face animal up grade with slight incline where possible. Neither crowd other exhibitors nor leave too much space when leading into a side-by-side position.
- ⇒ If asked to show the teats reach over and pick up the opposite hind leg, to allow judge to view them.
- ⇒ When judge changes placing, lead animal forward out of line, down or up to the place directed, and into the new position. These signals to others on each side to make room. Keep in mind the location of the judge when moving from one placing to another.
- ⇒ To step animal ahead, use slight pull on collar. If the animal steps badly out of place, return animal to position by leading forward and making a clockwise circle back through your position in line. Replace animal as quickly and inconspicuously as possible.
- ⇒ Always walk the animal away from the judge in a straight line. When moving two animals off at same time for judge, lead animals close together, side by side, to allow for comparison.
- ⇒ Be sure to leave enough room between yourself and the animal in front of you when walking; and with the animals beside you in a lineup.

Show Animal to Best Advantage:

- ⇒ Recognize conformational strong points and weaknesses of your animal. Strive to overcome the faults and enhance the good points.

Poise, Alertness and Courteous Attitude:

- ⇒ Keep an eye on the judge and respond to requests quickly.
- ⇒ Be aware of your animal's position at all times.
- ⇒ Do not be distracted by people or activities outside the ring. Do not "chat" with fellow competitors while showing.
- ⇒ Be courteous, sportsmanlike and respecting of other exhibitors and the judge's opinion.
- ⇒ The best showman shows the animal, not himself.
- ⇒ Continue exhibiting until the entire class has been placed, the judge has given reasons and the class is dismissed.

REMEMBER

You should try to keep at least two goats. A single goat will tend to be lonely and call for companionship.

Goats should have baking soda and powdered minerals available on a free-choice basis. Your feed bag will generally describe what type of minerals should be given to the goats.

Also, goats generally need their hoofs trimmed once a month. This is a relatively simple and quick procedure.

