



General Tips for all Livestock Showpersons

Preparation:

- ⇒ Be neat and clean with clothes of the recommended dress code for the particular livestock type and wearing boots or shoes that are suitable. Hard-soled shoes are desirable; rubber boots or boots half laced should not be used. Nothing should be worn that focuses attention on the handler rather than the animal. No chewing gum.
- ⇒ **Make sure** the animal is **clean, well-groomed** and **well-trained**. This includes recent clipping, hoof trimming, etc. Also, the ability to stop, start, and move the animal at the request of the judge is important.
- ⇒ **Make sure** the **halter** is clean and well-fitted.
- ⇒ Sun Safety hats are permitted to be worn by 4-H members while showing in 4-H classes in outdoor rings.

Attitude:

- ⇒ Be **alert**, but **polite** and **courteous** to the judge and fellow show persons.
- ⇒ Always remember to **control** emotions and appear keen but relaxed, regardless of placing's, accepting the decision of the judge in a sportsmanlike manner. Keep in mind that the class is not over until the placing are announced, and continue showing until out of the show ring.
- ⇒ Keep the **animal under control** at all times and make **frequent glances** at the judge to watch for directions.
- ⇒ Be prepared to answer questions that may be asked by a judge, such as the animal's date of birth, whether or not the animal is bred, etc.
- ⇒ Be prepared to **lead any animal** the judge designates.
- ⇒ **Be prompt** entering the ring.

Technique:

- ⇒ Explicitly **follow the directions** of the judge.
- ⇒ Lead in a **clockwise** direction. Be **prepared to change the speed and/or direction of the walk** as directed by judge.
- ⇒ Do not allow the halter strap to drag on the ground, nor wrap the strap around the hand.
- ⇒ Avoid "grandstanding"
- ⇒ **Follow accepted practices** in leading for each specific livestock type.
- ⇒ **Do not fuss inappropriately** with the animal when it is properly posed.
- ⇒ When asked to stop, **try to anticipate where the animal's front feet should be** and ideally **walk into that position**.
- ⇒ **Make sure the animal looks its best** from the time it enters the ring until it leaves.

Basic Techniques:

- ⇒ **Moving around the front of the animal:** Move **quietly**, but **quickly** and smoothly. Move to give the judge the best view of the animal. **Never** stand between the judge and the exhibit.
- ⇒ **Stopping and placing the animal to advantage:** Make use of the slope of the ground, when possible, and stand the animal with the front feet level or higher than the back feet. Recognize the conformation faults of the animal and show it in a manner that will minimize these faults.
- ⇒ **Move sharply** to the centre of the ring **when requested to do so**.
- ⇒ **Turn the animal** the correct way. Unless otherwise directed, the handler should always walk clockwise around the animal. The handler always goes around the animal, not the animal around the handler.
- ⇒ **Moving from one position to another, whether up or down:** The handler may move the animal ahead, turn clockwise, and come back through the same position and directly into the new position.
- ⇒ **Regarding a contestant who has been moved ahead of him/her:** Make room in lineup, and be courteous. Being discourteous in this regard could result in discrimination.
- ⇒ **Making a change of handlers:** The conformation of the new animal should be observed quickly and carefully in order to show it to best advantage. Place animal properly first, **then** roll up the halter.



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General Showmanship Score Card

Evidence of training and preparation of the animal 30 points

- ⇒ Animal leads well
- ⇒ Starts and stops easily
- ⇒ Poses easily
- ⇒ Appears accustomed to handling
- ⇒ Stand quietly
- ⇒ Cleanliness of animal
- ⇒ Proper management and preparation prior to show
- ⇒ Clipping, trimming, etc.
- ⇒ Ease of handling the animal
- ⇒ Proper leading of the animal
- ⇒ Animal's response to exhibitor's movements
- ⇒ Avoids sharp turns, over-crowding and pushing
- ⇒ Poses the animal properly
- ⇒ Convenient and suitable hold on lead strap or reins
- ⇒ Ease of moving or positioning the animal
- ⇒ Alertness and style of the animal
- ⇒ Indication of good knowledge of animal's faults and habits, and compensation for such faults

Showing the animal in the ring 50 points

- ⇒ Clothes neat, clean, and suitable to occasion
- ⇒ Full attention to task
- ⇒ Avoids distractions from outside the ring
- ⇒ Courteous and polite to other exhibitors and the judge
- ⇒ Not over-showing
- ⇒ Poise and alert
- ⇒ Good knowledge of animal's pedigree, care, and management program

Top Showman Tips

- ⇒ It's important to train your animal with the leather halter several times before the show, so that the animal can get used to a different halter and the jingling chain.
- ⇒ If you are not the first showmanship class in the ring, one should use the opportunity to watch the first class and learn how the judge is moving the animals and what he is asking them to do. This will better prepare you, by knowing what to expect when you enter the ring.
- ⇒ It is key to be ready to enter the ring when your class is called. This means keeping track of earlier classes and knowing the amount of time needed to have you and your animal ready so that you can arrive early to ringside before your class. It's also a good idea to take your animal for a walk before you enter the ring so that they get used to the surroundings and new noises.
- ⇒ If you have the chance to be first into the ring, go for it. First impressions go a long way in the judge's mind. It is important for the first showmen in the ring to set the pace, leading the animal at a brisk pace in a large circle.
- ⇒ Always turn your animal to the right, whether it's when changing positions or repositioning. (*This is to avoid being stepped on, if you turn the opposite way it is most likely guaranteed you will be stepped on by your animal.)
- ⇒ The judges first lineup is generally not their final placing's, and therefore you shouldn't become discouraged or quit showing until the class is dismissed.
- ⇒ Listen to the judge's reasons. If there is something that they pinpoint that you can improve on take that lesson and either practice it or remember it for your next show. Build on the skills you have!
- ⇒ No matter your placing, at the end of your class you should feel confident knowing that you have competed and presented yourself and your animal to the best of your ability and in a professional manner.
- ⇒ A good showman will always be courteous and maintains a sportsman like attitude throughout the show. Always maintain a positive attitude and learn by watching more experienced showman to help you gain helpful tips.