

4-H Pet Rabbit Showmanship Steps

4-H members must know how to properly examine pet rabbits. Pet rabbits do not need to be purebred or meet ARBA Standards of Perfection; however, when purchasing a pet rabbit, please do so from a reputable breeder. The criteria listed below are the steps involved in showmanship.

1. ***Carrying Rabbit to Judging Table or Removing Rabbit from Cage***
2. ***Examination of Rabbit***
 - a. *Ears – Check for:*
Ear canker; Illegible or missing tattoo;
Size and carriage of ears; Torn or missing part of ear
 - b. *Eyes – Check for:*
Wall eye; Spots on eyes; Mismatched eye color;
Runny or weepy eyes
 - c. *Nose – Check for:*
Colds
 - d. *Teeth – Check for:*
Malocclusion; Simple malocclusion; Broken or missing tooth
 - e. *Chin/Neck Area – Check for:*
Dewlap; Abscesses
 - f. *Front Legs – Check for:*
Bent, bowed or deformed
 - g. *Front Feet and Toenails – Check for:*
Missing toenails, including dewclaw; Broken toenails;
Unmatched toenails; Nail color not meeting breed standard
 - h. *Abdomen – Check for:*
Mastitis or swollen teats; Tumor, rupture or hernia;
Abscesses
 - i. *Hind Legs – Check for:*
Bent, bowed, deformed, or severely cow hocked
 - j. *Hocks – Check for:*
Sore hocks
 - k. *Hind Feet and Toenails – Check for:*
Missing toenails; Broken toenails; Unmatched toenails
Nail color not meeting breed standard
 - l. *Sex – Check for:*
Vent disease; Missing testicles if not neutered; split penis
 - m. *Tail – Check for:*
Stub, broken or wry tail
3. ***Properly Pose Rabbit***