



RABBIT BREEDERS ASSOCIATION OF TASMANIA INC.

Show Preparation Hints

- Ensure your rabbit is in show condition. Young stock that are on the small for their breed, or under conditioned stock, should be left at home until they develop, or improve condition. Stock that has recently moulted utilise a lot of energy to push through new coat so they may not be in show condition until the following month. It is your responsibility to ensure your rabbit is fit and well enough to be at a show.
- Ensure that your rabbits are clean with no staining or faeces. Keeping bedding changed regularly helps prevent staining. Pine shavings are less likely to cause staining than hardwood shavings.
- Please ensure that your rabbit is in good health and that its toenails are trimmed. If you are not confident in trimming nails, ask a committee member at vetting in for assistance. Rabbits with any signs of discharge or general illness should not be brought to a show.
- Check that the coat is in good condition, there should be no signs of fleas, mites or dandruff. These things can all be treated, consult the committee or your vet regarding products that can be purchased to treat these.
- For long coated breeds and fur breeds ensure that there are no matts in the coat, particularly in the groin region and under the armpits. A roller comb works well for grooming these breeds without stripping the coat.
- For rex breeds ensure that the hocks are furred and have no bare patches or sores. Grooming with wet hands against the direction of the hair on the legs can help remove excess or protruding guard hairs.
- Regular grooming with wet hands through the coat (for shorter coated breeds) will help make show day preparation easier.
- Check your rabbit over for general disqualifications.
- Check your Breed Standard and make sure your rabbit is within the correct weight range for its specific breed and does not have any breed disqualifications, this can avoid disappointment on the day.
- Please ensure that all carry cages are clean.
- Top opening cages are preferable, along with the use of cage curtains which cover three sides of the cage.
- If you are using hay or wood shavings in your carry cages it is requested that it is under a false floor so as not to track wood shavings or hay throughout the hall and onto the judging table. A wire base or seagrass mat works well.
- Please ensure that any grooming products are removed from your rabbit prior to judging. The presence of grooming products on the rabbit can result in the exhibit being disqualified (this is referred to as 'over-preparation').
- Be aware that if you are travelling with water bottles attached to your cages your rabbits may end up wet prior to the show.
- If you make a mess while grooming your rabbit, be it long haired or short you are responsible for cleaning up the mess.
- Any questions or grievances on the day should be directed to the Show Manager.
- Do not remove any pen numbers from your cages until the Show Manager has given you permission.
- At the end of the day please ensure that all pen numbers are returned to the Show Secretary.