

Showmanship

Showmanship is the ability of the individual to present their animal in a manner that will allow it to place as high as possible. The animal and individual should work smoothly together in a way that the animal is noticed and the handler is not. With the use of learned skills and techniques the animal could possibly place higher than its conformation and structure should allow it to.

Pre-Show Preparations

- Select an individual that is structurally correct
- Learn how to catch and handle animals
- Halter break
- Teach to walk
- Set up legs
- Teach animal to stand still
- Get animal used to human touch
- Teach to brace or push (lambs only)
- Spend time with your animals before the show

Show Ring

- Keep an eye on the judge and the animal
- Stay calm and be friendly
- Make smooth moves not jerky or fast
- First impression is important
- Keep hands off of animal when walking
- Do not squat or kneel
- Do not switch sides as a judge works in your area
- Do not get stuck in the corner
- Give yourself plenty of room (profile)
- Keep head of animal up and alert looking
- Who are you beside in line
- Use the ringmen, they are there to help you
- Do not overdress
- You should know the weight of your animal
- You should have some knowledge about your animal
- Watch and learn from other exhibitors

Parents: You should be involved in your kids projects, however, you must remember that this is your children who are showing not you. Once they enter the ring your job is done. You can make corrections after the show is over. You must also remember to adapt. Considering exhibitors size and ability along with the animal will go along way in the improvement of your showman. Try not to discourage them at a young age by putting them on a larger animal that they will not be able to handle. This project is designed to be enjoyable no matter what level you show at.