

Cavy Owners & Breeders Society of Queensland Inc

2015

Judging Pet Classes

Pets are often the first guinea pigs people start showing when they join the cavy fancy. Many people remember their first pet with great fondness for many years, long after they have entered the more competitive world of showing pedigree cavies.

In many ways judging pets can be harder than judging pedigrees. There is no standard to conform to; pets come in any colour, coat type, hair length and size. In the end it really is up to the judge as to what they think is the best pet on the day.

The Pet Judges

At COBS there are a few requirements for people to be able to judge pets.

1. Minimum age – must be turning 18 years sometime in the year a person wants to judge pets.
2. Must have been regularly showing at COBS or another ANCC Club for a period of eighteen months.
3. Must add your name to a pet judging list to be approved by the COBS Committee.
4. Excluded from these requirements are any ANCC recognised judge, probationary judge or trainee.

The Disqualifications

At COBS there are some issues that will cause a pet to be disqualified from the table. Pet judges are expected to enforce these disqualifications. If there is any doubt the Pet judge should firstly consult with the Pet Show Co-ordinator (outside the hearing of exhibitors) and if necessary the Show Manager and/or other Committee members. Some of these disqualifications are related to the welfare of the animal.

1. An open wound or any bleeding on the cavy is a disqualification.
2. Running lice are a disqualification.
3. A cavy that is obviously malnourished or has runny nose/eyes will be disqualified.
4. A cavy with scabs, bald patches or badly flaking skin will be disqualified.
5. Untrimmed toenails will be a disqualification.
6. Sows that are obviously in pig will be disqualified; the pet judge may ask a more experienced judge or committee member for a second opinion.
7. Any cavy aged under three months old will be disqualified; the pet judge may ask a more experienced judge or committee member for a second opinion.
8. Fatty eye that is visible without touching the eyelid is a disqualification.
9. Any cavy that bites the judge will be disqualified.

The Faults

As there are not conformation standards for pets there are not conformation faults as such. However COBS has determined a number of things that a Pet judge may penalise a pet cavy for and these will be regarded as faults.

1. Wild, skittish or unmanageable behaviour will be regarded as a fault. Pet cavies should be pets first and foremost and used to a great deal of handling and petting by their owners.
2. Animals with static mite will be penalised according to the extent.
3. Cavies that are not clean will be penalised.
4. Boars with dirty grease glands in particular will be frowned on.

Guidance for Pet Judges

It is important to remember that Pets are NOT just another version of a pedigree cavy. Pets should be calm, loved family members and should look like pets, not a sub-standard pedigree animal. In many ways the further away a pet cavy looks from a breed the better. The Pet show section at COBS is meant to be about exhibitors having fun and learning about showing. It is also about hopefully providing a stepping stone into the pedigree side of the fancy.