

Showing Pets



KATHRYN MCKAY (WILLOWMIST CAVIES)

AT COBS

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 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. Some of these disqualifications are related to the welfare of the animal.

1. An open wound or any bleeding on the cavy.
2. Running lice.
3. A cavy that is obviously malnourished or has runny nose/eyes.
4. A cavy with scabs, bald patches or badly flaking skin.
5. Untrimmed toenails.
6. Sows that are obviously in pig; the pet judge may ask a more experienced judge or committee member for a second opinion.
7. Any cavy aged under three months old ; 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.

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

Pets should be calm, loved family members and should look like pets. 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.

