

SHOWING IN JUNIOR EXHIBITOR CLASSES

TIPS AND POINTERS FOR JUNIORS AND THEIR PARENTS

Showing their pedigree cavy in a Junior Exhibitor class is exciting for many of our younger COBS members. Not only does COBS allow you to participate at our shows, but the club actively encourages kids.

One of the ways juniors can participate is to enter the Junior Exhibitor class. This event is for kids aged under 18 years of age. There is no minimum age, though there is the expectation that the child will be able to show and control their own cavy. If you want to show in Junior Exhibitor make sure you get whoever is taking you to the show to enter the cavy or cavies that you want to show. Remember the Junior Exhibitor class is only for Breeds/pedigree cavies.

SOME DOS AND DON'TS FOR KIDS

- ❖ DO make sure you know you are entered in the Junior Exhibitor classes. Sometimes the adult you are with gets pretty excited you are there and forgets to tell you. So ask your adult if they have entered your cavy in Junior Exhibitor classes.
- ❖ DO choose what you want to show. It is more fun and interesting if you show your favourite cavy/cavies.
- ❖ DO make sure either you or your adult have cleaned your cavy and clipped its toenails. This is part of presentation. It's okay for your adult to do this before the show if you are really young, but as

you get older you should do as much of the pre-show preparation as possible.

- ❖ DO listen to be called to the table. Be ready with your cavy and your show board.
- ❖ DO take brushes, combs or grooming cloths to the table with you. Judges think last minute touch ups are okay. It shows the judge you care about how your cavy looks.
- ❖ DO place your cavy on the show board so it looks its best. Once you have it sitting the way you want, don't keep fiddling with it. Set it up again if it moves.
- ❖ DO remember the judge may ask you questions about your breed. If you don't know the answer to the question just politely say that. It's okay not to know things, but it is important to try and learn for next time.
- ❖ DO tell your adult if you feel nervous or scared. It's okay for your adult to stand behind you to give you a little help especially if you are a little kid under 8 years old.
- ❖ DO HAVE FUN. Showing your cavy can be a great thing to do.
- ❖ DO be a good sport. Thank the judge, even if you don't win and congratulate the other kids.
- ❖ DON'T show more than two cavies at a time in any one class. COBS rules only let one person handle two cavies at a time. This is to keep your cavies safe. If you have more than two cavies in a line up just let the judge know someone else will stand behind them while the judge looks at the animals you are standing behind. Then when the judge finishes looking at those two animals swap places with your helper, so you are still handling the animals the judge is looking at. Don't panic if this happens the judge will be told what is going on.
- ❖ DON'T talk about your cavy at the judging table. The judge doesn't need to know if it is a champion or if it has anything wrong with it. Only talk about your cavy if the judge asks something.

- ❖ DON'T talk about other kids' cavies even if it's nice stuff.
- ❖ DON'T make heaps of noise or run or jump around the judging table. It might scare the cavies.
- ❖ DON'T be scared of the judge.
- ❖ DON'T do things that might annoy the judge, the other kids or the cavies.
- ❖ DON'T FORGET TO HAVE FUN.

FOR THE ADULTS

The Junior Exhibitor classes are the perfect way to introduce children to the wonderful fancy of showing cavies. Encourage your child, but don't force them to enter. The cavy will pick up on the stress the child may have and it's not good for either of them.

Junior Exhibitor classes are a great way for children to learn about sportsmanship and the correct way to behave at shows. Even young children learn quickly what they are meant to do and it is great to see the little children patting and brushing their cavies to make them pretty for the judge.

For older children it can be a way to learn more about their breed and group. Children are encouraged to ask questions about handling and their breeds. The judge may ask the children questions about their cavy breed or group. You can help your child by telling them what to expect.

COBS rewards children with trophies, ribbons and cards (or any combination of these things). It is fun for the children to fill out place cards etc and get the judge to sign them. They can take these sorts of things to school to tell other children about showing cavies.

Just remember that it is all about the children enjoying showing.