



Showing your pet at the fair can be a fun and rewarding experience! This year our county achievement days is offering you the opportunity to show your pet from fish to hamsters to birds. There are just a few things you want to think about prior to showing to make the experience enjoyable.

In general, you will be judged on a combination of your pet's overall appearance, its housing, the quality of care you provide, and your knowledge of the animal. Check with iGrow.org for the scoring rubric.

Preparing for the show depends on the pet you have, but here are a few tips:

1. Get a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection is required for all companion animals. A rabies vaccination is required for ferrets and cats
2. Check for external and internal parasites. Animals can't be shown if they have any parasite present
3. Learn more about your pet: Where is it from originally? What does it eat naturally? What is the best way to care for it?
4. Prepare your presentation
 - Start on this a few weeks before the fair
 - Take necessary pictures
5. Have your parents or friends ask you questions about your pet to prepare for answering the judge's questions
6. Handle your pet at least 2-3 times per week
7. Clean your pet's enclosure regularly, but make sure to tidy it up before you attend the show
8. Trim toenails or wings if needed

What to bring to the show:

1. Your pet
2. Travel cage or its normal enclosure. If you need to bring a travel cage, bring along some pictures of its normal habitat to share with the judge. ***Facilities, including electricity, will not be provided by the show***
3. Food and water to show judge how you care for pet
4. Toys or other enrichment
5. Piece of carpet or towel to set on the show table.
6. Make sure your animal is comfortable and bring anything that might help keep it's stress down.

As part of the show, you will give a short presentation about your pet. Here are some ideas about what to include:

1. Your name and age
2. Pet's name, species, age, and coloring
3. Where does your pet come from? What are some characteristics of its natural environment?
4. Discuss your pet's overall appearance and health
5. How you care for your pet
6. How often and how you clean its enclosure
7. What health treatments your pet receives
8. What and how much your pet eats
9. How often you groom it
10. How did you prepare for show
11. Something special about your pet

You are also judged on the appearance of your pet's enclosure and your own personal appearance. Make sure you are neat and tidy!

Companion Animal Help Sheet - County Draft adapted with permission from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension.