

Preparing your Pre-Junior (Pee Wee) for POULTRY SHOWMANSHIP (normal ages are 4 – 7 years)

Poultry showmanship begins long before the competition. Time and effort spent by the child on properly caring for the birds and training them for show will be reflected on the day of the competition.

This contest is to help our youthful exhibitors to become comfortable talking to a judge while he is answering some simple questions and handling his/her bird. If the child is overly scared the judge may ask the parent to stand with the child but the parent should not interrupt or make comment to the child or judges unless it's just to assure the child it's ok and he/she is doing great.

1. Exhibitors must show their own chicken or bantam waterfowl. It's highly recommended that pre-junior / peewee exhibitors focus on one bird in particular. We recommend that these young exhibitors start out with a "bantam" chicken. These birds are small (one to two pounds) and can be easily be handled and trained by small hands.
2. Select good quality chickens for your children that are healthy and free from defects, internal or external parasites.
3. Clean the chickens before the contest. Keep their pen clean and wash their feet & vent area. Judges and children alike don't like handling dirty birds.
4. The child should practice at home by handling and playing with the showmanship bird. This will enable both of them to be calmer during the contest.
5. It is the responsibility of the showman or parent, or both, to inform the show organizers if the showman has any special needs (i.e., hearing or physical disability, etc.)

Recommendations:

The child should be able to put the bird in the cage and take out of the cage by themselves during showmanship (the judge may have to help open a stubborn cage door). He/she should show he can hold the bird comfortably without injury to the bird or the contestant.

When small hands are holding large birds the birds have a tendency to be uncomfortable and will try to flap their wings and fly away. The Pee Wee / Pre-Junior exhibitor is expected to have complete control of his or her bird as are all contestants.

Knowledge:

The pre-junior should learn as many external parts of a chicken or bantam duck (depending on what he is using in showmanship). Head, feet, legs, toes, hocks, wattles, comb, eye, wing, ears, etc.

He should know the breed and variety of bird he is using in showmanship.