4-H RABBIT & CAVY CARE, SHOWMANSHIP, AND SELECTION





CHOOSING YOUR FIRST RABBIT OR CAVY

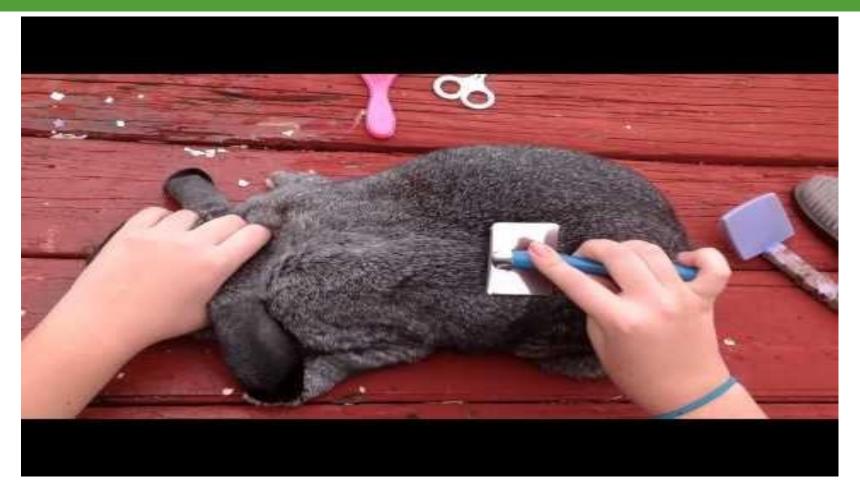
Consider which breed is the best for you

- Smaller breeds are great for younger showmen
 - Don't choose a breed that will be too big for you to handle
- Take into consideration the amount of care that may go into keeping certain breeds "show ready"
 - Certain cavy breeds have long hair and require a lot of grooming/care
- You should also consider the amount of space a breed requires for housing
 - Some commercial rabbit breeds get quite large!

CHOOSING YOUR FIRST RABBIT OR CAVY

- If you choose a mixed breed instead of purebred your animal can still be shown!
 - Both the rabbit and cavy shows have a Pet Care Project Class that is designated for mixed breeds or breeds with disqualifications
- Once you have decided on a breed and are ready to choose your animal, make sure it falls within the Standard of Perfection for that particular breed
 - Check for disqualifications!

BASIC RABBIT GROOMING



https://youtu.be/kViNgJAergs

GROOMING YOUR CAVY



https://youtu.be/SDa8irIN0pA

CARING FOR YOUR RABBIT OR CAVY

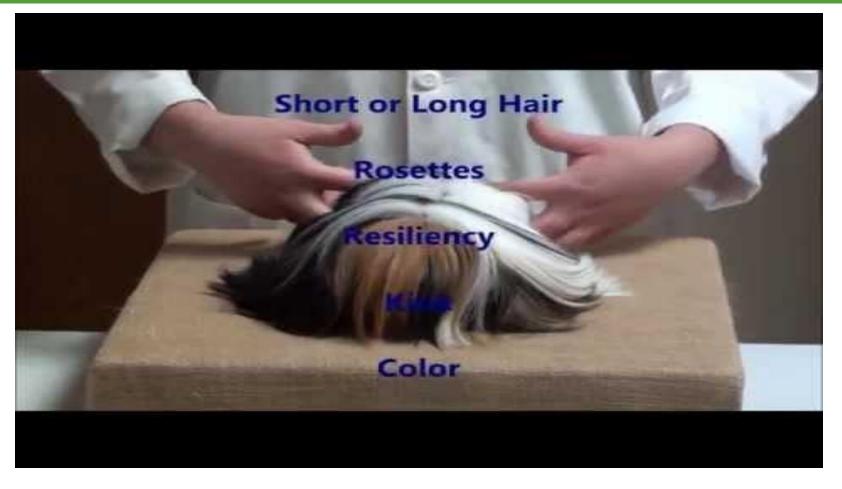
- Feed a balanced diet appropriate for breed and age
 - If you feed too much and your animal is heavier than the breed standard, it can be disqualified
- Be sure to clip toe nails!
- 6-8 weeks prior to the fair/show you should begin to train your animal
 - You need to be able to handle and examine your animal for showmanship. The animal should cooperate throughout your showmanship presentation
 - This includes "flipping" them (except Cloverbuds)
 - You also need to train your animal to "pose" properly
 - Each breed standard has a particular pose each animal should be able to replicate. They may not automatically stand in pose. You will need
 to work with them
- Be sure your animal is groomed, healthy, and free of parasites prior to the fair

RABBIT SHOWMANSHIP



https://youtu.be/sqodpNT-fW8

CAVY SHOWMANSHIP



https://youtu.be/entjkRL6iCM

SHOWMANSHIP TIPS & TRICKS

- Work with your animal!
 - They should be tame and used to being worked with prior to the fair
 - You should also practice flipping them
- Know your breed! Especially if you are a senior showman!
 - Seniors should be able to tell the judge the history of their breed as well
- Know their pose!

SHOWMANSHIP TIPS & TRICKS

- If your animal has a defect or disqualification talk about it! This is a GREAT talking point and shows that you have studied the Standard of Perfection
- Be sure to ask the judge if they have any questions once you are done
- Never use an animal for showmanship that is flighty or is too big for you to handle
- Practice, Practice, Practice
 - Find a showmanship scoring rubric and plan your showmanship presentation from that

EVALUATING YOUR RABBIT OR CAVY

American Standard of Perfection

- Classifies and describes the standard physical appearance, coloring and temperament for all recognized breeds of rabbits and cavies
- This book will tell you exactly what your breed should look like
 - Study the standard and then compare your animal to the standard
 - These comparisons (good or bad) are great talking points for your showmanship presentation

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