



What Judges Will Expect From Youth When Judging Showmanship

The Youth Exhibition Poultry Association has put together the following list of knowledge expectations in an effort to help judges become more familiar with what showmanship participants are expected to know. The information is broken down by age groups to help make showmanship judging more uniform.

Pre-Junior or Pee Wee Level (Ages 4-7)

This level is to introduce the little ones to showmanship. With this age group youth exhibitors should be expected to become comfortable talking to a judge while 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.

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 therefore we suggest that the child has a special Bantam breed that they can handle easily for showmanship.

Pre-Junior Knowledge Expectations:

The PRE-JUNIOR should be familiar with as many external parts of a chicken or bantam duck (depending on what they are using in showmanship) as possible. For example the head, feet, legs, toes, hocks, wattles, comb, eye, wing, ears, etc. They should know the breed and variety of bird they are using in showmanship. PLEASE teach them proper poultry terminology (variety vs color).