

PDCA Showmanship Evaluation Card

It is important that participants in showmanship ensure that their animal is in proper body condition and growth based on the age of the animal. Horns are to be removed at an appropriate age to provide a safer environment for the leadsperson. Feet should be properly trimmed to promote ease of movement for the animal. These practices will show good husbandry skills of the participant as well as a positive image for the dairy industry.

PDCA recommends the following levels of discrimination in the judging of showmanship competitions.

Slight Discriminations

Exhibitor

- Inappropriate halter.
- Lead strap tightly looped
- Walks slowly backward into the ring
- Sidesteps when leading calf
- Has stiff outstretched arm
- Has poor posture – either overly stiff or slumped, sloppy
- Improper head carriage, animal's nose is too high
- Calf's head is not turned slightly toward judge when hide is felt
- Stepping on or kicking at the animal's front feet. (Note that a slight touch to move animal's front feet is allowed and should not be discriminated against)
- Inappropriate size of calf for competitor

Animal

- Minor instances of animal not handling well
- Is not alert
- Muzzle is not wiped clean
- Switch is not brushed and fluffed
- Clipping lines not properly blended*

Moderate Discriminations

Exhibitor

- Not wearing white clothing or show-approved professional attire
- Inappropriate or unprofessional attire that draws attention to the exhibitor
- Wearing clothing with farm or commercial advertising/logos
- Does not know birth date, fresh date, breeding date, due date
- Unable to recognize type faults of the animal*
- Halter not fitting or put together properly
- Holding the lead strap too far from the halter
- Has fingers in ring of the halter
- Failure to hold throat when needed
- Improper head carriage, animal's head held too low
- Unable to show animal to best advantage
- Slow response to judge or ring official
- Inattentiveness
- Watching the judge too intently
- Over-showing
- Leading too slowly
- Has elbow or hands up

- Is too far to outside or inside of ring
- Incorrect spacing to the animal in front when on parade
- Failure to switch rear legs when the judge moves around the animal (heifers, rear leg nearest the judge back; milking and dry cows, rear leg nearest the judge forward)
- Doesn't walk quickly into line
- Crowding or bumping other animals when pulled in line
- Leaving extra space in line
- Failure to maintain a straight lineup
- Moves excessively in line
- Unable to back up animal
- Legs incorrectly posed
- Does not keep animal straight from head to tail
- Chewing gum

Animal

- Legs not clipped
- Dirt/dust in hair coat
- Dirt/wax in ears
- Feet not cleaned
- Excessive use of hair sprays, powder and other fitting products
- Clipping too early; hair appears too long
- Incomplete clipping
- Excessive clipping

Serious Discriminations

Exhibitor

- Lead strap looped & fastened
- Striking the animal
- Positioning animal's rear legs by stepping on rear feet
- Fusses with or moves calf to the extreme
- Minor instances of unsportsmanlike conduct
- Is late to class
- Wearing inappropriate shoes
- Chewing tobacco
- Carries or talks on a cell phone

Animal

- Animal causing disturbances to others

Disqualification

- Violations of PDCA Show Ring Code of Ethics
- Unsportsmanlike conduct
- Repeated striking of the animal

Recommendation for the evaluation of topline:

- Topline is groomed, doesn't distract from the animal's overall appearance, conforms to the guidelines of the PDCA Showing Code of Ethics.*

*Expectations should be age appropriate and at some shows, these fitting criteria may be significantly downplayed at the discretion of show management and with appropriate communication to exhibitors.