

**RK ANIMAL  
SUPPLIES LTD**



*Tips & Tricks on:*

## *Beef Showmanship*

*You can select a winning calf, but it's your hard work and dedication that makes a champion*







*Always remain calm: your calf can sense any nervousness on your part and may also become nervous or unruly*

## Showmanship Basics

- Always remember that Showmanship begins at home; this includes ensuring your animal is broke to lead and stand properly.
- Good Showmanship takes time, patience & effort
- Showmanship is the presentation of your animal's strong points and traits of the breed.
- The key to becoming a good showman is to be aware of the judge at all times, follow his/her instructions and stay calm and collected.
- Tools needed include a show stick and grooming comb
- Appearance is key: ensure you are clean and neatly dressed before entering the ring

## Showing

- The judge likes to see a well presented animal and handler. The animal should be clipped and fit to emphasize its good qualities. Have your animal well trained so that the judge can view the animal both walking and standing.
- Courtesy and sportsmanship are two important aspects in all walks of life, including the show ring. Be considerate of other exhibitors, never lead your animal in front of other entries and congratulate your opponents no matter how you place.
- When entering the ring, be alert and have your animal at its best. Be sure to give yourself plenty of room between the next exhibitor.



## In the Ring

- Be on time - first impressions are lasting!
- Follow the dress code and all show rules.
- Be courteous to fellow exhibitors both in and out the show ring.
- Always show your positive attitude.
- Have fun while you're showing! If you enjoy yourself, it will show!



# Show Ring Necessities

## *Choosing a Show Stick*

- Show sticks are available in a variety of sizes and colours
- The length of a show stick should be in relation to the size of the calf being shown.
- The exhibitor should be able to stand at the calf's head and while keeping the calf's head straight, reach towards the back feet for the proper placement

## *Using a Plastic Comb*

- When using a plastic comb in the show ring, you should have the comb in your back pocket and the teeth should be pointed towards your body.
- Use this comb to fix any markets left in the hair after the judge touches your calf. Only use the comb if the judge touches your calf in the ring!
- A comb such as the Sullivan's Smart Grip or Stimulator Comb is a good choice for showmanship!

## *Choosing your Leather Halter*

- The proper adjustment of a leather halter while on the animals head is a key factor for control of the animal.
- The nose piece should be adjusted so that it is at the midpoint of the bridge on the nose, just between the nose and the eyes.
- The lower the nose piece is on the bridge, the less control an exhibitor will have on the animal.
- The lead strap should be trimmed so that the exhibitor can hold the strap at the leather/chain junction and the end will not touch the ground.
- The chain chin strap on a show halter can agitate some animals so covering the chain with vet wrap is recommended.

## *Show Ring Tips...*

- Dress clean, neat & tidy
- Be quiet and deliberate in your movements, work with an air of dignity and pride
- Remain calm, your calf can sense nervousness on your part and may also become nervous or unruly.
- Be considerate of other exhibitors.
- Regardless of how you place, always congratulate the other exhibitors!
- Do your best to have the winning calf in the show, however, as long as you have developed and exhibited your animals to the best of your ability and as long as you did your best, you have accomplished your purpose and gained a wealth of experience!
- Improvement is key, be determined to return next year with a better calf to do a better job.
- ALWAYS be early for your class!
- Never chew gum in the ring!
- Never wear running shoes!
- Do not wear a ball cap!
- Never pass another showperson, unless you are instructed to do so.
- Improve your skills by watching experienced show people.
- Use criticism to your advantage.
- While in the ring, know where the judge is at all times, you don't want to miss a signal!
- Remember to always smile, have fun, and enjoy what you are doing!





# While You're in the Show Ring

**HINT:**  
Ensure your Show Attire follows the rules of the show!

*Remember to be on time for your class and know the age and breeding information of your animal*

## *Setting Up Your Calf*

- Once your calf is set up and displayed for a side view and the judge is viewing your calf, pull the far rear foot (furthest from the judge) forward half a step. This will give you the staggered foot placement and show off the animal's longer body giving a more structurally correct appearance.
- Be sure to keep comfortable space between the feet - you will want the calf standing strong and tall.
- The first use of the show stick should be to scratch the animal's brisket or belly to keep the animal calm.
- Keep in mind that a show person can also walk the animal into place rather than using excessive force with your stock stick.
- When walking your animal at a normal pace, the show stick should be held in the left hand with the hook end towards the ground.
- If the animal wants to walk at a faster pace, hold the show stick in front of the animal's nose to help slow it down. It can also be used to help level the animal's top and rump to 'loin' the animal. This helps flatten the back and lift the tail head.
- It is advisable to do this prior to the judging looking at you, otherwise you could draw attention to your animal's flaws.
- Always listen carefully to the judge's comments at the end of the class and apply them the next time you enter the ring.

## *Moving your Animal*

- When moving the animal, the exhibitor must maintain adequate spacing with the animals around it.
- Do not 'tailgate' the animal in front of you as this doesn't allow the judge to get a total perspective of either animals.
- Do not wait to stop your animal until the animal in front of you stops or you may rear-end the animal. When stopping, always ensure you have enough space around your animal for the judge to have a clear view from all angles.
- Exhibitors should always pay attention to the straightness of lines when bringing animals to stop when side by side, or tail to head alignments. Having a straight line of animals allows for a more effective use of the available show ring space.



# Tips on Positioning your Animal

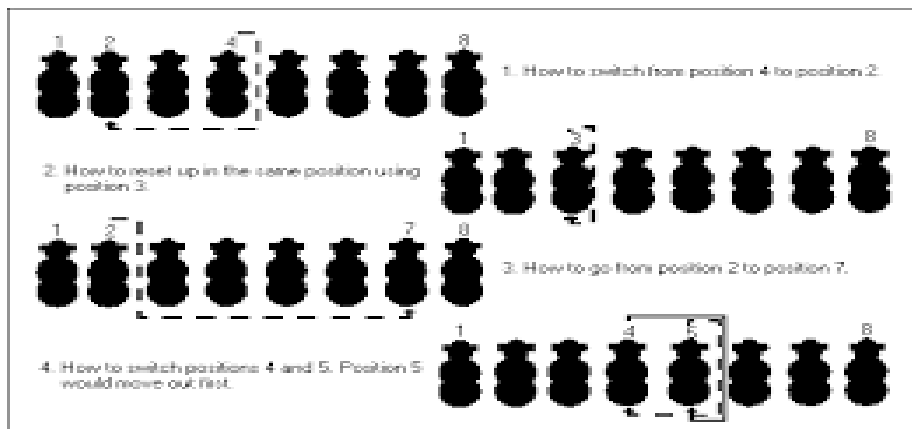
*Remember to always keep a positive attitude while showing*

## How to Switch Animals

- While participating in a showmanship competition, be prepared to switch animals with another competitor.
- Before you do so, make a quick circle around the animal and take a mental note of that animals strengths and weaknesses.
- Ask the owner the animals information such as the age, weight, sire, breeding program, etc.
- Be prepared to tell the judge what you like about this animal and what you would like to change about the animal.

## Stopping your Animal

- Watch for the judges signal so you know when to stop
- Generally, the judge will raise an open palm in the air if he wants you to stop your animal.
- When you stop, exchange the lead strap from the right hand to the left and the show stick to the left hand.
- Be sure to leave enough space between you and the animal in front of you.
- The animals head should be held high facing straight ahead,
- If the judge wants you to continue walking, he will wave his hand moving in a circular motion.





# Tips & Techniques

**HINT:**  
NEVER be late  
for a class!

*Remember that Showmanship begins at home!*

## *Presenting Yourself - Position, Posture & Attire*

- When the animal is being viewed from the side, the exhibitor should be standing slightly forward of the animal's head, approximately an arm's length away from the animal.
- Keep the judges' view completely unobstructed!
- The shoes worn by the individual should offer some protection from the animal's weight - Athletic shoes should not be worn in the show ring.

## *The Ultimate Goal*

- Showmanship is more than a style or a "look"
- A truly outstanding showperson will constantly bring out the optimum appearance of any given animal that he or she leads into the show ring. This should be the ultimate goal of every exhibitor.
- Always keep showing once the judge makes their decision, it may not be the final one.
- Remember to relax and smile, showmanship is meant to be a fun learning experience!
- Gain all that you can from each show you compete at no matter how you placed!

## *Myths, Pet Peeves & Other Issues*

- NEVER arrive late for a class!
- Always know some basic information about the animal that you are showing. The exhibitor should always know the weight of the animal as well as the breed, age or breeding status/calving date.
- While straight lines are important, an animal that is slightly out of place does not necessitate that the exhibitor should circle the animal. Move the front end by applying pressure with the halter can help realign many animals.
- If you circle your animal too often, it will eventually train your animal not to stand in place.
- There is enough noise at a fair or a show that the exhibitor doesn't need to create more, actions such as whistling, snapping fingers, or a loud voice in order to get the calf's attention is considered poor etiquette.





*Be sure to clip your animal before the show, that way it can become accustomed to its new surroundings*



- This demonstrates a staggered foot placement.
- This gives the animal a longer bodied and more correct appearance.
- This is a good position for side views in a head-to-tail alignment.



- This demonstrates how the halter lead strap should be adjusted by the size of the exhibitor and the animal
- The strap should be held unfolded through the hand and cut shorter so that it doesn't touch the ground.



- This demonstrates the proper way to hold the animals head at the appropriate position as well as holding the show stick with the proper hand



Work Begins

# at Home



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## Show Day Routine

- Before every show, read the rules - each show is different.
- Plan your show day early so you are organized and relaxed.
- Have your animal clipped and washed a few days before the show. Your animal is more at ease to work on at home.
- Allow your animal at least 2 hours to settle into it's new surroundings when attending a show.
- You may have to wash your animal when you get to the show. If you wash the day before and the animal is still clean a thorough rinse is sufficient.
- Be sure your animal is thoroughly blown dry before putting them in the stall that you have prepared.
- Make sure to be ready for your scheduled show time by preparing your animal one hour before your show time. Don't rush, you and your animal will show better with less stress.
- Feed grain twice (morning and evening) and hay and water 3 times a day (morning, noon, and evening) each day while at a show.
- If leaving cattle at a show overnight, make sure they are securely tied with a rope halter and safety neckties.

Before you leave for the show you should go over this list of show equipment you'll be needing. Make sure you have everything to save time later!

- Blower
- Blocking Chute
- Turbo Fan
- Fork
- Shovel
- Broom
- Extra Rope Halter
- Extra Necktie
- Water Bucket
- Feed Pan
- Water Hose
- Clippers
- Blades
- Combs
- Roto Fluffer
- Tail Bag/Clamp
- Shampoo
- Show Halter
- Scissors
- Extension Cord
- Show Stick
- Sullivan's Prime Time
- Sullivan's Tail Adhesive
- Sullivan's Foam
- Sullivan's Final Bloom
- Sullivan's Revive
- Sullivan's Shock
- RK Pure Magik Sheen
- RK Pure Remove It
- Touch-Up Colours

**Good Luck  
at the Show!**



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