

# Pima County Rabbit Showmanship

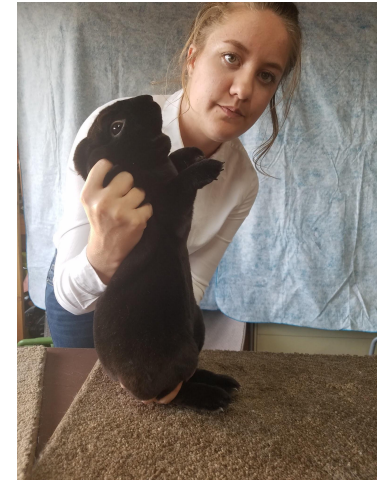


## Posing

- Refer to the Standard of Perfection to look for the appropriate pose for your rabbit
- Your rabbit will be expected to hold still in its pose facing left while you stand back from the table with your hands behind your back. Follow the judge with your eyes, even if they walk behind you.
- You are showing your judge the animal's natural pose and that you have worked with your animal (Will your rabbit sit still?). Tracking the judge will also show you are paying attention.

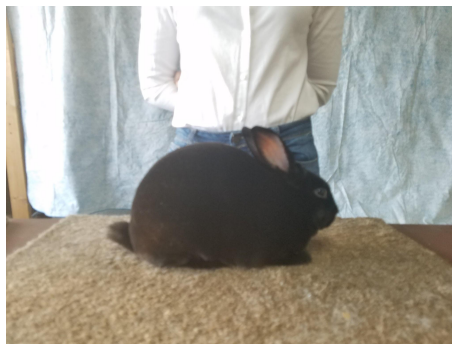
## Holding A Rabbit

- Putting your right hand over the ears (note if you have a lop rabbit, ONLY USE ONE EAR), grab as much “scruff” or fat as possible on the nape of the rabbit’s neck
- Meanwhile, with your left hand supporting the rabbit's hind, lift up the rabbit



## Notes on handling

1. Move slow and steadily, looking up at the judge often
2. Eye contact is Important
3. Act confidently and tuck in the fingers you aren't using
4. If your rabbit begins to struggle at any point, carefully put him/her on the table and regain your grip. Animal safety is a priority in the show ring
5. Repose before and after every single move unless the judge says otherwise.



(1)

(2)

(3)

Steps to repose

## Overall Control of the Rabbit

- Holding your rabbit by the scruff, stretching out the body all the way, walk three steps away from the table (facing the direction that you are walking) and three steps back. Then set your rabbit down on the table and pose it.
- This shows you judge that you have control over your animal

## The “Football” Position

1. Pick the rabbit up in a standard position
2. Rotate the rabbit so it's spine is in line with your forearm
3. Tuck the rabbits feet behind your elbow



## Teeth

- Using the football position, angle the rabbit's nose towards the judge
- Use your pointer finger and your thumb (tucking in all other fingers to give a neat appearance) pull the two top lips apart and the bottom lip down to show all 4 front incisors (teeth)
- You are showing the judge that your rabbit has no signs of malocclusion or any broken/missing front teeth



## Eyes

- In the football position, use your thumb and pointer finger to pull apart the eyelids, rolling around to show the entire eye
- Make sure you show the judge both eyes
- This move shows the judge the rabbit's eye color and that there are no deformities/diseases such as cataracts, wall/moon eye and conjunctivitis

## Snuffles

- In the football position, tap the rabbit's nose with your middle and pointer fingers, then show the judge your fingers
- Here you are checking for discharge around the nose, caused by "snuffles"
- Extend the rabbit's front legs, showing the judge the inside of both legs
- Here you are showing the judge that there is no matting on the inside of the legs caused by the rabbit wiping away discharge.



## Right Ear

- The rabbit sits on the table facing the right
- Note: you still must reposition the rabbit before and after the move
- Pinch both sides of the ear and slightly fan up and down
- You are showing the judge if the rabbit has an ARBA registration tattoo and to check for ear canker (caused by ear mites)



## Left Ear

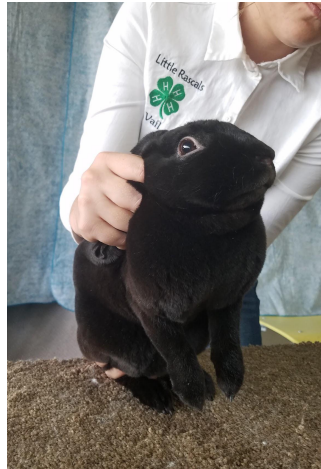
- During your reposition, you will rotate your body so that when you put down your rabbit, it will be facing the right
- Pinch both sides of the ear and slightly fan up and down
- You are checking for the identification tattoo and for ear canker

## Straightness of the front legs

### (lops)

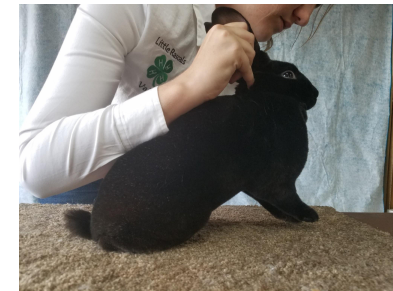
- During the repose, put the rabbit down facing the judge
- Put both hands behind the elbows and push the legs forward
- This move is different for lops because they have a crown and it can break if handled improperly

Facing the rabbit to the front



### All other breeds

- During the repose, face the rabbit towards the front
- Using your right hand, pinch the inside of the ears and lift up with your right arm acting as a lever and your left hand supporting the rear
- You are showing the judge that the rabbit is free from abnormalities such as a broken leg, bowed legs, and splayed legs



## Fur Quality and Cleanliness (Rex fur)

- (still remember to repose) cup your right hand and move in a tap like motion (using your whole hand) from the rabbits rump to the nap of its neck. Then show the judge your hand
- Using two fingers, then use the same tapping motion on the rabbit forehead. Show the judge your fingers
- You may also lightly blow on the rabbit fur to show density and coloration
- You are demonstrating to the judge the compacticity of the rex fur, its condition, and its coloration

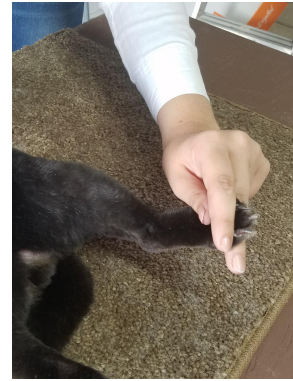
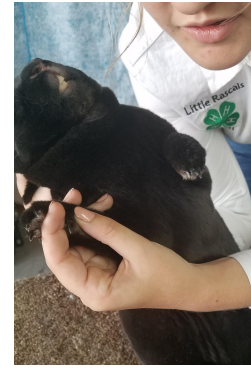
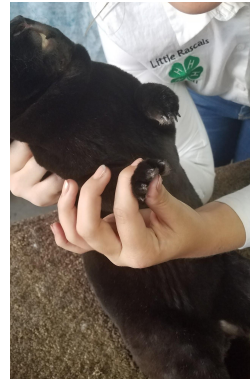
### All Other Fur Types

- (still remember to repose) cup your right hand and run your hand backwards up along the spine (staring at the rump). Show the judge your hand
- Do the same to the forehead using two fingers. Show the judge your fingers.
- You may also lightly blow on the rabbit fur to show density and coloration
- You are demonstrating to the judge the fur type, its condition, and its coloration



## Straightness of the Hind Legs

- After reposing, scruff the rabbit, but then put the rabbits rump down keeping its back parallel and touching your forearm.
- Using your left hand like an “L” straighten out the hind legs.
- The shows the judge that the rabbits legs are free from deformities such as a broken leg, cow hocks, etc

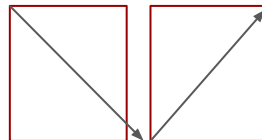


## Toe Nails

- For this move, the rabbit should be in the same position as it was for “straightness of the hind legs.”
- It does not matter which foot you begin with or which direction you go (counterclockwise or clockwise), as long as you move in a “box pattern”
- Push on the upper pad of the foot and pull back the fur on top to reveal the toenails.
- Make sure you show the judge every toenail, including the dew claws on the side of the two front paws
- You are showing the judge that there are no extra/missing/broken nails or toes and also that the nails are the appropriate color.



Correct Box



Incorrect box





## Tail

- When putting your rabbit down after reposing, flip the rabbit so that the rump is facing the judge.
- Pinch the tail with your left pointer finger and thumb. Tap the table with the tip of the tail to the left, right, and straight out in front of you. Lastly lift the tail straight up and release it.
- This shows the judge that the tail is not broken and in alignment and also that it does not have any deformities such as screw tail

## Sex and Vent Disease

- With the rabbits back parallel to your forearm and its rump on the table, pinch the rabbit's tail with your left pointer and middle finger. Then, using your left thumb, reveal the reproductive organ.
- If you have a buck, make sure that you show the judge both testes.
- You are showing the judge the rabbits gender, if the buck is fully intact and also checking for diseases such as vent disease



## Sore Hocks and Belly Ruptures

- Your rabbit will be in the same position as it was in for “sex and vent” with its back in line with your forearm.
- Using three or four fingers, run your hand up the belly of the rabbit starting at where the hind legs connect to the rabbit and ending at where the front legs connect to the rabbit. Show the judge your fingers.
- Using two fingers, run your hand under the chin of your rabbit. Show the judge your fingers.
- Using two fingers, slide your hand over the pad of each foot in the “box” pattern. Show the judge your fingers after every foot.
- This shows the judge that the rabbit has no abscesses on its stomach area and no sore hocks on the pads of the feet.

