

Thinking of showing rabbits?

If anyone is thinking of showing rabbits it is best to go to a couple of local shows first. It is not always easy to find out where they are. Look up the British Rabbit Council, www.thebrc.org. They are the rabbit showing people's governing body and should be able to help you. You will eventually have to join before you can show rabbits. It doesn't matter about this for pet rabbits. The second place to enquire is your local library.

Before a show starts people are busy getting things ready and they will probably totally ignore you. When judging starts things quieten down and people will be willing to talk to you and answer your questions. Sometimes it can seem a long day if you are by yourself. The best way to pass the time is to be busy and learn at the same time. Wear clothes which won't spoil and ask at the judging table if they will let you help. Until you get a bit of experience it is probably best to just stand at the judging table and hold rabbits for the judge, rather than fetching them from their cages for the judge to examine. Talking to people and handling the rabbits will also help you to decide which breed of rabbit you would like to keep. Ask other Fanciers if they can recommend a good breeder who will sell you a show rabbit. The size of the garden or shed you have is another thing to take into consideration with regards to the size of rabbit you choose.

When you have got your show rabbit and entered it in a show, you should arrive at least 45 mins before judging starts. Find the Secretary and pay for your entries and you will be given a booking in sheet which tells you which cage/pen your rabbit is to go in. Go and find the cage and check it is in good condition. Perhaps if it is old the fastener might be missing or something. You can then report this back to the Secretary and he should get his Show manager to fix it. There is usually some sawdust chippings in the pen but you might want to take some more with you and some hay. You will also need to take a water bottle for each rabbit. Give your rabbit a brush and write its ring number on the booking in sheet and put it in the cage. Find somewhere safe to put your box or take it back to the car. Take your booking in sheet back to the Secretary because he has to make note of your ring number. If by any chance the rabbits get mixed up the rightful owner gets his

rabbit put back in the right cage because they can check the number on its leg ring. It might be an idea to check quickly with the Secretary that you have entered your rabbit in the correct classes. All that done, it is time for judging to begin. Good luck.