

I'M GOING TO A SHOW! BUT WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT, WHAT DO I NEED TO PREPARE, TO BE SURE I'M READY????

Going to a show can be very exciting and nerve racking all at the same time. Getting there is one thing but getting your Angora ready is another!

GETTING READY:

Be sure you have kept up with the grooming on those weeks prior to the show. Don't wait until you get to the show to do the grooming you haven't done for weeks, a month or more.

You may find it easier to keep a backpack, tub or box filled with items you will always need or could need at the show. Keeping it filled with items for a show makes it easier when packing to go to the show and not panic trying to remember what you need. Yes, this may require purchasing double of some items but it is worth the purchase. All you have to do when packing for a show is just pick up the box/tub/backpack, put it in the car and you're ready to go!

Be sure to pack: paper towels, water bottles, feed, feed bowls/cups, grooming supplies, blower, electrical ties, small dust pan, trash bags, grooming apron/coat, grooming supplies-brushes, combs, etc.

If it is a cooped show (you will put your rabbits in cages set up at the show) bring along some electrical ties or locks to ensure the cage door will stay closed. It's not time for 'Romeo' to find another 'Juliet' who also got loose especially if it's not another Angora. You may also find you need the electrical ties to help repair the cage. It's important to make sure the top and sides are secure so your rabbit doesn't get caught and injure itself while trying to escape. You can also use the longer electrical ties to secure the water bottles to the cage.

Always bring along tools: pliers, hammer, j-clips, j-clip pliers, wirecutters, duct tape etc. These are always helpful to make any repairs or adjustments to your wire bottoms or coops. If you prefer, some shows allow you to keep your Angoras in their carriers instead of using the coops. Taking the center out of the carrier will give them ample room for the weekend show trip.

If they are offering cooping at the show you may or may not prefer to use it. If you do use the cooping you will need wire bottoms or wire risers. The coops have wood floors so it is extremely important to have wire bottoms for the rabbits to sit on. You can either make them yourself or purchase them from a vendor who is going to be at the show. Be sure to order these from the vendor in advance and find out the size of the coop so they can be made to fit the coop. You will find not all coops are alike so be prepared when you go to shows you may have to adjust your risers to fit. You will find instructions on how to make them on www.nationalangorarabbitbreeders.com. It is also important to bring puppy pads along to put under the wire risers to absorb the urine and droppings...makes for much faster clean-up after the show.

Trash bags or plastic grocery bags. You'll need something to put the wool in when you groom as well as your trash and the puppy pads. Keeping the grooming area clean is sometimes a challenge. PLEASE clean up AS you groom. You will make a GREAT impression with the club hosting the show.

Grooming supplies. Bring whatever it is you normally use to groom your rabbits. Having a second set to put in your packed box for the show is a good idea!

Paper towels: To help with clean-up of bunnies and spills in the showroom.

Water: Always take either some water from home or purchase bottled water for the bunnies as sometimes the 'taste' of the water is different and they don't drink water as they should.

First aid kit: The kit should contain a triple anti-biotic ointment, band-aids, acid 4-way, benebac, etc.

Toys. bunnies LOVE toys so bring along plastic shower curtain rings and plastic golf balls, etc. It also gives them something to play with after being groomed instead of licking their coat!!

Folding chair: It's always nice to have something to sit on when grooming or visiting with fellow breeders.

Cart: Sure makes life easier getting the bunnies into the showroom and loading them up when you leave. Plus if you have several rabbits to take care of it is nice to have all of your supplies on the cart as you go from coop to coop,

Grooming table: If you don't have a grooming table or want to take one along; you stack some of your carriers on top of each other and bring an old sheet along to cover them...this makes a great grooming table!

Feed sacks: These work great to put in between the coops so the 'next door' neighbor doesn't chew or urinate on the wool of your bunny. You may find you need to do this even if they are in carriers and close to each other due to show room space.

Vanodine: It is best to have Vanodine or some disinfectant to spray the coops before putting your rabbits in them. Be sure to spray and let it dry first!

The day before you leave pack up their treats, feed, hay/straw, etc.

Registration for Show: Some clubs allow you to do pre-entries online or by mail. If you did pre-entry online be sure to take your confirmation sheet in case you need it. You may also want to take the show catalog, pedigrees, business cards, for sale cards (if you have some for sale and it is allowed by the show committee), extra paper, pens, etc

And of course last but not least pack up any 'human' treats in case there isn't a food vendor.

WHAT DO I DO WHEN I GET THERE

Find the registration table to ensure they have your entry and it is correct or if day of show entry, enter your Angoras. It is best to fill out the paper work BEFORE going to the show, this will give you more time to tend to those last minute clean ups the Angoras need. Check to see where the Angoras are located, if they don't have a specific area then you may want to see where other Angora breeders are setting up. If there is room you will probably want to set near them so you can learn things... then go get the bunnies if you haven't brought them in with you.

If it is a cooped show, each coop may have a card on it with the exhibitor's name, variety, class and the rabbit's ear number. They are arranged by variety and classes in the showroom (ie English angora white senior bucks, English angora white senior does, etc). If you have made a substitution

it is suggested you take a pen and write the correct ear number on the coop card so as to eliminate any confusion later. Also, if you have a bunny you did not bring then you need to write 'Scratch' across the card. You will put all of your bunnies into their coops and then

either take your carriers back out to your vehicle or put them in a storage area provided by the show. Sometimes if you use the coops you can put the carriers underneath them. Be sure to have your name on your carriers!!! Somehow many of them seem to look alike when you take them into the showroom...this will ensure you have your own carriers. A carrier that is left having the name on it made it easy for show host to contact the owner. Once the bunnies are all settled in, fed, watered, etc you then have time to visit with fellow breeders, visit the booths, etc.

THE DAY BEFORE THE SHOW

It is always best the day before the show to make sure your rabbits are groomed so you will only need to do some 'finishing' touches the morning of the show. You will also need to make sure the tattoo is in the left ear and legible. If a coop number is issued it has been written in the 'right' ear of the rabbit. Not all coop shows have coop numbers usually only the ARBA Convention.

IT'S SHOW TIME!!!

Usually a listing of what breeds are going to be judged are at a judging table. Check the judging tables to see when the Angoras are scheduled. It's best to check the breed before you as there are no specific times listed for judging unless your breed is first!!

DURING JUDGING:

Show etiquette is expected from exhibitors at and during the judging. After all, we are all there to exhibit our rabbits and to have an enjoyable experience!

Some of the most important rules at rabbit shows involve conduct at the show table during judging. After preparing and grooming your Angora(s) before a show, each class is called to the table and every animal is evaluated individually by the judge. The rules at every SINGLE ARBA show CLEARLY dictate that the judge is NOT, under any circumstances, to be advised of who owns the animal/s being presented in each class, or to receive that information indirectly through some other means. The judge should either turn their backs while the animals are being brought up or divert their attention in some other way to avoid bias and prejudice and to give every rabbit and exhibitor the benefit of the doubt. In addition to this, ear numbers are not to be checked or viewed until after the animals have been placed, and the judge must identify them in order to make comments and register the placements.

On the exhibitor's end, each show person is expected to place their rabbit into the cubby on the judging table, and step AWAY from the table in order to avoid identifying themselves as the owner of the animal/s. Exhibitors are NOT allowed to make comments of ANY sort with the intent of influencing the judge, they are NOT permitted to identify their rabbits, and they are not permitted to make comments regarding the faults and merits of ANYONE ELSE'S entries. Behaviors such as these are unethical to say the least but they shed a bad light on the breed, other breeders, and the perpetrator in particular who cannot let the quality of his/her rabbits speak for themselves but feels compelled to take things one step further by making underhanded attempts to influence the outcome of the competition.