

Fact sheet 4. Showmanship and parading



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There are people who have natural showmanship ability, but all goat exhibitors can learn some good techniques to improve their skills.

Preparation for a show

The amount of time that is required to train a goat for a show will depend on several things including:

- the nature of the goat – some goats are easy to gentle and train for a show, while others are difficult or nearly impossible to train
- the physical size of the exhibitor and how much experience they have
- the intensity of training – most goats can be trained if enough time and effort are spent.

Because schools wether goats are shown in halter breaking in an obvious way to start the process gently, especially if you have several goats. Inexpensive rope halters can be handmade or purchased from feed and livestock supply stores.

Goats should be caught by the hair under their chin with one hand on their horn and then haltered, and attached to a fence. Do not leave tied goats unattended and make sure not to tie them where they can injure themselves.

After your goat begins to settle and accept the halter and to be restrained, you can start teaching him to lead, using the halter and a lead to keep the goat's head up. Get someone to help by pushing the goat from behind whenever it stops do not pull their mohair or their tail as they will bork and sulk and squat. Teach the goat to lead with its front shoulder in line with your leg. The goat's head should be in front of your body.

The next step in the training process is to set the goat up properly, with the front and hind legs squarely under the body. Use the halter and lead to keep the body and neck straight, with the head in a high, proud position. Only halters are used in the show ring for wethers, as an occupational health and safety recommendation for school students. Stud animals are not shown in halters and are led by their long chin hair into the ring and while being held for judging.

After the training is complete, you may wish to practice showing. Set up your goat and show it while someone else handles it like a judge would. The goat must look good at all times. If the goat responds correctly, return it to the pen and do not overwork it.

Show ring

All the work you have put into planning, selecting, feeding, training and preparing have brought you and your goat to the show ring. Now it is your skill in exhibiting your goat that is most important. It is often the difference between winning and losing. By completing the preshow activities, you should be confident you can show your goat effectively.

You should be ready mentally and physically to enter the show ring for competition. You should wear clothes that are neat, dress jeans and shirt, but not be overdressed, and do not wear a cap or hat.

Some royal shows state that exhibitors must handle animals in white coats.

Before the show begins, make sure you are familiar with the show ring. When the judging begins, watch the judge if you can, to see how they work the goats. You will feel more comfortable if you know what to expect and what the judge will want you to do.

When the appropriate class is called, take your goat to the show ring. If the ring stewards do not line up the goats, find a place where your goat will look its best. Try to avoid corners of the ring and leave plenty of space between your goat and others.

Set your goat up, making sure its legs are set properly, the body, neck and head are in a straight line, and the goat's head is up and alert. Always show with both hands, avoiding putting your free hand behind your back so you can use it to keep your goat's head and body straight.

A good competitor must be alert and always know where the judge is at all times. Before the judge gets to you, set up your goat and be prepared. Remain calm and concentrate on showing. Be careful not to block the judge's view with your body. Always keep your goat between you and the judge. In large classes, it may take 20 minutes before the judge handles your goat. Be patient and allow your goat to relax.

In a major show, you may only have five seconds to actually show your goat. If the goat does not show properly when the judge handles it, you might get overlooked.

After handling your goat, the judge will usually step back and look at it. Be sure to keep the goat's head up and body, neck and head in a straight line. Keep one eye on the judge and one eye on your goat. It is your responsibility to watch the judge and not miss a decision.

If your goat is not presented in the final line-up, the first time, keep trying. Continue to keep it set up, remain alert and watch the judge. If your goat is pulled, circle it out of the line and follow the directions of the ring steward while continuing to keep an eye on the judge. Move your goat with style and at a steady, moderate pace.

Remember to keep showing at all times, because a class is not over until the ribbons are distributed.

Be courteous to fellow exhibitors.

A good exhibitor will emphasise the strong points and minimise the weak points of their goat.

Remain standing at all times and always display a pleasant facial expression.

Be a good sport, a graceful loser and a humble winner.

Good showmanship and parading is a craft

Know where the judge is and stay alert.

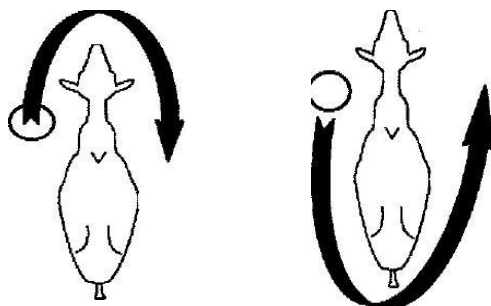
The judge may handle your goat at any moment or ask you to move to another place in the show ring. Moving goats from one point to another is just as important as correct positioning of their feet and controlling your animal. When a judge asks a exhibitor to move to another location, take the most direct path presented.

Goats should be turned slightly and pushed out of line if on a rear-view or pushed out of line before proceeding to the desired location with the goat between the exhibitor and judge

Do not push the goat straight back from the front or it will think you are gesture it to hold itself tense, and it will not move backward as desired.

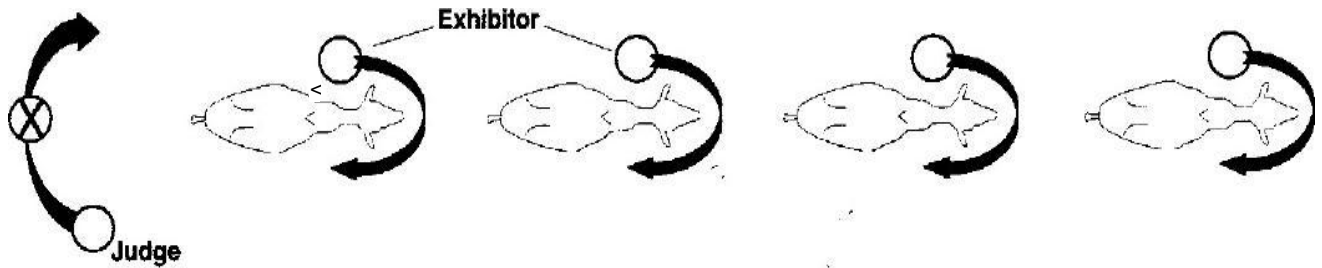
The exhibitor should maintain eye contact with the judge while frequently looking at the area in the show ring to move to.

When the exhibitor is required to change sides, or reverse parade he/she must move around the front of the goat always facing the animal. Never change hands behind your back. Do not step behind the goat.

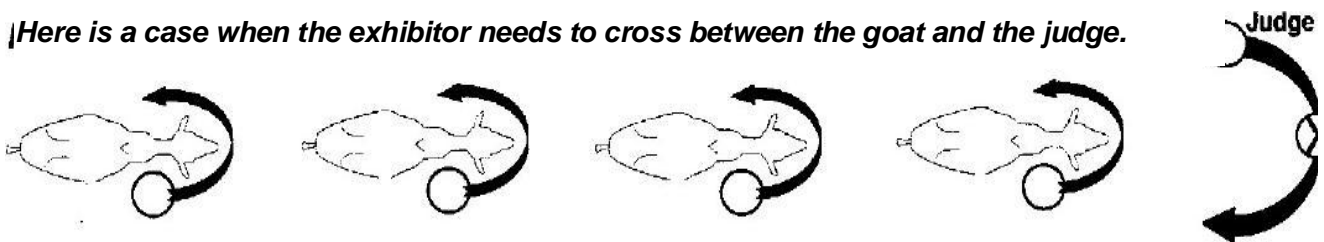


Correct Wrong
Cross in the front, never in the rear **Figure 1**

These illustrations show the exhibitors movements as the judge moves to view from a different side. The exhibitor should cross when the judge is at point. (X)



Here is a case when the exhibitor needs to cross between the goat and the judge.



Always keep the goat between you and the judge except when needing to cross the goat
 Do not cross at the rear of the goat.
 You can use either hand on the halter lead, depending on where the judge is standing.
 Once your goat is set up, leave him to settle. Keep your hands off the animal as much as possible.
 Do not draw the judge's attention away from the animal to you.

Some exhibitors prefer to squat beside their goat while they are waiting in line. Keep your knees off the ground.

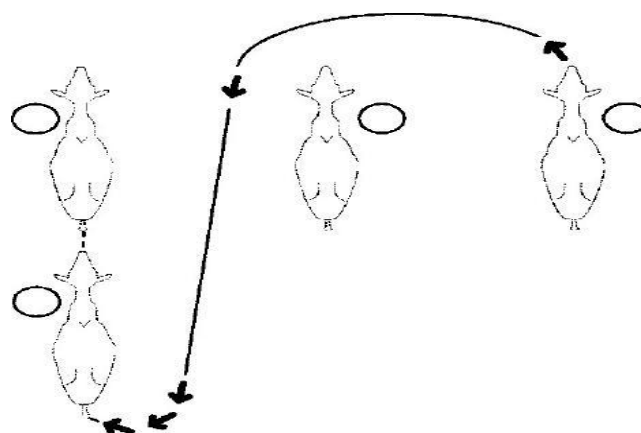
Be sure to stand when the judge approaches your animal.

When a judge asks you to change places in a head to tail sequence, lead the animal out of line and up or down the line on the side of the judge is directing you to do so. If the judge asks you to change places in a side by side sequence, lead your goat forward out of the line, up or down the line to the place indicated by the steward and back through the line.

Make a U-turn or turn clockwise to get back into position. Do not back your goat into a different position unless the distance is short.

Exhibitor changing places in the line-up

Judge(X)



NOTES