



## BASIC SHOWROOM COURTESY'S

### The unwritten rules of showing poultry

Knowing and following proper etiquette when attending or entering a poultry show creates a pleasurable experience for all involved: the show committee, the judges, the other exhibitors, visitors and of course, you. Most of these unwritten "rules" are really a matter of common sense and none of them are a matter of "life or death". These suggestions will make you feel like a seasoned exhibitor and not so much like a "rookie".

Fill out the entry form correctly and ALWAYS MAKE A COPY FOR YOURSELF, send it in on time and include any entry fee. Making a copy or yourself will ensure you will remember by show time what you entered. We all sometimes forget, and this will ensure our memories are correct. Take with you to the show!

If you are unsure of your breed or variety, if you are new to showing ask someone in the know before you submit your entry form. Another breeder, an experienced friend, someone on the show staff whose information is available on their Facebook page or website will be able to help. Making sure your entry is complete and correct can prevent the show committee from spending hours correcting a mistake that was made on an entry.

Unless you have an emergency such a bird that died do not ask the committee to change your entry. A last minute's change involves much paperwork and sometimes even requires the moving of cages in the showroom. *Any changes should not be requested after the showroom is set up.*

Coop cards are filled out using the *information you have put on your entry form*. Each bird's entry must be transferred to these cards either by hand or transferred into a computer program. They are only correct when you enter the correct information on your entry form.

Be aware when judging has begun. If there is a judge in the aisle you wish to walk down, be sure the judge is not there judging. Please stay out of that aisle. Some shows block off the aisle and some don't. It's a courtesy to the judge to let him focus on the birds he is judging and not having to move out of our way if we happened to want to walk down that aisle. Do not talk to the judge while he is judging your birds, "ever". The time to talk with him is after the show judging is complete. Most judges are happy to answer questions. Remember, the judge takes a bird out of the cage and checks it from beak to the toenails. Your bird may "look" in perfect condition and be a very good specimen of its breed but there may be another that is just a tad better in another breed in your class. Be respectful always.

Coop out time. All of us like to be acknowledged when we have achieved a long hard year or years of breeding birds. When you win at a show it's very nice to be recognized when the club hands out the awards. After you have acknowledged and congratulated the winner of the show then you should begin cooping out. Very often you will see people cooping out during the awards ceremony – they don't seem to care about the achievements of the winners – they didn't win so out they go. Please take this into consideration when it comes to cooping out your birds and heading home.