



Cavy Showmanship

The goal of Cavy Showmanship is to show the judge that you are confident and knowledgeable in the handling and examination of the animal.

Cavy showmanship competition will be a written test, due to lack of experience most participants have in handling a Cavy. This is done for the safety of the animal. The following information is a guideline to what may be on the test. You still need to seek out other 4-H members in the area so you can see how showmanship is done and get information you need to take the test. You should also review the Michigan State Cavy Fitting and Showmanship Guideline for information about handling and posing a cavy.

Examination of Cavies

The examination is used to look for signs of illness, disease, and disqualifications. You should have a Cavy person show you the steps and why or what they are looking for during each step. You can reference the Michigan 4-H Cavy Fitting and Showmanship Members Guide at <https://www.canr.msu.edu/resources/cavy-fitting-showmanship-member-s-guide-4h1345>.

1. Crown
2. Behind the ears
3. Around the ears
4. Eyes
5. Throat
6. Belly
7. Turn cavy over smoothly
8. Nose
9. Teeth
10. Hair under neck
11. Straightness of front legs
12. Front toe nails
13. Hair between front legs
14. Belly
15. Hind legs
16. Hind feet
17. Sex
18. Turn cavy into upright position
19. Coat color and length
20. Width
21. Set the cavy down and pose your arms to your side or behind your back and step

To contact an expert in your area, visit msue.anr.msu.edu/experts or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464)

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Showmanship Questions and Answers

Questions:

1. What is the most important vitamin in a Cavy diet?
2. What is the gestation period of a Cavy?
3. How many toenails are on the front foot of a Cavy?
4. How many toenails are on the back foot of the Cavy?
5. What is the most deadly virus in Cavies?
6. What is the term pea eye used for?
7. What is the term used for extra toes in a Cavy?
8. How many breeds of Cavies does the American Rabbit Breeders Association Recognize?
9. What are the different hair types between the different breeds of Cavies?

10. What is a male Cavy called?
11. What is a female Cavy called?
12. What is a baby Cavy called?

Answers:

1. Vitamin C
2. 68-72 days
3. 4
4. 3
5. Human Cold
6. A growth in the eye
7. Polydactyl
8. 13
9. Smooth-short haired, satin, longhaired, kinky, rosettes, and ringlets
10. Boar
11. Sow
12. Pup

