

Preparing for a show.

8 weeks before the show

- 1) Look at birds, pick out the show birds and inspect, look for lice, broken feathers etc. Pull broken feathers, cut first then pull a few days later.
- 2) Begin to handle birds band them for identification.
- 3) Separate the females from the males.
Do not crowd the birds, they will tend to pick at each other and fight. crowded birds are also harder to keep clean.
- 4) Check toe nails, spurs, and beak.. Trim as needed.
- 5) Clean legs... i.e... scaly leg clean with toothpick then dip legs in mineral oil & kerosene or just mineral oil. Mites must be smothered to get rid of them.
- 6) Make sure blood test card is current. This year the state will be looking for bands on all birds.

4-6 weeks before show

- 1) Add little Cod Liver oil in the feed. Put it on the top. Some black oil sunflower seed helps add shine to the feathers.
- 2) Check toe nails, beak and trim, as needed Check legs again for dryness and add mineral oil to legs.
- 3) Handle birds and begin to feed tidbits by hand every few days.

2 weeks before the show

- 1) Trim toe nails and beak.
- 2) Begin cleaning feathers with a cleaning rag.
- 3) Wash and oil combs, check for scabs etc. Put Vaseline on any scabs.
- 4) Send in entry form
- 5) Make sure you have the date, time, and directions to the show. Some shows are moving locations or dates this year.
- 6) Begin show cage training.
- 7) Locate and clean out the carrying cages.

Week of the show

- 1) Put show bag together. Include items such as trimmers, cleaning rag, shavings, feed, water bottle, mineral oil, show book, blood test card., directions to the show.
- 2) Wash birds, ideally 4-5 days before the show to let the feathers return to normal.
- 3) Check feet and beak. At this time all should be in order.
- 4) Handle birds daily.. feed tidbits.. inspect them like the judge. Move them around in the show cages so they get used to different birds next to them.
- 5) Continue to groom feathers and comb.

Day of the show

- 1) Get birds in the Coops early.
- 2) No water or feed for Crested and Bearded birds until after judging. If a two day show use Pop bottle fountains to water them and remove before judging.
- 3) Give birds a little food after they have been cooped in. Something they like or are used to.
- 4) Day before and day after show give the birds Biotin Stress Pack in the water for stress.
- 5) Check each birds before it is cooped in. Make any last adjustments, clean feet, beak, and comb. Massage and moisten comb to bring out redness.
- 6) Checkout the competition... try to pick out the winners prior to judging.
- 7) Make notes on the placing of all birds in your class. Note what was different in your birds and the winners.
- 8) Keep track of how each bird placed. Also make a note on who the judge was and any notes that indicate what he likes to see in your breed.
- 9) Talk to the judge after the judging is done. **You are not questioning his decisions**, you want to know what you need to work on. **Ask him what he liked about your birds, what things you need to watch out for and**