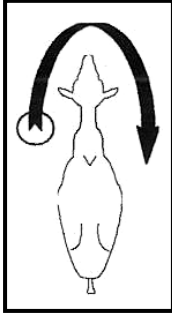


Change sides by crossing over to the front of your goats, **NEVER** cross behind the goat.



Watch the Judge for hand signals and/or verbal commands.

Stand, never kneel behind your goat. When not walking, the animal should be immediately set up in a correct show stance.

A correct show stance is one where the animal's legs are placed squarely underneath it.

Set up the end of the goat nearest the judge first, meaning, if the judge is standing at the head of the line, looking at the front of your goat, then set up the front legs first. If the judge is near the end of the line, then the rear legs would be set up first.

Place the front legs in a natural stance, perpendicular to the ground. Place the feet so that the legs are parallel to each other, no wider than the chest floor. Place the rear legs so that the hocks are directly below the pin bones, with the rear cannon perpendicular to the ground. Don't over spread the rear legs. You can level the top-line of your goat by "teasing" the goat in the loin. You simply put slight pressure on either side of the loin with your fingers, pressing down just in front of the hip bones.

Excessive handling of your goat will draw attention to its weaknesses, so set your goat up quickly and leave it alone.

***In Showmanship, your job is to accentuate the positive and downplay the negative.***

Have a positive attitude! Be confident that you are showing the animal well, and to the best of your ability. Don't get discouraged by an uncooperative animal, or more experienced showman in your class. Listen to the judge's reasons for the placings and learn from those reasons. Leave the ring with pride and confidence, and always shake the judge's hand and thank them for the experience. If you tried, and did your very best, you are a winner!

### **50 points Showmanship Ability**

This consists of following such basic rules as keeping the goat between the exhibitor and the judge, walking at a normal pace, changing sides by crossing in front of the animal, etc. Basically, this 50 points is based on your knowledge of the animal and correct ring procedure, and how well you and the animal work together as a team.

**40 points Grooming of the Animal** Includes the overall appearance of the animal in regards to health and condition, as well as cleanliness and proper clipping and grooming.

**10 points Appearance of Exhibitor** Based on the neatness and appropriateness of grooming and attire of the showperson.

American Goat Society  
PO Box 63748  
Pipe Creek, TX 78063  
Phone: 830-535-4247

Email: [agsgoat@live.com](mailto:agsgoat@live.com)  
Website: [www.americangoatsociety.com](http://www.americangoatsociety.com)



American Goat  
Society  
Purebred Herdbooks  
Since 1936

## **Showmanship Guide What Is Showmanship ?**

A good showman is a person that can effectively present an animal in such a way as to enhance its best characteristics.

In showmanship, you are judged on your abilities to both control and present your animal, and how you and your animal can work together as a team. Advance planning and practice are the keys to becoming a good showman.

Dairy goat showmanship not only generates enthusiasm in the show ring, but also teaches many valuable lessons that can be used in daily life.

These lessons include:

- responsibility
- learning about work and determination to reach a goal
- winning graciously, and losing with dignity.

## PREPARING FOR SHOWMANSHIP

- **The first thing to do is to choose an animal as your showmanship partner.** It is best to choose an animal that is appropriate for your size and age and one that you can easily control.
- Practice leading your animal, and spend time grooming, and touching the animal all over, so the goat will be comfortable being touched in the show ring when that time comes.
- The health and appearance of your goat will be very important in the show ring, so make certain that the animal is on a balanced diet, gets regular grooming and hoof trimming, and is in peak condition at show time, being neither under or over weight. It may be wise to give your goat a bath before the show, just to give it that show “bloom”.
- Clipping the showmanship goat is very important, and should be done in such a manner as not to leave clipper marks. Don't forget to neatly trim around the feet and hooves, and the inside of the ears. The ears, and the area around the tail, should be wiped clean just before you enter the show ring.
- Choose a collar for the goat that will be inconspicuous so as not to detract from the animal. Chain leads work well for this; however, leashes are not recommended.
- The judge may ask some questions of the showman, so have a basic knowledge of your goat. You should always know the age of your animal, if

it is bred or open, and, if a milker, the number of freshenings she has had, along with her last freshening date.

- You should also know as much as possible about goat anatomy. While very young showman may be asked few questions about body parts, as the age of the showman increase, you can expect more and more questions in regards to goat anatomy and conformation.
- A basic knowledge of the showmanship scorecard as well as the scorecard for bucks and does is helpful in order to understand the judges instructions and reasons.

## SHOWMANSHIP ATTIRE

“**Show whites**” are recommended for dairy goat showmanship, but it is acceptable to wear a clean white shirt and dark pants or skirt. 4H or FFA uniforms are acceptable as well. (Check individual show rules for requirements.) Wear a neat, button down or polo shirt. Faded blue jeans and/or tee shirts should not be worn. Your shirt should be tucked in. Wear a belt for neatness. Don't wear anything that may distract from the Judge's concentration or interfere with showing your goat. Remember that you are promoting the dairy goat industry and a professional appearance will leave a positive impression with the public.

## SHOW TIME!

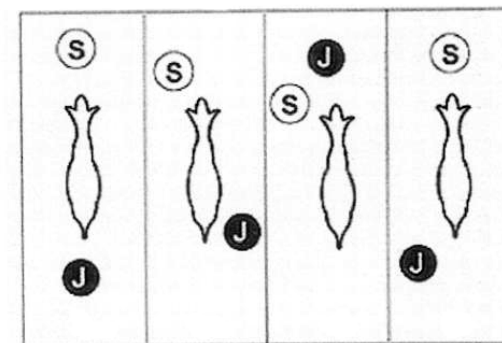
Be prepared, and “on deck” when your class is called. NEVER make the judge wait on you in a showmanship class (or in any other class.) Enter the ring slowly, walking your goat at a relaxed pace. You should be on the opposite side of your animal from the judge. Keep a smile on your face and your eye on the judge,.

**Three very important things to remember when showing your goat are:**

- 1. Keep the goat's head up** – Keep the collar high on the neck, just under the jaw, and keep the head up at all times. This is a very simple procedure, but one that makes a tremendous difference in the appearance of your animal.
- 2. Walk slowly** – Imagine your goat just “loafing” around the barn, and walk the animal at that pace. Correct conformation manifests itself in correct movement, and walking the animal at a relaxed pace will allow the judge to evaluate movement more effectively.
- 3. Don't crowd the animal in front of you.** This is very important. Always maintain at least a goat length between your animal and the animal ahead of you.

## RING PROCEDURE

Always stay on the opposite side of your animal from the judge, allowing the judge to clearly see your goat at all times. The image below shows the correct way to remain on the correct side of your animal.



*(Con't on back)*