

# Preparing a Dairy Animal for Show

COOPERATIVE  
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SERVICE



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## **Selection**

Select an animal that best fits you and fits the class age requirements. Try to choose an animal that is straight in her lines and exhibits appropriate breed characteristics.

## **Practice**

Nothing can substitute for practice with your animal. To begin breaking your animal to lead you will want to catch them and use a rope halter to tie them up. You will want to leave the animal tied for a few days. Once the animal is comfortable with the halter then you can begin trying to lead your animal. Walking your animal daily is the best. Once your animal is walking with you, always practice walking in a clockwise manner. You will want to also practice stopping your animal using the proper methods.

## **Washing**

You will want to wash your animal before you ever attend any shows. You will also need to wash your animal before clipping. To wash your animal use a mild liquid soap and plenty of water. Other things you will need are bucket, stiff bristle brush, curry comb, bleach, water hose, and nozzle. Hose your animal down until wet all over, then use the soap and lather the animal all over. You may need to use a curry comb to remove stubborn manure balls. Make sure you rinse the soap out thoroughly. You do not want to dry out your animal's hair coat. Pay special attention to removing soap and manure from the switch. Do not get water in your animal's ears. To clean your animal's ears use rubbing alcohol and a clean cloth. Use a soft brush to smooth down hair after rinsing.

## **Clipping**

Clipping takes lots of practice and patience. You may want to seek advice from an experienced adult. Dairy animals need to appear very lean so the animal is usually body clipped. Using livestock clippers begin clipping the animal at the tail. This gives your animal time to adjust to the new noise of the clippers. Then move to the rear legs and proceed up and forward. Remember to leave a 1 inch strip of hair across the topline. Clip the other side in the same manner and then move to the head. You may want to use smaller electric trimmers for the ears. On dairy cows you will also clip all the hair from the udder to show the udder veining and median suspensory ligament.

## **Veterinary Requirements**

Before you may show your animal you will have to have your animal inspected by a veterinarian. The veterinarian will issue you a set of health papers for your animal.

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### **Before Show Day**

Pack all your equipment in the show box and have it cleaned and ready for show day.

### **Show Day**

Remember to arrive early. You want to make sure you have plenty of time to allow your animal's hair to dry before entering the ring.