



Devon Cattle Breeders' Society

Guide to Show Etiquette

Showing can be great fun and an excellent way of promoting your herd. It can also be a daunting prospect if you are new to showing with what can seem like an array of rules, regulations and unspoken show etiquette.

This Guide should help you understand the basics so that you can get your showing career off on the right foot.

More help and advice can always be found; members of the Devon Cattle Breeders' Society are usually willing to help before and at Shows. If you know local DCBS members who are regulars on the show circuit, it is always worth getting in touch with them to ask for some advice. If you are not sure where to start, get in touch with the Breed Secretary who can put you in touch with other members happy to give help and moral support!

Before the Show

- Check that your animal(s) is eligible for entry to Devon classes. Shows require cattle entered for Devon classes to be birth notified and/or registered with the Devon Cattle Breeders' Society and to be at least 87.5% pure-bred. If in doubt, contact the Breed Secretary for clarification.
- Prepare your animals for the show ring. Make sure they are adequately halter-trained. This will require getting your animal used to the halter several weeks before show day. Train your animal to be tied up and be led on the halter – frequent and often is most effective.
- Make sure your animal is in show condition. This will almost certainly mean giving your show animal extra feed. Make sure their coat is clean and trimmed, ready to be smart on parade.
- Exhibitors may NOT enter an animal which is bred by the Judge. When entering animals for the show, remember to check who is judging your classes and refrain from entering any animal bred by the Judge.
- Ensure your entries are submitted before the closing date, and only bring cattle that have been entered. If for unforeseen reasons, you have to substitute an animal, be sure to contact the Show Secretary before the day to advise of the substitution.
- Remember that you are responsible for your animals at all times. If you know that you will be unable to be with your cattle for the whole duration of the show, then make sure you have arrangements in place for someone to keep an eye on your animals for you whilst you are away from them.
- Exhibitors are required to be fully aware of and compliant with the rules and regulations of the Show, which may place additional obligations on the exhibitor in addition to guidance given here.
- Exhibitors are required to be fully aware of and compliant with DCBS Society Rules applying to DCBS Members showing pedigree registered Devon Cattle (available from Breed Secretary)

In the Show Ring

- Dress smartly with a shirt, clean white showing coat and society tie. Ladies may prefer to wear a society lapel badge instead of a tie. Jeans are not recommended.
- Wear suitable sturdy footwear. Wellington boots or trainers are not suitable for the show ring.
- Do not eat whilst in the show ring and refrain from chatting to people ringside.
- NEVER wrap the halter rope around your hand. Do not allow ropes to trail – hold excess rope IN A LOOP in your hand.
- Maintain approximately 2-3metres between yourself and the animal in front.
- Be alert and watch your animal at all times – particularly animals being shown for the first time.
- In the line-up, leave a good distance between your animal and the animals to your left and right. This is particularly important with bulls.
- Bulls are to have two attendants, one leading and the other walking behind keeping a safe distance between themselves and the following animal.
- Be aware of the Judge at all times and be ready to respond to his instructions. Speak to the Judge only when invited to do so by him.
- The Judge may ask you about the age of your animal. Answer the question succinctly. Do not go on to give the Judge an account of your animal's life history!
- Ensure your animal has a correctly fitted halter. If in doubt, ask an experienced showman for guidance.
- Minimise the risk of your animal being involved in an incident at the show: ensure that the animal is properly halter-trained and use a bulldog clip for female cattle to ensure you have adequate control of your animal.
- ALWAYS accept the Judge's decision with good grace.
- Shake hands and congratulate fellow competitors in the line-up.
- At all times, use good manners towards your fellow-competitors, stewards and of course the Judge.
- Part of your role as an exhibitor is to be an ambassador for your breed and your society. Regardless of whether you have a successful day or find yourself further down the line, please ensure you are courteous at all times to everyone but particularly your fellow-exhibitors, stewards, judges, show staff, and others. If you are invited to say a few words to the microphone, take the opportunity to highlight the merits of the breed.
- As an ambassador for the breed, it is expected that exhibitors will parade at least one animal in the Grand Parades *particularly if they have cattle that are class winners.*