

## SHOWHALL ETIQUETTE

By Micheal Tarvin, May, 2023

With show season starting back, I wanted to share a few of my thoughts to remember and show day etiquette:

- 1) Aisles can be small. Always remember to keep your supplies and travel boxes tidy and tucked away.
- 2) Don't forget to trim your beaks and nails. Many shows I have attended I see where judges have written on the coop cards where an exhibitor forgot. The littlest details are what can take you the farthest or limit your success.
- 3) When judging begins, stay out of the aisle when the judge is judging.
- 4) Do not distract or talk to the judge when they are judging, especially when they are judging the class you have birds entered in. If you have questions about placing or marks on the coop card, wait until after the show to talk to the judge. The judge is trying to focus and do their job.
- 5) Be a good sport. Show the other exhibitors and the club hosting the show respect by staying through the awards. It's easy to not be happy when you don't succeed in the show hall. Just because you did not win that day does not mean the exhibitor who did, didn't put in any less work than you. Or that your bird was not as good, judges place the class the way they see it at that one moment in time,
- 6) When the awards are over and it is time to go, be careful and mindful of what you are grabbing, whether it be travel boxes or birds.
- 7) After the show is over and you have loaded your birds back into your boxes, help the club hosting by taking down your coop cards, shutting the coop door completely, and picking up any trash you might have left under the coops.
- 8) Remember and be mindful that someone is always watching you, especially the youth. Be conscious of that and be an example for how to conduct yourself.
- 9) One of the best pieces of advice I received early on when I started showing and has always stuck with me was: The best bird there that day seldom ever wins. As long as you are proud of what you are putting back into your boxes to take home at the end of the show is all that matters. If you are not, then you know the work that needs to be done for you to get there.
- 10) One last thing I always remember when it comes to show day is: For 10 different birds, with 10 different judges, on 10 different days, there will always be 10 different results. Judges see the birds at just one moment in time and the birds may look different for them than when you looked at the birds for many different reasons such as: depending on time of day, whether on top or bottom of a double stacked coop, or even the lighting.