Fitting and Grooming for Youth Market Doe Shows in Oklahoma

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• Remember – **ALWAYS SAFETY FIRST** – Never use anything that does not appear safe. If you don’t think something is right, stop and ask someone before you do it. Better to be safe than sorry.

• Never leave an animal tied up alone or on the stand alone. Learn how to tie a quick release knot. We suggest the slip knot.

• Never wash an animal in cold weather without the ability to dry them and warm them up quickly. Always wash and completely dry your animal before you start clipping to preserve the life of your clipper blades and a smoother clipping job.

• Until you feel confident in your ability to trim, never start out on your show animal, practice on an older animal or an animal that won’t go to the show ring.
  - Equipment: Foot trimmers, clippers and shampoo. The rest of what we use is nice to have.
    - Halter
    - Grooming Stand
    - Clippers with #10 blade and 5/8” blade (Andis or Oster blades. I think Wahl’s are coming out with a line comparable to the Andis and Oster)
    - Brushes and shedding comb
    - Coat finisher
  - Start about 6 weeks out before your first show to get your animal into condition.
    - We condition our animals by worming, vaccinating, treating with a parasite control and good feed and hay. We suggest worming with Cydectin (1 cc per 10 pounds), vaccinating (CDT – Covexin 8, follow label), parasite control (Cylence 1 cc per 25 pounds along the back). We recommend and use Honor Show Feeds and high quality alfalfa hay.

• About a week before the show, wash your animal and trim it’s feet. This will give the animal time to adjust to it’s new “shoes” (feet). A couple of days before the show, rewash and finish trimming.

• A rule of thumb, if you cut long at first, then you can trim out faults. If you start short, you have no way to correct mistakes.

• We start with a # 10 and trim the wild hairs on the following places:
  - Ears
  - Chest floor
  - Front legs, dew claw, pasterns and hoof band
  - Belly
  - Tail
  - Hip
  - Hock

• We will change blades and use the 5/8 blade on the belly and hip depending on the hair length, type and quality. We will also use the shedding blade along the neck, topline and hip to smooth it out.
The proper citation for this article is:

Fitting and Grooming for Youth Market Wether Shows in Oklahoma

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- Never wash an animal in cold weather without the ability to dry them and warm them up quickly. Always wash and completely dry your animal before you start clipping to preserve the life of your clipper blades and a smoother clipping job.
  - Equipment: Foot trimmers, Lister Stablemate clippers and shampoo. Some other equipment that we like to use:
    * Halter
    * Grooming Stand
    * Slick sweater
    * Body blanket
    * Small clippers with #10 blade for small areas
      ◊ Head, Feet, Trim legs, Horn base, Tail
- The wethers are completely slick shorn above the hocks. It is not wise to leave hair on the wethers. Leaving lots of hair on wethers make the wethers to appear fat and overly conditioned and finished when the judge handles them and analyzes them at a show.
- To trim below the hocks and tail, be very careful. You do not want to slick shear the legs. You only need to trim up the wild hair. You want to leave as much hair on as possible. You do not want the animal to appear “deer like”. You will want to trim the hoof band and slick up the tail. The head needs to be slick sheared paying special attention under the chin and around the horns. Leave no hair on in the head area. I suggest using a small clipper such as the doe clippers around the head, leg and tail area with a number 10 blade. The tail should be trimmed up close but not completely sheared.
- Keep the blades oiled every 10 minutes or every time you switch sides on an animal.
- If the weather is cold, be sure to cover up your animal with blankets and slickies and use a heat lamp if necessary.
- Never, Never, Never, Never, Never, Never, Never, Never, Never, Never, Never, Never trim a doe in this fashion unless you plan on showing her with wethers for her show career. She will not compete in a regular doe show if she is slick sheared.
- Some suppliers that we use and are reputable dealers.
  ◦ Outback Laboratories - www.outbacklabs.com - 405-527-6355
  ◦ Hoegger Caprine Supply - 1800-221-4628 – www.thegoatstore.com