

Alberta Poultry Breeders Association

Tips for new Exhibitors

Topic: Arriving at your First Show

So you've decided to enter a few birds in an APBA Poultry show! You've read the Show Book, decided which birds you want to enter, sent in your entry form and paid your fees. Your birds are clean and show-ready. (Bathing and other show prep is covered in another "Tips for Exhibitors" page.)

It pays to be well organized ahead of time with your supplies gathered, and your route and travel plans arranged. Be sure to pack feed for your birds. You might also want to bring a few supplies for last minute grooming such as baby wipes, Vet RX or baby oil, nail clippers, and a microfiber cloth or silk rag to wipe away dust. You might find it handy to have notebook along. Have your phone charged up or a camera along to take some photos of your birds. If you are bringing children it's a good idea to pack snacks and activities to keep them busy and entertained.

Allow yourself some extra time to make sure you get to the venue on time, without feeling hurried or anxious. Transport your birds in a pet carrier, crate or well-ventilated cardboard box with deep shavings to help prevent soiling enroute. Arrive within the designated coop-in times and there will be a cage set up and ready for your bird.

As you enter the building look for a show office, or stop at the reception area to check in. Pick up an exhibitor list to find your exhibitor number. Feel free to take a stroll through the aisles to find where your birds are to be placed, before hauling your crates around. There will be volunteers ready to assist if you need help finding the correct class and the cage where your bird belongs. Look for the tag on the cage with your number on it, and double check that the information on the tag is correct before placing your bird in the cage.

This is a good time to do any last-minute touch-ups. Once your birds are cooped in, you can give them some water in the cup provided. Some exhibitors prefer not to feed their birds on show day until after their class has been judged, but use your own discretion. If the class will be judged later in the day you might want to give them some food as well. Sometimes volunteers will help with watering duties but it's your responsibility as owner to make sure your birds are cared for.

Once your birds are settled in it's time for you to relax, maybe find yourself a coffee and get ready to enjoy the exciting experience of being a poultry show exhibitor!

