

Etiquette, Reputable & Sportsmanship

Etiquette, Webster's dictionary says: "the forms, manners, and ceremonies established by convention as acceptable or required in social relations, in a profession, or in official life".

Reputable, in Webster's dictionary says: "in good repute; having a good reputation; well thought-of; respectable".

Sportsmanship in Webster's dictionary says: "qualities and behavior befitting a sportsman".

All of these words can apply to raising rabbits. Lets start with purchasing rabbits. You certainly want to purchase your first rabbits from a reputable breeder. Most reputable breeders have an unwritten code of ethics that they live by. They will be upfront and honest in their dealings with new and old rabbit enthusiasts. If the animal has a disqualification, they will tell you about it. In some breeds it is perfectly acceptable to use mis-marked animals for breeding. As the buyer, you would want to look at each animal you purchase for disqualifications. Some do get by every once in a while. If you find one at a later time (within reason), most breeders will exchange it if you so desire. A reputable breeder will also have their pedigrees to go along with the animal or shortly judging.

When showing your animals, have them groomed and ready to go. Don't be the exhibitor that has to be called two and three times. Place your rabbit in the show coop and step back. After it is placed, remove rabbits from the table graciously. If it first off the table, don't be one of those exhibitors that say "it was Best of Breed last week". Rabbits do change week to week and so does the competition. If yours is the 1st place animal, stand back and enjoy the win quietly. Have a good sportsman like attitude. It's contagious.

The word etiquette follows through to all of the above. If you are a reputable breeder and have good sportsmanship while showing, you will also have good acceptable social relations in your profession, in other words, you will have proper etiquette.