

SMCAA – A GUIDE TO SHOWING



OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS available from the Association: MEASURING GUIDELINES - BREED UNIFORM

SHOW AND JUDGING TERMINOLOGY – BULLYING - SELECTION AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BREED CAPTAIN

This is a very comprehensive document. For those of you who have never shown before, please **DO NOT** feel intimidated by the size of its content. It is intended to give you the benefit of the experience gained by a number of members over many years of showing, and hopefully will cover any questions you might have. The more information you have at your disposal, the better prepared you will be to succeed, and the more comfortable you will feel in your endeavours. This document gives you the wisdom which has come from experience.

- There are also many good publications and websites which can assist you, and it may as well be possible to attend some show preparation field days.
- The main purpose of showing is to promote both your stud and the breed.
- You **MUST** be a **FINANCIAL MEMBER** of the **SMCAA**.
- All animals **MUST** be appropriately registered with the **SMCAA**.
- The Association should be notified of shows you will be attending for insurance purposes.
- Your behaviour at a show reflects upon the breed, your stud and yourself; you have come to win, but not at any cost.
- Showing can give you levels of highs and lows, but if people work together it can be exhilarating.
- The use of sedatives to subdue an animal is prohibited by the SMCAA.

BREED/SHED CAPTAIN

- The Breed Captain is to be voted and agreed upon by all members exhibiting at the bigger shows. This can be done by ballot or group discussion, either prior to or after arriving at the show, provided all exhibitors are included. When only a small group is showing the responsibility could be shared.
- For the Breed Captain's responsibilities see document: SELECTION & RESPONSIBILITIES OF BREED CAPTAIN.

BEFORE THE SHOW

- Your animals **MUST** be registered with the SMCAA, be tattooed and have a NLIS device fitted. It is a good idea to take some spare NLIS devices and an applicator, so that one can be replaced if it has come out.
- Study the show schedule well in advance to allow enough time to comply with show regulations:
 - Close of entry dates.
 - Suitable classes for your animals.
 - Maximum age for a calf to be shown with its mother.
 - Calves cannot usually be shown in an individual class, and then with a cow.
 - Check the age at which it is necessary for a young bull to be fitted with a nose ring.
 - Show societies also have a minimum age for a handler to lead animals (bulls in particular) in the show ring.
 - Johne's Disease status permit.
 - PI Pestivirus test results if required. (Not required in all states)
 - Tick and/or lice control. Lice are photo-sensitive (don't like sunlight) & can cause patchy coats, especially in dark-coated animals, for the spring shows. Get in early & treat throughout winter to avoid this.
 - Permit requirements: NVD (National Vendor Declaration) form (or SA Cattle & Buffalo Movement form may also be used in SA), NHD form (National Health Declaration). These will need to be handed in to the show society upon arrival. A permit may also be required to cross a state border. [Approved by the Board:](#)



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BEFORE THE SHOW continued

- Allowable size for your show/stud banner.
- Promotional costs for the group of members at any show should be discussed with the state Breeders' Group, and funded by the group, unless the breeder wishes to promote their own stud and cover costs themselves.
- Check SMCAA show regulations and uniform requirements.

ANIMAL SELECTION

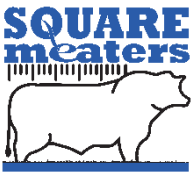
If you are new to showing, you may need some assistance in selecting your show team. Don't be afraid to ask for assistance. Your local stock and station agent may be able to put you in contact with a local beef cattle judge who can help. Other studs will usually be only too happy to put you on the right path.

- Don't put too much pressure on yourself by trying to prepare too many animals.
- Be mindful that the animals you have on display will be representing and promoting both your stud and the breed, and so should be:
 - Of true Square Meater type....
 - Of a standard of the best of the breed....
 - In good condition, quiet and well-mannered.
- Square Meaters are a height measured breed and regulations exist for monthly minimum and maximum heights for entry to the show ring. All exhibits WILL BE MEASURED at Royal Shows and major shows. Check at the initial stage of selection to see that the animal will conform, and then again just prior to show day.
- If showing older females, and they are above the age when they should have a calf (just turning or turned 2 years old for the Square Meaters' breed), then make sure you are showing a cow and calf unit. It is very rare to have a female of this age or older without a calf, considered by the judge. Check if male calves must be entire.
- Don't take cattle you weren't able to break in successfully. Not all animals will have a suitable temperament and disposition for the show ring. Some will be too nervous and would be better left at home.

PREPARATION (Animals & Equipment etc.)

- Preferably, for a first time, take cattle to a small show if you are intending to show at a Royal or major show.
- Plan your animals' nutrition and rations and introduce them slowly. Go carefully as the Square Meaters breed can lay down fat very quickly; you are just looking for a nice even coverage.
- Make sure you have enough time to have your animals well prepared; they should be broken in well in advance and worked with nose dog, cane, ribbons, noise, wash, blower, flags and pushers etc. Tie them up, handle them regularly, and don't forget to give them plenty of practice with the nose dogs.
- If possible, load and unload your animals on their means of transport to the show, and even take them on a short ride so they become accustomed to loading and travel. You don't want the stress of them not loading on the day you are ready to go.
- Grooming and washing your cattle will not just prepare their coats. It is also a great way to quieten them and gain their trust. Wash them several times before the show.
- Plan to clip the cattle 3-4 weeks before the show. They can be tidied up at a later date. You can arrange for someone else to do this for you.
- Check your animals' feet to see if they need trimming. They can grow too long if the animals are on soft soil for a long period of time.
- Make sure leather halters are clean and adjusted correctly.
- You will also require neck ropes (which you can easily make yourself) or collars for your animals when securing them in the shed.
- Most big show societies will provide bedding for your animals, the cost of which is built in to the entry fees. If not mentioned, check with the show society as you may have to provide your own. You will usually need to take your own bedding to the smaller shows.
- If possible, visit the show grounds prior to show day to familiarize yourself with the facilities. Check out the entry point to the showgrounds, loading ramps, where the cattle will be housed, areas to store feed and equipment, wash-bay facilities, toilets and camping/locker facilities if you are staying on the grounds.
- Book or plan your own accommodation.
- Arrange transport for your animals.

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PREPARATION (Animals & Equipment etc.) continued

- Make a comprehensive list of EVERYTHING you need to take for both you and the cattle, and tick off as you pack it. Include spare halters etc. in case of breakage, a wheelbarrow and tools for keeping stalls clean, washing and grooming gear, feed, water additives eg red jelly crystals, molasses, or red cordial if your cattle refuse the water provided due to chlorine content, talcum powder to help soak up oil used on bulls for scanning and Vix vapour rub to try to disguise the smell of a female that has come in to season.
- At some shows it is possible to set up your area days before your cattle are due to arrive; make enquiries.
- At the larger shows, you may need to have your stock on the grounds days prior to your judging day.
- Bump in times, and bump out times are the days and hours that the show society allows exhibitors to enter or leave the grounds with their cattle.

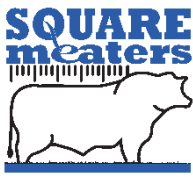
BEFORE LEAVING HOME

- Notify the Association of planned travel to and from shows for insurance purposes.
- Make sure you have adequate public liability insurance. The show society may ask you for a certificate of currency of your policy as a part of your entry forms, and they may also ask you to sign an indemnity form.
- Arrange transport for your animals.
- Allow plenty of time to load cattle, equipment and feed.
- If necessary, plan/book your own accommodation. Some shows will have some type of accommodation available.
- Kitchen facilities are also available at some shows, and exhibitors can take their own fridge, microwave, kettle, toaster etc.

AT THE SHOW

- On arrival at the grounds, find the cattle office, as they or a steward will direct you to your allocated area to house your cattle during the show. Some shows will have plans of stall allocations posted throughout the cattle pavilion.
- Schedules and neck cards may be provided on your arrival, or made available at a later time. Neck cards are to be placed either around your animal's neck or worn on the handler's uniform. They need to be visual to the ring steward at the judging ring; at larger shows there will have been a shed/breed captain elected who will be able to assist you with any questions you may have.
- Abide by the rules.
- Cooperate with fellow competitors. Be thoughtful in the location of your bulls with regard to other bulls so that they don't become agitated & difficult to handle, and also that of females that have/are likely to come in to season.
- Offer assistance to fellow exhibitors, but never touch their animals unless requested, or you have to assist their animals in the case of an emergency. At no time is an animal to be handled by other breeders without permission from the owner.
- Animals should arrive as clean as possible and be maintained in a clean, well-groomed condition at all times. Most competitors will wash their cattle as soon as possible after arrival so that anyone viewing them will see well-presented animals. Remember that one of the reasons for attending the show is to present your cattle to the public and potential buyers. You, your stud, your animals and the breed are on display from the moment you arrive.
- There are always plenty of experienced people at shows to help you out; don't hesitate to ask for help, not just from other Square Meater breeders; exhibitors from other breeds are very friendly and very willing to help also.
- Collect the beef entries catalogue and all neck cards. Check that all relevant information is correct.
- Check your breed entries and advise the beef committee of any scratchings.
- All cattle on the grounds will have their NLIS devices scanned. The shed captain or one of the society's cattle committee will advise at what time this will be done. You need to make sure you are with your animals when required.
- A suitable time will be decided by the shed captain for the checking of tattoos, and the height measuring of all Square Meaters exhibits to check that they conform with the breed requirements.
- Always be aware of the public moving around your animals, as many will not have any livestock experience.
- When moving your animals around the grounds, even if only for a short distance, be sure the animal is always under control. Females are required to have a nose clip and lead, and bulls a lead on their nose ring. This is both for the safety of all and also for insurance purposes.

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AT THE SHOW continued

- If an animal becomes sick the show society cattle committee must be notified. Most shows either have a vet available on the grounds or one on call. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES administer any drugs to your animals yourself as this is part of show societies' regulations, and needs to be done by the vet.

IN THE SHED

- The breed display is best presented with uniform curtains.
- Keep stalls and walkways as clean and tidy as possible at all times, with a minimum of clutter. Be considerate of those around you by keeping walk ways clear for both the public and other exhibitors.
- It is a good idea to remove your animals from the shed as early as possible each day, take them for a walk in the exercise area if one is available, and tie them up outside. This not only gives them some exercise and fresh air, but also provides the ideal opportunity to muck out their beds and replace bedding where required. Your cattle can then be returned to a nice clean area with their breakfast awaiting them. Some shows require this to be completed before the gates are opened to the public.
- Be polite and well-mannered at all times.

MEASURING

- Animals should be measured on even ground, preferably in a crush, definitely not in a gutter.
- See SHOW MEASUREMENTS & PROCEDURES document for further information on Measuring.

THE SHOW RING

- Organize handlers in advance.
- Fit show halters prior to leaving the sheds. It is a good idea to place a work halter over the show halter for tying up outside the ring, and don't tie calves up too close to mum where they can reach her and empty half her udder!
- Take grooming equipment and a bucket of water and sponge to the collecting area for last minute touch ups.
- Show respect for the judge and the breed by dressing appropriately with the correct, clean and neat uniform, including a hat, good shirt with collar and tie, vest and good dark blue jeans. Don't forget to change from your gum boots!
- Be early to the ring; make sure that you are punctual.
- Even if you know the judge well, don't make it difficult for him by being too friendly before judging.
- Be ready to go in the ring, and respond to instructions. Be aware of when your class is on, and be ready. The steward will guide you upon entering the ring.
- REMAIN CALM. Your animals will sense your nervousness, and stress as well. The best way to do this is to be well organized, and always allow plenty of time.
- Watch the judge and listen to the steward. Respond promptly to instructions.
- If you get into trouble the steward will be there to help you.
- Respect other competitors, and keep a reasonable distance from the animal in front.
- Be a good winner or loser. (Don't roll your eyes!) Remember to congratulate the winner.
- Never criticize the judge in the ring – if they have not given an explanation in their summary, or you have not been able to hear it ('someone' invariably moos loudly at the crucial moment!), after judging is completed seek him/her out to have a private discussion. At the end of the day, it is the judge's decision as to which animal, IN THEIR EYES, best represents the breed.
- If you are placed 2nd in a class, don't move far from the ring, as if the animal placed first in your class is awarded 'champion', then you will be required to return to the ring to be considered for the reserve champion. The same applies if you have been awarded champion for an age division, in which case you will be required for the judging of the Grand Champion of your breed. All the major shows will also have an interbreed competition, which is made up of both the male and female Grand Champions of all the breeds. You therefore need to be ready to take part in the interbreed and, usually, the Grand Parade as well.
- Substantial prize money is available for winners in led steer classes, and will be paid to the person/breeder who **NOMINATED** the animal.
- After winning classes for steers, it is the breeder's responsibility to notify the Association of their achievements so that prize money can be paid.

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