

# Properly Presenting Coated Cavies on Boards: A Judge's Perspective

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Judges are sympathetic to all the problems of breeding and showing. We have been there, done that. However when the cavy comes to the table, it is judged as presented. We don't know what you or your cavy have been through to get to this point and can't use that in judging even if we did.

The expectations of an entry are to be clean, with trimmed toenails and no faking, plucking or additives in the coat that makes it unnatural. The show board should be regulation. It is greatly appreciated to have a cavy on a board that sits there and does not run off the board or bite the judge.

It is also greatly appreciated and admired to have a cavy that has had a bath and groomed out nicely.

Though tempting to do, please refrain from grooming once the cavy is presented to the judge. It is against ARBA rules.

If you have presented your coated cavy on a board other than regulation, I am within my rights to remove it from the board. I may ask for a regulation board if one is available to replace it on. The Standard of Perfection will give you the dimensions and requirements for a regulation grooming board.

Texels should not have any product in their coats to stiffen the coat or wet it. Other long hairs should also be presented in their natural states. There may be a residual odor from the shampoo but all products should be rinsed out thoroughly and the coat dried completely. Dampness may be present in the rear from recent urinating on the show board and can't be helped. Dirty unclipped nails are really not excusable. Condition is only 10 points, but that is the part you have almost everything to do with as an

exhibitor. Longtime neglect is hard to disguise. You may not be able to change the color, type, coat structure, etc., but as an exhibitor you have some control on condition. Yes, the cavy could have trimmed its coat in a few places. But if you evened it up with scissors, it will look blunt cut, a "no-no."

One sore subject is the over handling of longhairs, especially Texels, by the judge. To judges out there, you can carefully lift the Texel up from underneath, standing it on its back feet to look at the belly and other areas. You can lift the chin to look at the teeth. This avoids clamping your hands around the shoulder area where the coat is fragile. For a wiggly cavy, you may have to pick it up the traditional way, ONCE, not over and over again. Running your fingers through and through the coat or over handling it is NOT necessary. You will earn the respect of the exhibitors if you will handle those longhaired breeds properly and carefully.

Exhibitors appreciate the show order going smoothly enough that their coated cavies don't have to be up on boards any longer than necessary. Asking permission to place an unruly cavy under its board or in a coop is appreciated, as some exhibitors don't want this alternative and would rather take care of tending it themselves.

*These are my personal opinions and may be subject to change as input comes in from others' views and expertise. We can learn from each other, so if you have comments, please send them to me at [sandyrose18@hotmail.com](mailto:sandyrose18@hotmail.com). — Rosalie*

