PDCA Showmanship Evaluation Card
(Revised 2016)

It is important that participants in showmanship ensure that their animal is in proper body condition and growth based on the age of the animal. Horns are to be removed at an appropriate age to provide a safer environment for the leadsperson. Feet should be properly trimmed to promote ease of movement for the animal. These practices will show good husbandry skills of the participant as well as a positive image for the dairy industry.

PDCA recommends the following levels of discrimination in the judging of showmanship competitions.

**Slight Discriminations**

**Exhibitor**
- Inappropriate halter (beef, nylon, rope)
- Lead strap tightly looped
- Failure to enter the ring walking forward at a smooth, efficient pace
- Sidesteps when leading calf
- Has stiff outstretched arm
- Has poor posture – either overly stiff or slumped, sloppy
- Improper head carriage, animal’s nose is too high
- Calf’s head is not turned slightly toward judge when hide is felt
- Stepping on or kicking at the animal’s front feet. (Note that a slight touch to move animal’s front feet is allowed and should not be discriminated against)
- Inappropriate size of calf for competitor

**Animal**
- Minor instances of animal not handling well
- Is not alert
- Muzzle is not wiped clean
- Switch is not brushed and fluffed
- Clipping lines not properly blended*

**Moderate Discriminations**

**Exhibitor**
- Not wearing white clothing or show-approved professional attire
- Inappropriate or unprofessional attire that draws attention to the exhibitor
- Wearing clothing with farm or commercial advertising/logos
- Does not know birth date, fresh date, breeding date, due date
- Unable to recognize type faults of the animal*
- Halter not fitting or put together properly
- Holding the halter in the right hand
- Holding the lead strap too far from the halter
- Has fingers in ring of the halter
- Failure to hold throat when needed
- Improper head carriage, animal’s head held too low
- Unable to show animal to best advantage
- Slow response to judge or ring official
- Inattentiveness
- Watching the judge too intently
- Over-showing
- Leading too slowly
- Has elbow or hands up
- Is too far to outside or inside of ring

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*Note: An asterisk indicates a criterion that may be subjective or may vary based on the breed or class of animal being judged.
Incorrect spacing to the animal in front when on parade
Once all animals have entered the ring, does not walk backwards while on parade and during close inspection
Doesn’t turn and walk forward quickly into line
Failure to switch rear legs when the judge moves around the animal on the outside of the ring during parade (heifers, rear leg nearest the judge back; milking and dry cows, rear leg nearest the judge forward)
Failure to correctly position animal in lineup (heifers on outer edge of lineup, outside hind leg back; inner lineup heifers, comfortably posed to show fewest faults; cows, rear leg nearest judge forward)
Front legs not squarely positioned
Does not keep animal straight from head to tail in lineup
Crowding or bumping other animals when pulled in line
Leaving extra space in line
Failure to maintain a straight lineup
Moves excessively in line
Unable to back up animal
Chewing gum

Animal

Legs not clipped
Dirt/dust in hair coat
Dirt/wax in ears
Feet not cleaned
Excessive use of hair sprays, powder and other fitting products

Clipping too early; hair appears too long
Incomplete clipping
Excessive clipping

Serious Discriminations

Exhibitor

Lead strap looped & fastened
Striking the animal
Positioning animal’s rear legs by stepping on rear feet
Fusses with or moves calf to the extreme

Minor instances of unsportsmanlike conduct
Is late to class
Wearing inappropriate shoes
Chewing tobacco
Carries or talks on a cell phone

Animal

Animal causing disturbances to others

Disqualification

Violations of PDCA Show Ring Code of Ethics
Unsportsmanlike conduct
Repeated striking of the animal

Recommendation for the evaluation of topline:
Topline is groomed, doesn’t distract from the animal’s overall appearance, conforms to the guidelines of the PDCA Showring Code of Ethics.*

*Expectations should be age appropriate and at some shows, these fitting criteria may be significantly downplayed at the discretion of show management and with appropriate communication to exhibitors.