



For the Beginner How a Poultry Showroom for Purebred Exhibition Poultry is laid out at a "sanctioned" show.



Photo is of a showroom before all the birds have been checked in.

Are you visiting OR showing "purebred exhibition poultry" show?

**Hopefully this will help you understand what you are seeing when you walk in
and see all those cages in rows for the first time.**

HOW IS A SANCTIONED SHOWROOM LAID OUT AND WHAT WILL I SEE?

Poultry shows are generally open to four types of fowl recognized by the American Poultry Association (APA) and the bantam classes of the American Bantam Association (ABA). Each club has a book listing the breeds that are accepted by each association. The American Standard of Perfection published by the APA is one book that contains all fowl (bantam, large chickens, waterfowl, turkeys and guineas) and the Bantam Standard published by the ABA (only contains all bantam chickens & waterfowl).

Chickens, turkeys, guineas and all types of waterfowl are shown at most shows but chickens are the most common. It may appear at first glance that there are wall-to-wall cages in no particular order. *However*, they are in order, someone has worked hard to organize and layout the cage set up. The pattern may not be apparent, but once you know what you are looking at, it will start to make sense.

The first thing you will notice is there is row after row after row of cages. Some of the cages are bigger than other cages. The reason for this is there are very large birds (large fowl) and very small birds (bantams). As you walk along the cages you might even notice that some of the bantam birds look almost identical to the large birds except for the size. A few types of birds come only in one size; either large fowl or bantam, but several breeds can be both. The relationship is like toy or miniature dog and their "normal" size counterparts. For example: a toy Poodle, a miniature Poodle or a standard Poodle.

In the showroom large fowl and bantams will be shown in separate groups in the showroom. The same with different breeds of waterfowl, turkeys & guineas. There will be a bantam section, a large fowl section, a waterfowl section, a turkey section and a guinea section.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN A SHOW IS SANCTIONED by the APA?

Sanctioning a poultry show means that the poultry club putting the show together has joined with the American Poultry Association as an “associate member” to host a poultry show following the rules and guidelines of the APA. This means the host club must hire licensed poultry judges to judge all birds in the showroom and the showroom will be set up according to classes set forth in the “Standard”.

Many local county fairs, some state fairs do not sanction their shows and do not hire licensed judges. Therefore, they do not have to meet a particular standard of laying out a showroom and birds may not be judged according to the American Poultry Association “Standard”.

At your local county fairs & some other shows the standard for judging what are considered commercial or production birds (egg layers & meat pens) is completely different than judging “purebred exhibition” birds.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY CLASSES? (see Breed & Breed Classes found on the APA website or in your copy of the APA Standard of Perfection)

The next thing you may notice is that the cages are set up with all of one breed located in one area. This is because the showroom is set up by classes. *There are several breeds in one “class”.*

For example: In the English Class are breeds such as Orpington’s, Dorking’s, Cornish, Sussex, Australorp’s and Red Caps. Therefore, when you are walking down an aisle you will see all of these breeds in one area. Many shows are now putting signs on the top of a row of cages to designate the type of class you are looking at.

In the large fowl classes the classes are named after the area of origin of these breeds. You will notice an American Class, Asiatic Class, English Class, Mediterranean Class, Continental Class and an All Other Standard Breed Class (ASOB).

In the bantam classes they are named after physical characteristics. These include Game Bantams, Single Comb Clean Legged (S.C.C.L.), Rose Comb Clean Legged (R.C.C.L.), All Other Comb Clean Legged (A.O.C.C.L.), and Feather Legged Classes.

WHAT IS THAT TAG HANGING ON EACH CAGE? (see reading a coop tag)

These are called “coop tags”. On the tag it will tell you what breed the bird is, what variety/ *color* it’s supposed to be and at the very bottom is a number that is assigned to the person that owns this particular bird. It also tells you the approximate age of the bird. Cock is a male over 1 year old, Cockerel is a male under 1 year old, Hen is a female over 1 year old and Pullet is the female under 1 year old.

If you look at a breed you will find that there are often many *color patterns* represented, this color pattern is known by the term “variety”. For example: everyone outside the poultry hobby is familiar with Barred Rocks.....did you know these are actually the breed “Plymouth Rocks” – of the barred variety (color)? A Plymouth Rock can be barred, white, buff, silver penciled, partridge, Columbian or blue. Each of these varieties has distinctive traits that set it apart from other varieties. You may find some of the same varieties appearing in a number of breeds, for example, there are also Buff Cochins, Buff Cornish and Buff Orrington’s as well as a few other breeds.

The American Poultry Association Standard of Perfection will list the characteristics of all breeds of fowl including all chickens, all waterfowl, all turkeys and all guineas. This *Standard* is the bible of the chicken hobby.