

## BATHING & GROOMING

To prepare a bird for show, the bird needs to be healthy, free of broken feathers, clean and presentable. Bathing is done 3 to 5 days before the show. This allows time for the bird to dry completely and to work some of the natural oil back into the feathers.

### Items you will need to Bath:

- 4 buckets
- towels
- Wash Cloths
- shampoo
- Glycerin or hair conditioner
- Old toothbrush
- vinegar
- Parasite dust
- Nail brush
- blow dryer
- cage for drying
- Blood Stop powder
- Show Box Materials:
  - Nail Clippers
  - Pliers
  - Cotton cloth
  - Toothbrush
  - Emery board
  - Q-tips
  - Needle/Syringe/scalpel
  - First Aid Supplies
  - Oil for beak and legs
  - Vicks for comb, waddles, and earlobes
  - Spray oil sheen product
  - Tagging supplies
  - Baby powder for white birds
  - Wet wipes

### HANDLING, BATHING GROOMING TECHNIQUES

Start with the four tubs of warm water

- #1 tub 2 tablespoons of shampoo per 5 gallons of water and ½ teaspoon bluing (if a white bird)  
Hold bird properly to submerge in water and holds securely while submerged
  - Put some shampoo on the dirtiest part of your bird first. This is usually the vent area, the legs and the feet.
  - While these parts are soaking, shampoo the rest of the bird slowly and gently, being careful that you do not damage the feathers by rubbing them backwards.
  - Using the old toothbrush, give the legs, feet and toenails a scrubbing. Make sure you remove any old "poo" that is under the nails
  - Washes bird body gently, washing all areas thoroughly
- #2 is used to rinse the soapy solution off the bird – do not add anything to this water
- #3 ¼ cup clear vinegar for every gallon of water
- #4 - 1 tablespoon of hair conditioner for every gallon of water or 2 teaspoons of glycerin to 5 gallons of water
  - Removes bird from water appropriately & wraps in towel gently
  - Towel dries bird gently & thoroughly

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- Finishing head and legs with grooming products gently & appropriately
  - While wrapped, you wash the face, wattles and comb with the wash cloth.
  - Trim the top beak so that it is even with the bottom and use the emery board to smooth the edges.
  - Trim toe nails. If you cannot see the vein, clip small portions of the nail at a time checking after each clip. If the nail does bleed, use the blood stop and a cotton ball to control the bleeding.
- Drying your bird
  - all birds can be air dried in a warm environment (not in the sun or in front of a heater)
  - Loose feathered birds (e.g., Cochins, Silkies and Orpingtons) will benefit from drying with a blow dryer. Hold blow dryer at an appropriate distance from bird while drying
  - Tightly feathered birds (e.g., Old English, Modern Game) do better drying on their own.
- Cleaned up bathing area thoroughly

Caring for Poultry is really quite easy.

- adequate nutritional feed,
- fresh clean water
- Dry, clean place to live.
  - one square foot of floor space per bantam
  - three square feet of floor space per large fowl.
  - Ducks and geese require somewhat more.
  - easy cleaning and adequate ventilation (windows or openings), be draft-free, offer protection from the elements and from wild animals.
- If the birds cannot be let out for exercise and sunshine, then provide them with a screened-in area for this purpose. If you have access to the outside, it should be well-fenced, dry, have shade available and grassy areas if possible. For the housing litter can be hay, straw, pine shavings, or any other absorbent material that is available. It should be kept clean and dry.