



**Animals must be in the care of the child by 31st August, hand reared and in the child's care by 14 days old.**

Small animals that can be shown are:

- Rabbits
- Guinea pigs
- Cage birds

If animals are normally kept as a pair, a pair must be shown. Depending on the number of entries there will be Junior, Intermediate and Senior sections. The animals in each section are judged together and not by species.

Children will be expected to talk to the judge about their animal(s) and answer questions about caring for the animal. Questions for the juniors will be reasonable simple, by senior level it is expected that the child will have more detailed knowledge, including topics such as; common diseases and treatment, worming, special nutritional requirements etc.

### **Diary**

This should include the child's journey with taking care of their animal. It could also include observations the child has made about the care they have had to undertake with their animal. Photos and graphs of the animal could also be included to show progress throughout the weeks of care.

### **Judging**

Will be in the following categories:

#### **Presentation**

- The cage, appropriate and clean
- Presence of water and appropriate food in suitable containers
- Bedding

#### **Knowledge**

- Of the animal, its age, breed, sex
- Care required, daily routines, cleaning, etc.
- Food requirements

#### **Animal**

- Health (the animal must be healthy and in good condition)
- Grooming
- Obvious pet (the child knows the animal well and is comfortable with it)

**Rosettes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each category.** Any child who does not receive a rosette in one of the above will be awarded a 'great effort' rosette. There are also ribbons for Supreme Champion and Reserve, judged overall in all three sections.

Please bring animals in cages of manageable size, they are displayed on benches in a tent and space is limited.