

NIRO Rat Chat 10/22/2008 Topic: Showing Rats

[20:40] <@OdysseyDesign> Welcome to NIRO's Rat Chat. Chats are held here in #RatWise every Wednesday evening. If you wish to be reminded by email each week about Rat Chat please email me at OdysseyDesignRattery@yahoo.com and I will add you to the list.

[20:40] <@OdysseyDesign> Northern Illinois Rat Organization's website is located at
[20:40] <@OdysseyDesign> <http://www.NIRO-USA.org> Check the site out often as there will be many exciting changes during the next several months that you do not want to miss! Don't forget to join the forum and say hello.

[20:40] <calicojenn> everyone around here feeds their animals the cheepst thing they can find here >.<

[20:41] <@OdysseyDesign> tonights topic is Showing Rats

[20:42] <@OdysseyDesign> lol and I just lost all train of thought

[20:42] <TheChicagoCrew> Dee and I have just returned from the RFL show this past Saturday

[20:42] <Whiskerkin> What does RFL stand for, and where is it?

[20:43] <@OdysseyDesign> I myself am very new to showing rats. I have only been to two so far. Very awesome experiences though

[20:43] <TheChicagoCrew> Even though this is the 7th show I've been to (first for RFL), I find that I am learning more every time.

[20:43] <TheChicagoCrew> RFL is the Rat Fanciers of the Lakes, which is NIRO's affiliate club. www.ratfanciers.net

[20:43] <PinkPanther> do we have a schedual of talking, or can I go for the questions?

[20:43] <@OdysseyDesign> yeah I can not imagine not learning something new at a show

[20:43] <TheChicagoCrew> They are based in Grand Rapids, MI

[20:43] <@OdysseyDesign> you can ask questions Pink

[20:43] <TheChicagoCrew> Feel free to ask Qs

[20:44] <@OdysseyDesign> haha I must dig up the photo of Melina behind the wall of rats

[20:44] <PinkPanther> I'm experienced with cat shows, having had Alaska's top cat for a bit, and know what goes on at dog shows, they are two very different things, I have NO idea what happens at a rat show

[20:44] <PinkPanther> can someone describe it or send me a link

[20:45] <PinkPanther> how does it work, what are they judged on

[20:45] <PinkPanther> Theirs no "breeds" in rats

[20:45] <TheChicagoCrew> No but there are quite a few varieties of rats

[20:45] <PinkPanther> and there are NO rat shows anywhere near here!

[20:45] <PinkPanther> are they all judged to the same body standards, with variation in colors

[20:46] <PinkPanther> or do some colors have different body standards than others?

[20:46] <TheChicagoCrew> Different shows may have a different setup but at this particular show we had three sections -- Agouti/Ticked class, Colorpoint class, and Non-Agouti/non-ticked (black based) class.

[20:46] <@OdysseyDesign> right

[20:46] <PinkPanther> were the three classes ever shown against each other?

[20:46] <TheChicagoCrew> At previous NIRO shows we would lump them together under Best Dumbo Buck/Doe, Best Standard-ear Buck/Doe, Best Rex, etc.

[20:47] <PinkPanther> do rats have a national organization where they can gain points and titles?

[20:47] <TheChicagoCrew> The three classes were eventually widdled down to Best Buck and Best Doe and those two went against each other for BIS

[20:47] <TheChicagoCrew> (best in show)

[20:48] <@OdysseyDesign> We do not have a AKC or a CFA like dogs and cats do....mostly each club or a few clubs that are affiliated together have their own points and titles and NARR (North American Rat Registry) recognizes them

[20:48] <PinkPanther> has there ever been a push towards a national club?

[20:48] <@OdysseyDesign> v

[20:48] <@OdysseyDesign> North American Rat Registry

[20:49] <@OdysseyDesign> cant spell sheesh

[20:49] <TheChicagoCrew> We do not currently have a national organization. NIRO and RFL have developed the URSA in which we gain points and titles within our affiliate clubs (currently just NIRO and RFL) and we use the URS standards to show under. URS = United Rat Standards, which were divised amongst members of NIRO and RFL

[20:49] <PinkPanther> ok

[20:49] * tigergirrl (ewcflash@ewc-861d7b03.optusnet.com.au) has joined #RatWise

[20:49] <TheChicagoCrew> There is a parent organization that had wanted to be such an entity, and that would be the Rat Society of America

[20:49] <PinkPanther> so is there a standard body type you are trying to achieve across all rats?

[20:50] * tigergirrl (ewcflash@ewc-861d7b03.optusnet.com.au) has left #RatWise

[20:50] <@OdysseyDesign> NARR acts as our AKC but in registration and record keeping aspect only

[20:50] * Retrieving #RatWise modes...

[20:50] * OdysseyDesign sets mode: +s

[20:50] <PinkPanther> yea

[20:51] <Whiskerkin> Dumbo and tailless have standards that are a bit different from the basic body standard, if I recall.

[20:51] <TheChicagoCrew> For current purposes I will link you to RFL's site with our standards on them. I have yet to add them to our site as it is still under construction.

[20:51] <TheChicagoCrew> <http://www.ratfanciers.net/unitedratstandards.html>

[20:51] <TheChicagoCrew> There is a standard body type that we are to work toward for all of our rats.

[20:52] <TheChicagoCrew> And by showing our rats and getting the comments from judges we can decipher whether or not we are succeeding in that area.

[20:53] <TheChicagoCrew> Or perhaps the judge will offer comments on what type of rat to breed to in order to achieve that success. It might be suggested that a rat with a longer head be bred to another rat with a blunt head/nose to achieve better results in the future generation.

[20:53] <PinkPanther> makes sense

[20:54] <TheChicagoCrew> Gabe has written an article for the RFL and put it up in recent days... titled Why We Show, and it explains quite well why we go through with these yearly productions.

[20:54] <TheChicagoCrew> <http://www.ratfanciers.net/whyweshow.html>

[20:54] <PinkPanther> so random question, can you not show neutered boys since their testicles are missing?

[20:55] <@OdysseyDesign> what i like about Rat shows is that the Judge will stand (or sit) and talk while they are judging each rat. They describe what they are doing, what they are looking for, how the rat compares, what is good, what needs improvement etc

[20:55] <Whiskerkin> The only show I've seen was a tiny one at Rodent Fest... at a larger, better established show, how many entrants in each category are there, usually?

[20:56] <@OdysseyDesign> wow I never heard the neutered question before.... *looks at melina*

[20:56] <PinkPanther> Cat shows are the same way Odyssey, it depends on the judge, but a lot of them will give you really good comments while looking at your cat

[20:56] <TheChicagoCrew> Pink -- although I did notice lots of large testicles I don't think I'd be able to "pick one out" that perhaps had less baggage down under. ;)

[20:56] <PinkPanther> at the bottom of the standards page it says boy's can't be missing testicles

[20:56] <@OdysseyDesign> oh neat Pink...I know showing dogs sometimes its like pulling teeth to get a comment out of a judge

[20:57] <@OdysseyDesign> they do not talk or discuss while judging

[20:57] <PinkPanther> cat shows are very different from dog shows

[20:57] <PinkPanther> CFA shows probably don't have as much talking, but I show in TICA

[20:57] <PinkPanther> never seen a CFA, they don't come to Alaska

[20:58] <@OdysseyDesign> Ive never been to a cat show, although I wouldnt mind just for the experience of it

[20:58] <TheChicagoCrew> Whiskerkin -- That depends on the size of the shows.

[20:59] <TheChicagoCrew> I know at this one we had some classes with 4 rats, and others with 25 rats

[20:59] <Sorraia> about neutering - in AFRMA a neutered rat cannot be shown in regular classes. They can go in pet classes though

[20:59] <TheChicagoCrew> I knew I should have been grading testicle size! :o

[20:59] <@OdysseyDesign> LMAO

[21:00] <TheChicagoCrew> buttpillows is an understatement for some of them boys

[21:00] <calicojenn> heh, i think some of my pet boys could win on that merrit alone >.<

[21:00] <TheChicagoCrew> At the beginning of a show all exhibitors have to subject each rat to a health check before entering the building.

[21:00] <@OdysseyDesign> btw, it is interesting to clerk for Melina. The clerk is suppose to write all the comments the judge makes about each rat on its judging/comment card. NIRO show she commented about someones large manbits and I wrote it down.

[21:01] <PinkPanther> I've only had neutered boys (my older girls aren't spayed, I spay all the new ones now)

[21:01] <TheChicagoCrew> Yes Dee DID write down my comments on testicular quality. :o

[21:01] <@OdysseyDesign> lol

[21:01] <TheChicagoCrew> I asked Emilie to this time but I don't think she did..

[21:01] <Blackthorn_rfc> i did ask a couple years ago at NIRO about showing spayed/neutered rats... never got a clear answer, heh

[21:02] <TheChicagoCrew> Well technically they should be whole and intact for the judging table because we are basically wanting to evaluate the breeding stock of the next generations.

[21:02] <TheChicagoCrew> I hate using the word stock :P

[21:02] <Sorraia> ^ what she said

[21:03] <@OdysseyDesign> yeah

[21:03] <TheChicagoCrew> So if a rat is neutered, even though they could represent the quality of their siblings and parents and grandparents, they obviously won't be passing on their genes.

[21:03] <Blackthorn_rfc> hehe

[21:04] <PinkPanther> yea, in TICA we have three classes, Masters (whole cats) Alters (sputered) and HHP (house hold pets, must be sputered), cats in all three classes compete against eachother for the titles and awards

[21:04] <TheChicagoCrew> Well that is interesting

[21:04] <Blackthorn_rfc> neat

[21:04] <PinkPanther> a HHP can go up to Supreme Grand Master by earning the same amount of points as a whole cat who has earned Supreme Grand Champion

[21:04] <TheChicagoCrew> Basically what a judge looks for when they look over the rat is how well it is put together.

[21:05] <TheChicagoCrew> They look at the overall condition of the animal, the quality of the fur, the size of the animal overall, the substance and muscle mass (muscle over pudge! Muscle over pudge!)

[21:05] <PinkPanther> always!

[21:05] <Whiskerkin> Wow, rat shows need cool titles like that. (Do they have titles?)

[21:06] <TheChicagoCrew> we have "Best of", Champion, Grand Champion and Distinction of Merit

[21:06] <Blackthorn_rfc> is there still a push for larger and larger.. and fatter rats in some areas?

[21:06] <PinkPanther> we go from master to double master to triple master to quadrupal master to supreme grand master

[21:06] <PinkPanther> but those are lifetime acheivements, not individual shows

[21:06] <TheChicagoCrew> Well if rats lived 15 years, I'm sure we could tack on multiple masters :P

[21:06] <Blackthorn_rfc> haha

[21:06] <TheChicagoCrew> Kaia -- Well...

[21:07] <PinkPanther> and since you have to take a show to get Supreme, its pretty rare. I have one supreme, and one triple grand

[21:07] <PinkPanther> most cat's can only show for a very short time

[21:07] <TheChicagoCrew> I did see some large males but as I was reminded later, they were not nearly as large as boys I had seen at shows six years ago.

[21:07] <PinkPanther> I had to retire my girl before she turned two

[21:07] <@OdysseyDesign> Melina called my Dice fat

[21:07] <PinkPanther> how large is large?
[21:07] <TheChicagoCrew> There really was only one very hefty boy. Some pudges..but only one "three hander" ;)
[21:07] <Whiskerkin> Do most shows have a ritten class?
[21:08] <TheChicagoCrew> Some clubs have ritten classes, we do not.
[21:08] <TheChicagoCrew> Rats must be 9wks old and older in order to have gone through pre-show quarantine/isolation and enter the show.
[21:08] <@OdysseyDesign> we have youth but they must be over a certain age
[21:08] <TheChicagoCrew> Right it isn't the typical "baby" classes.
[21:09] <TheChicagoCrew> Pink -- I prefer to be able to hold a rat in two hands and his body stay on my hands, not "overflow" them
[21:10] <TheChicagoCrew> We want nicely sized and proportionate rats.
[21:10] <Sorraia> about kitten classes - AFRMA has classe
s for kittens aged 5 to 8 weeks of age.
[21:10] <Sorraia> they don't require a pre-show quarantine though
[21:10] <TheChicagoCrew> Really?
[21:10] <TheChicagoCrew> Wow
[21:10] <TheChicagoCrew> That's bold.
[21:10] * @OdysseyDesign faints
[21:11] <Sorraia> Yup. After 8 weeks they aren't kittens any more, and can only be shown as adults. Of course they never win either, but that's how it goes.
[21:11] <PinkPanther> I would never take my rats somewhere without a preshow!
[21:11] <TheChicagoCrew> Me neither
[21:11] <PinkPanther> I'm already fighting something in my colony, and I don't even know anyone with rats!
[21:11] <PinkPanther> how big in grams is a two hander?
[21:11] <Blackthorn_rfc> how common are outbreaks post-show?
[21:11] <PinkPanther> my biggest boy is 480g
[21:11] <TheChicagoCrew> 5-600g I believe.
[21:12] <TheChicagoCrew> Kaia -- *knock on wood* we've not had any outbreak after a NIRO show. This is RFL's first show and I do not anticipate any issues but obviously we won't know until Q is over in 2.5 weeks.
[21:12] <TheChicagoCrew> We observe 29day pre-show quarantines
[21:13] <PinkPanther> does the club have any way to enforce the QT other than to trust the members?
[21:13] <Blackthorn_rfc> that's the question i was trying to formulate.. haha
[21:13] <Blackthorn_rfc> it must be at least a little scary
[21:14] * Blackthorn_rfc is now known as Blackthorn
[21:14] <TheChicagoCrew> Oh yes it is scary. I admit. I am very paranoid about such things.
[21:14] <TheChicagoCrew> There is no way to police a Quarantine of each member.
[21:15] <TheChicagoCrew> However I do keep a very close eye on what people say, what is said on forums, what they say on their webpages
[21:15] <Sorraia> I think around here rats tend toward larger, 600-700 grams or more
[21:15] <TheChicagoCrew> As long as they are muscular I don't think its a problem.

[21:15] <Sorraia> BUT a lot of the big rats I've seen in shows are a little more pudgy than muscle

[21:15] <TheChicagoCrew> ahh

[21:15] <Sorraia> some of that weight is good bone density though, there are some rats that have good solid bone

[21:16] <TheChicagoCrew> I am trying to get better size in my males because through the last couple years they've gotten small in stature. I'm finally getting there but then to see some BIG boys was an eye opener for me LOL

[21:16] <Sorraia> comparing ot pictures, it seems there has been mroe of a push towards leaner than pudgy. Some old pictures are just gross, the poor rats are so overweight

[21:16] <@OdysseyDesign> back!! sorry!!!

[21:16] * @OdysseyDesign turns off her phone

[21:17] <TheChicagoCrew> There is a risk of entering your rats into any show.

[21:17] <Sorraia> got all my rats weighed these last two days, all but the youngest boys are over 600 grams, and one is 740 grams! they aren't terribly pudgy either!

[21:17] <TheChicagoCrew> Especially if it is a public show versus a members-only show. Even if people aren't bringing rats it is still a risk of them having stopped at a pet store or something on the way to the show

[21:17] <TheChicagoCrew> As a rule we do not allow people handling each others rats at the shows.

[21:18] <PinkPanther> how regular are shows?

[21:18] <TheChicagoCrew> They must arrive in cages in which only the tops are vented (such as plastic bins with wire tops). No cages with wire sides. Our show boxes are the krittter keepers so that only the tops are vented. In some small way this helps limit transmission of illnesses between people and their rats

[21:19] <@OdysseyDesign> not as regular as we wish they could be

[21:19] <Sorraia> AFRMA has 6 shows a year

[21:19] <PinkPanther> same here for the cats, their expensive to have

[21:19] <TheChicagoCrew> Well, Pink, in our area the shows used to be held once each Spring. Now that RFL is holding shows it will be twice a year.

[21:19] <Sorraia> fewer shows are better - allows more time in between quarantine periods!

[21:19] <TheChicagoCrew> Right

[21:19] <TheChicagoCrew> I don't want anymore than two shows a year... that means 4 months of quarantine.

[21:20] <Sorraia> If you go to all shows.

[21:20] <TheChicagoCrew> Pre show Quarantine, and post show quarantine

[21:20] <TheChicagoCrew> Right.

[21:20] <@OdysseyDesign> with quarantine 4 weeks before a show and 3 weeks after a show, anything more then 2 or 3 shows a year and it would hard to do much planning for litters

[21:20] <Sorraia> If people would only pick a couple shows it wouldn't be a problem, but there are some who would go to every show just because they can.

[21:20] <PinkPanther> and you can't have litters durring QT right? even post show QT?

[21:21] <@OdysseyDesign> no

[21:21] <TheChicagoCrew> Correct

[21:21] <PinkPanther> so more shows would interfere with breeding
[21:21] <@OdysseyDesign> yes
[21:21] <TheChicagoCrew> And would get way expensive with travelling.
[21:22] <TheChicagoCrew> And I pay my Quarantine homes so... that too..
[21:22] <Whiskerkin> Okie dokey, folks, I've got to run! But it has been informative, as always! :) You guys have a good night!
[21:22] <TheChicagoCrew> Since I usually Q my rats in another home I don't have to halt breeding, but it is rough to do too.
[21:22] <TheChicagoCrew> Nite Whiskerkin
[21:22] <@OdysseyDesign> night Whiskerkin
[21:22] <Sorraia> Night wisherk
[21:22] <Sorraia> *whisker
[21:23] <Whiskerkin> Take care, all!
[21:23] * Whiskerkin (ewcflash@D343F2.B33AB1.A53C0F.1BB775) has left #RatWise
[21:24] <TheChicagoCrew> Sorry I lost the chat window under everything else lol
[21:24] <@OdysseyDesign> lol
[21:24] <@OdysseyDesign> Gabe sent my comment cards in PDF, I was reading them
[21:24] <TheChicagoCrew> (I got my judging cards fromt he show!)
[21:24] <@OdysseyDesign> LMAO!
[21:24] <TheChicagoCrew> Oh Dee..did you want to bring up that wall o rats?
[21:24] <@OdysseyDesign> we are both guilty
[21:25] <@OdysseyDesign> oh let me look for a picture, as long as you dont mind me posting it
[21:25] <TheChicagoCrew> I've clerked for three years now and have only judged once this past spring..and then this show. Talk about a judging "introduction"! I was hit with a wall of 25 bucks!
[21:26] <TheChicagoCrew> Clerking is writing down the judges comments and scores on a judging card.
[21:26] <TheChicagoCrew> Judging is..well... judging each rat and relaying the comments to the audience and the clerk.
[21:26] <@OdysseyDesign> this is Melina and Emilie's holy cow look
<http://s458.photobucket.com/albums/qq308/RFLClub/?action=view¤t=2008candid028.jpg>
[21:27] <Sorraia> lol
[21:27] <@OdysseyDesign> took you what? an hour and 45 minutes to judge them all
[21:27] <@OdysseyDesign> btw
[21:27] <TheChicagoCrew> 1 hr 43 minutes for bucks... and I think an hour for the does.
[21:28] <@OdysseyDesign> *insert shameless brag* my Ego took 3rd out of those 25 in that class
[21:28] <TheChicagoCrew> He did!
[21:28] <TheChicagoCrew> It was ROUGH narrowing it down to three!
[21:29] <TheChicagoCrew> I had no idea until Sunday that Ego took 3rd..hahahaha...
[21:29] <PinkPanther> do the rats have to stay in those small containers all day?
[21:29] <@OdysseyDesign> lol
[21:29] <PinkPanther> do the judges handle them individually?

[21:29] <Sorraia> How do you keep from knowing which rat belongs to who? (besides the number of rats entered!)

[21:29] <TheChicagoCrew> Once the classes are called up you must put your rats inside their bins.

[21:29] <@OdysseyDesign> no, only when it is their turn to be judged with their class

[21:30] <TheChicagoCrew> They must remain in those bins until their class judging is over. The 1st place winner of the class must remain in the bin until the next 'bracket' is judged (best buck of three categories, etc)

[21:30] <PinkPanther> are the bins shared between rats?

[21:30] <TheChicagoCrew> Judges handle each rat individually, and then use hand sanitizer between each rat (and OH MY GOD it burns)

[21:30] <TheChicagoCrew> No

[21:30] <@OdysseyDesign> Nicole its hard but everyone tries very hard to make sure rats are not marked...Notice all the bins are a

ll the same. They must be the same size with black lids and the same brand

[21:30] <TheChicagoCrew> Each exhibitor is to bring their own bins for their rats.

[21:31] <@OdysseyDesign> each rat is assigned a number and during the show they are known by that number

[21:31] <PinkPanther> thats very simular to cats, we have a benching area, where they have larger cages the owners can customize, but they have smaller cages in the judging area that are disinfected between cats

[21:31] <Sorraia> That must be nice

[21:31] <TheChicagoCrew> Yeah I'd have a bit of a freakout if my rats had to go in a bin another rat has been in.

[21:31] <PinkPanther> yea, cat's don't catch as much thankfully

[21:32] <Sorraia> to contrast, AFRMA has the competitors bring their rats directly to the judge (instead of a benching are). Judge gets to see exactly which rats belong to who!

[21:32] <@OdysseyDesign> I think that isnt very fair

[21:32] <TheChicagoCrew> Ohh noo we don't have that.

[21:32] <TheChicagoCrew> We have a runner at each show that goes around collecting rats and bringing them to the holding area.

[21:32] <Sorraia> Technically judge isn't supposed to know the rat's name, but it's on the judging card, so the judge knows anyways

[21:32] <TheChicagoCrew> It's on the CARD?

[21:33] <Sorraia> yeah. Exhibitors have a number, but it's usually pretty obvious just by looking at names which rats go to which person

[21:33] <TheChicagoCrew> See we have judging cards with numbers on them. There are stickers on the bin with the number on them, and the variety they are (Agouti Rex Dumbo, for example), but never any names. Names are in the catalogue only.

[21:34] <TheChicagoCrew> Each rat is assigned a number in the catalog and on the stickers.

[21:34] <TheChicagoCrew> So that only numbers are said/tossed around, never names.

[21:34] <@OdysseyDesign> right

[21:34] <PinkPanther> do the judges at shows know the attendies personally a lot? We're able to fly in judges for the cats, so even though all the attendies know eachother, the judge still doesn't

[21:35] <TheChicagoCrew> The rat people circles are much smaller.

[21:35] <TheChicagoCrew> We all know each other. Talk to each other rather often some of us.

[21:35] <PinkPanther> I come from a town with 4 or 5 breeds of cats

[21:35] <PinkPanther> we're pretty small

[21:35] <PinkPanther> we just fly up judges

[21:35] <PinkPanther> who happen to be mostly the same judges each year...

[21:35] <TheChicagoCrew> We have... seven judges for our two clubs.

[21:36] <@OdysseyDesign> not many people have experience judging rats in general

[21:36] <TheChicagoCrew> At this show we had three judges, and then the judge that does BIS.

[21:36] <TheChicagoCrew> Right

[21:37] <PinkPanther> how do you become a judge?

[21:37] <@OdysseyDesign> also since each club or club affiliates have their own standards and not a set standard for all of the clubs in the US...it is difficult to just bring in a judge from say the west coast, what they judge for maybe is not what we judge for

[21:38] <TheChicagoCrew> Well the general rules were having been a breeder for two years, clerking two or more shows, attending training sessions, etc.

[21:38] <TheChicagoCrew> Right, Dee

[21:38] <TheChicagoCrew> And a lot of the times they have no interest in anything else but what is in their area.

[21:38] <@OdysseyDesign> yes

[21:38] <@OdysseyDesign> I almost got all the requirements lol

[21:39] <TheChicagoCrew> Yes Dee is getting in some good experience by clerking and attending these shows.

[21:39] <@OdysseyDesign> and begging for training sessions

[21:39] <TheChicagoCrew> It is not so easy as looking at a photo and saying "that rat has great type!"... if you have a trained eye you might be able to say that, but looking over an animal in person gives you a much better perspective.

[21:40] <PinkPanther> yes

[21:40] * Guest6754 (ewcflash@ewc-e6fc2ba0.ca.comcast.net) has joined #RatWise

[21:40] <@OdysseyDesign> hi Guest6754

[21:41] * Guest6754 is now known as Amanda

[21:41] <Amanda> Hi everyone

[21:41] <@OdysseyDesign> hiya Amanda

[21:41] <Amanda> Hopefully i have not missed everything

[21:41] <Amanda> I was really excited about this topic!

[21:42] <@OdysseyDesign> hehe well...

[21:42] <TheChicagoCrew> Hi Amanda

[21:42] <TheChicagoCrew> We've been at it an hour now but feel free to ask Qs :)

[21:42] <@OdysseyDesign> you have but the log will be posted on the site in a few days so you can read what you missed

[21:43] <Amanda> awesome. I look forward to reading it.

[21:43] <@OdysseyDesign> nicole, do AFRMA have health checks at the door?

[21:43] <Amanda> I don't want to answer for her, but the last show I went to in July they did.

[21:44] <@OdysseyDesign> aahh ok good

[21:44] <Amanda> One quick question: at what age do you start determining which kittens to keep out of a litter

[21:44] <Sorraia> AFRMA shows always have health checks

[21:44] <@OdysseyDesign> (Daelyn my daughter at the show
<http://s458.photobucket.com/albums/qq308/RFLClub/?action=view¤t=2008candid024.jpg>)

[21:44] <Sorraia> BUT they are not outside the door, they are acutally in the same room as the show

[21:44] <TheChicagoCrew> ..

[21:44] <Amanda> The only thing that worried me once was that they placed a group of sick rats with a possible mite problem within the same room as the rest.

[21:44] <TheChicagoCrew> That is a huge concern.

[21:45] <TheChicagoCrew> Daelyn was SUCH a sweet little girl!!

[21:45] <Amanda> That picture is adorable.

[21:46] <TheChicagoCrew> How old is she again, Dee?

[21:46] <@OdysseyDesign> aaw thank you. She had a blast

[21:46] <@OdysseyDesign> 6

[21:46] <Sorraia> I have never seen a rat with mites/lice asked to leave an AFRMA show, they are just placed behind the sales table

[21:46] <TheChicagoCrew> Really?

[21:46] <@OdysseyDesign> the poor girl did not sleep a wink the night before, we hit the road at 5am! she was sooo tired by the time we left to go home

[21:46] <TheChicagoCrew> Oh i bet she was

[21:46] <TheChicagoCrew> That sucks nicole

[21:47] <Amanda> Thats what happened.

[21:47] <@OdysseyDesign> Heath checks for NIRO and RFL (and RSA) are done outside. Any rat that does not pass health checks are not allowed on the show site

[21:47] <Amanda> I guess really they don't have any place else to put them, since they cars get hot. And I doubt they want people to leave since the club seems very small right now.

[21:47] <TheChicagoCrew> I am a health check nazi.

[21:48] <@OdysseyDesign> I think I rather have a person go home with their sick rats then risk infecting the ones at the show?

[21:48] <TheChicagoCrew> Yep

[21:49] <Amanda> absolutley

[21:49] <TheChicagoCrew> Everyone should be able to "check" their own rats before leaving home. If your rats are wheezy at the show, don't be surprised if I tell you they are DQ'd

[21:49] <Amanda> *absolutely

[21:49] <@OdysseyDesign> all my guys passed health check but two were disqualified from showing at health checks. They were allowed in the building but were not allowed to be shown

[21:50] <TheChicagoCrew> Mite/lice infestations such as nits or scabs, while they are not as 'devastating', they are also not ok.

[21:50] <Amanda> Last show a few had small protein scabs...but other than that everyone was good to go.

[21:50] <@OdysseyDesign> Jive because she freaked out when she was being checked, she screamed and almost got loose so she was stressed and in risk of getting loose again. Litha had a small fresh scratch on her back so she wasn't allowed to show.

[21:50] <TheChicagoCrew> How do they differentiate protein scabs from infestation scabs?

[21:51] <Sorraia> Amanda - the health checks could be done at a table outside, the shows start early enough it isn't terribly hot, especially if they have some kind of cover

[21:51] <Sorraia> speaking as a breeder/pet owner/potential shower, I would much rather see sick rats go home than stay at the show

[21:51] <Sorraia> That's speaking as someone who lost 2 rats a week after a show while they were in quarantine

***** Please note this log is not complete due to Chat server difficulties.**