

VISITING A RABBITRY

Provided by Blue Ribbon Rabbitry

“Rabbitry” is an interesting word in that it both refers to a physical place where rabbits are kept and to the collection of rabbits themselves (the herd). Breeders may keep their rabbits in a barn, garage, outdoors in hutches, etc. Some may have hundreds of animals and others may have only a handful.

Some breeders limit or even completely restrict visitors to their rabbitry. There are many understandable reasons why breeders may do this. As an example, some breeders do not let outside people enter during times when does are due to kindle (give birth). Others may have general concerns regarding biosecurity or safety. Please be sure to communicate with the breeder you are visiting about whether or not you will be allowed into the physical building where the rabbits are housed if that is important to you.

Below we have included some common guidelines you should adhere to when visiting a rabbitry. Remember that all breeders are different and may have their own set of guidelines.

Set up an appointment with the breeder

Breeders are not likely to have set business hours. Breeders have work, school, kids, other hobbies, etc. Never show up unannounced.

Be on time

Be sure to determine in advance how much time it will take to travel to the Rabbitry. Allow a little extra time for traffic, stops along your trip, etc. Be aware of the time zone the breeder lives in when determining when to leave. If you will be more than 10-15 minutes late, give the breeder a call to keep them informed. Please try to be on time though as the breeder may have made special arrangements (such as leaving work early) to meet you.

Remember you are a guest (so behave as such)

Rabbits are often somewhat nervous animals. Loud noises, sudden movements, poking, running, etc. should not occur. Children are the most common cause of disturbances. You know your kids best. If they are not quiet and calm, consider not bringing them. If

the rabbit will be their animal and their presence is needed, be sure to explain to them in advance how they should behave.

Have a plan for restroom breaks. Once again, remember you are visiting someone's home and not a place of business. Many breeders will not feel comfortable letting strangers into their home to use their restroom. Don't be offended and instead understand and respect they are trying to be safe.

Do not touch, poke or prod any animals (or anything for that matter) in the rabbitry. Stay with the breeder and do not wander off into other parts of the rabbitry without first seeking permission.