SMALL ANIMAL HEALTH CHECK INFORMATION

It’s time now to check and treat our small animals for parasites and other communicable diseases that will keep them out of the 4-H/FFA Youth Fair. To be on the safe side and avoid any disappointment, treat them whether you find mites or not!

POULTRY
Check skin and feathers under the wings. Look for tiny clear bugs a.k.a. lice, and black moving dots, a.k.a. mites or any other moving bug. Also check behind the neck, under feathers on the breastbone and down towards the vent. Check the vent for any abnormal discharge or bugs around the vent. Check the legs for mites. You are looking for an overall healthy condition, luster, bright eyes; the animal is eating well and has normal active behavior. If you find any of the above-mentioned parasites, you need to dust the entire bird, except for the mouth and eyes, with Sevin dust. You can locate Sevin Dust in most garden sections of any store. Lift the feathers while applying the dust to help get it down to the skin. You can also purchase a product called “Lice Killer” at local feed stores. Follow the directions as to the Lice Killer’s application. If you find mites on the feet, mix Sevin Dust with Vaseline and rub into the legs each evening for several days.

YOU SHOULD CHECK AND DUST YOUR ANIMAL NOW AND AGAIN IN 10-14 DAYS. RECHECK IN ANOTHER 2 WEEKS AND RE-TREAT IF NECESSARY.

CAVY
Check the rump, near the skin, for white, moving object, a.k.a. lice or black, moving objects, a.k.a. mites. Dust the entire animal with cat flea powder. Do not use Sevin Dust, as this is too strong for cayves. Check in the cavy’s ears for scabs. If you see any, they probably are ear mites, treat with a product like Pene-Mite, following the package directions. Make sure your animal looks healthy. There should be no discharge from the nose and no pus coming from the anal area.

RABBIT
The biggest problem we have found with the rabbits in the past are fur mites. When looking through the fur, mostly at the rump, look for tiny white or brown spots. They are about the size of a period at the end of a sentence. If you find any spots, look at the spots for about a minute to see if they are moving or not. You will need really good light and be very patient. Whether they are moving or not, dust your animal with Sevin Dust now being careful to avoid the face. Dust the sides, underneath and the entire top of the body, especially the rump and tail area. Repeat this procedure 10-14 days later. In another 10-14 days, check your animal again to see if any of the mites are moving. If they are, even if it’s slowly, dust again; check in another 10-14 days. Check the rabbit’s ears form brown crusty scabs. This is an indication of an ear mite infestation. Treat with mineral oil, or a product such as Pene-Mite, following the directions in your Rabbit Project book and/or the mite container. Look at the gentile area for pus (pimple looking) areas. These need to be treated with an antibiotic ointment.

DON’T BE DISAPOINTED AT HEALTH CHECK. CHECK YOUR ANIMALS NOW AND TREAT THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. RETREAT IN 10-14 DAYS.