

Showrules of the Finnish Pet and Show Fancy Rats Association.

GENERAL

These rules are followed in the Finnish Pet and show fancy rats association (later LSK) shows, as well as in shows granted by LSK, organised by other associations.

THE PURPOSE OF SHOWS

Rat shows give rat enthusiasts the opportunity to share information and experiences with each other. The shows provide advice on the care and husbandry of fancy rats. For breeders the shows provide an opportunity to compare breeding results and evaluate breeding material.

The well-being of fancy rats must always be priority at shows.

SHOWS

At shows there may be standard, pet, and agility classes as well as other activities. Fancy rats are allowed to participate in all aforementioned classes.

The show invitation shall be published at the LSK home page 6 weeks prior to the show date at the latest. The invitation shall mention date, place, start time, classes, show judges, payment information and instructions, the person handling the entries, and contact person.

LSK may grant other associations the right to arrange shows under LSK show rules, in which case the rats that have been granted the right to register in that exhibition are entitled to register with LSK ry and to the titles awarded by LSK ry. Show Applications must be sent via e-mail to the Board of LSK two months prior to the show date at the latest. The Results must be submitted to LSK in two weeks' time after the show.

JUDGES

Show judge must be qualified from the Finnish fancy rat society by March 29, 2021 or trained by LSK after 29th of June 2021. Judge must be a member of LSK, excluding judges trained and qualified by foreign associations. A judge may not judge an animal that is owned by the judge themselves, a family member, or a person who breeds under the same breeder name as the judge. The list of qualified Finnish judges can be found on LSK's website.

SHOW ENTRIES

Animals shall be entered to LSK shows electronically, following the instructions given at the home page. Entry fees must be paid when entering animals and a receipt must be attached to the entry. The association arranging the show is allowed to decide whether entries on the show day are accepted.

By entering a fancy rat to the show, the exhibitor adheres with these rules and agrees that the

information provided in the entry may be published both in the show catalogue and at the home page, as well as other similar publications by LSK.

ENTRY FEES

Entry fees shall be paid as is instructed in the show invitation by the arranging association.

Entry fees shall be refunded if the show is cancelled, the show entry has been sent after the last entry date, the owner of the entered animal is called to judge the class said animal has been entered to. Entry fees shall be refunded when there is a change of judge and the standby judge is unable to judge, if the owner asks for it before the show has started.

Entry fees will not be refunded, if

- the animal entered to the show or its owner have become ill
- the animal is disqualified
- the animal has no number when needed for judging, and is thus not found.
- the animal is not distinguished from another animal in the show tank, and the owner or their contact person cannot be reached.
- the animal is not available for judging in reasonable time (an animal judged in another class is considered available).

PARTICIPATION IN THE SHOW

Exhibitors are required to arrive at the venue in good time before the commencement of judging at the advertised time. Participation in the show does not require registration number in any class.

An animal that is ill, aggressive or has external parasites is not allowed to participate in the show. Nor is an animal that is pregnant or breastfeeding. An animal younger than two calendar months cannot participate in the show. The animal participating in the show must be easy to handle. The coat of the animal must not be treated with substances that alter its original quality or colour. The animal should not have clear bald spots (except for rex rats, where the coat may thin with age). The animal must not have missing body parts or deformities, such as kinked tail.

The animal is brought to the show by its owner, or a person designated by the owner. If the owner or a person designated by the owner is not present at the show or leaves the venue during the show day, they must leave a telephone number where they can be reached if necessary.

If the animal is disqualified due to having health issues or parasites that may be contagious to other animals, the owner of the animal or a contact person designated by the owner shall be notified.

Animals disqualified from the show must be kept in the show tank and separated from other animals during the show day. A judge who has found parasites is also entitled to exclude the animals in the same show tank as the animal in question. These animals are not allowed to participate in any class or competition in that show.

TAKING THE ANIMAL TO THE JUDGE

The show tank must be prefabricated, transparent plastic terrarium for rodent use. The animals must be displayed in the show tank with the entry number clearly displayed and no other markings. If there is more than one animal in the same show tank, these must be clearly distinguishable. A maximum of three animals can be in one show tank at a time. The animal is taken to the judge by the show steward. The standard class takes precedence in the judging order if the animal's judging turn coincides with the pet class. The animal will be taken to the pet class to be judged after the standard class.

STANDARD CLASS AND AWARDING

According to the varieties standard of excellence the animals are divided into four competition groups:

Group 1: Self

Group 2: Ticked

Group 3: Pointed

Group 4: Marked

Smooth and curly-haired fancy rats are judged separately in their own coat classes. Bucks and does compete with each other in the same class. The judge will give a written critique of each animal presented using a form approved by the Finnish Pet and Show Fancy Rats Association.

In a competition group, each variety competes in its own class, divided by age group.

The animals are divided into age groups as follows:

2 – 5.5 months: junior class

from 6 months: open class

It is marked in the critique if the animal is eligible for registration.

The judge can choose from each variety and age group 1 – 3 class winners (LKV1 – LKV3) from among the animals that have been granted the right for registration. Certificates may be issued to animals which have placed LKV1 – LKV3. If there are more animals in the class worth certificates, the certificates can also be distributed to other animals that have been granted the right to be registered. In addition, the judge will select the most promising junior (LJ) from each of the four competition groups (self, ticked, pointed, marked) from among the juniors who received LKV1.

The judge will choose the best in group 1 – 3 (BIG1 – BIG3) within each competition group amongst those who have been placed LKV1 – LKV3.

A breeder can enter 4 – 6 animals bred by themselves to the review of the breeding. The animals must represent the varieties approved in the standard of excellence. The animals should represent the varieties that can be bred together but they do not have to be of the same variety. Both coat varieties can be represented in the same class. In class, the judge gives an

oral assessment of the standard of the animals presented in general, their good qualities, and the things that require more work. The purpose is an open discussion between the judge and the breeder. If the breeder so wishes, they may take written notes by themselves. The review of the breeding is not a competition class and it is free. Participation in the class does not require a breeder name. Only LSK members have the right to participate in the class.

The presentation class is intended to introduce new varieties not yet in the breed standard into the breed standard of excellence. The breeder presents 3 - 6 animals of the same variety born in Finland. This class can only be shown at LSK shows. The evaluation of the new variety is given by the Breeders' and Judges' Committee. The presentation class is not a competition class and is free.

Participation in the class does not require a breeder name. Only LSK members have the right to participate in the class.

PET CLASS AND AWARDING

In pet class attention is paid to the personality of the animal and how well it is groomed. The animal should be friendly and easy to handle. The overall impression of a fancy rat should be alert and curious. The animal must be healthy and clean.

Animals are divided into age groups as follows:

2–5,5 months: junior class

from 6 months: open class

Does and bucks are judged in separate classes.

An animal that is two (2) months old on the day of the show can participate in pet class. The judge will give each animal a grade according to their quality: ERI (excellent), EH (very good), H (good), T (sufficient). The judge may give out honorary awards (KP) to animals with an ERI grade. After individual judging, the judge will choose winners from among the animals that have been awarded with an honorary award. The judge will select top five animals out of those that received a KP, and place them PET1-PET5.

In addition, the judge will select the most promising junior (LJ) from among rats under six (6) months of age and the best veteran (PV) from among rats over 20 months of age. LJ and PV are selected from among rats that have been awarded with ERI. The judge may also choose the judge's favorite (TS) from among all the animals they have judged. Other awards may also be given at pet class.

AGILITY CLASS AND AWARDING

Agility is meant to be a fun activity between fancy rats and their handlers. In addition to a fast track time, the co-operation between the handler and the fancy rat is taken into account in the judging. All fancy rats over two months of age can participate in agility class. Does and bucks compete in their own groups. Agility entries shall be sent in advance according to the instructions on the invitation. An animal participating in agility does not need to be entered in

other classes or competitions.

Fancy rats participating in agility class must be brought to a health inspection before the competition. It is the responsibility of the handler to submit their animal for inspection once it has been announced to start. The health inspection is performed by a judge approved by LSK ry, a trainee judge, or another person appointed by the organizing association, but not by a judge or participant in the competition in question. If the animal participating in the competition has received an approved grade in either the standard or pet class, a separate health inspection is not required. However, the judge has the right to exclude the animal from the competition at a later stage if there is any change in its state of health.

It is possible to explore the agility track before the start of the competition. Rats are free to train on the track after their health inspection. During the training, handlers take turns using the track, but priority is given to the rats and handlers participating in the competition. The training period lasts until the judge's announcement.

Before the start of the competition, the track will be cleaned from traces of training. The judge will decide or draw the order of the obstacles and the direction of the track before the competition. Bucks always compete first in agility.

Rats will run the track in the order of the entry list. If an animal is being judged in either standard or pet class during its turn, the judge must be let known and the animal will compete at the end of its class list.

Each entered animal has two consecutive attempts. The time to complete the course is three (3) minutes for bucks and two and a half (2.5) minutes for does. After that the performance is considered complete. However, the handler may choose to interrupt the performance earlier. Performance begins with the timer's command 'time starts now', as the rat is in front of the first obstacle. The run ends when all the paws of the animal have touched the table after the last obstacle or when the time has run out.

The competition is judged either by an agility judge approved by LSK ry or by a judge trainee supervised by one. The judge may dismiss the performance if they find that the rat has violated the rules of the competition. The judge shall first give a verbal warning, after which the next offense will result in the animal being excluded from the competition and the performance being dismissed.

Dismissive violations:

- Moving the animal by hands (excluding returning the animal to an obstacle)
- Forcing an animal
- Rough handling of the animal
- Poor mental state of the animal

The judge will award the three animals with the fastest time, and may also give out other awards. In addition, the animal will receive an agility certificate if the completion time is 45 seconds or less (does) or 55 seconds or less (bucks).

Official agility obstacles:

Hoop

Ratwalk

A-frame

Weave poles

Hurdle

TITLES AND GAINING THEM

In standard class titles are gained as follows:

Three certificates = Finnish Champion (FiMVA)

Six certificates = Finnish Double Champion (FiKaMVA)

Nine certificates = Finnish Triple Champion (FiKoMVA)

In order to gain a Champion's title, at least one of these certificates must be obtained from open class. Certificates must be from at least two different judges.

In pet class titles are gained as follows:

Three honorary awards = SilverPet (SP)

Six honorary awards = GoldPet (GP)

Nine honorary awards = PlatinumPet (PP)

In order to gain a title, at least one of these certificates must be obtained from open class.

The Agility Champion (AVA) title is awarded to an animal that has been issued three agility certificates.

The title is followed by the year of completion, e.g. FiMVA-21.

INFLUENCING THE JUDGE

If the owner of the animal should try to influence the judge with their behavior (for example, by mentioning that they own the animal being judged), the judge may dismiss the animal and the entry fee will not be refunded.

If the attempt to influence the judging is outrageous, a warning may be given to the exhibitor. A written notice of the warning shall be sent to the exhibitor after the competition. Once a person has received two warnings, they are placed on a temporary ban on shows, the length of which

is decided by the board of LSK ry.

The board of LSK ry may impose a show or operation ban on an exhibitor who disturbs or criticizes a judge, violates these rules or good manners.

DAMAGES

The organizers and officials of the show are not responsible for any damages that may occur to the animal, the owner, or the exhibitor, or that the animal may cause during the show.

RIGHT TO MAKE CHANGES

LSK ry reserves the right to change the show rules, add awarded titles or change the distribution criteria of existing ones in the future.