

## Grooming Before Judging

Last minute grooming takes place just before judging. You want your bird to look its best when the judges gets to your coop. So take 5 minutes or so to make sure it does.

Step 1 - Remove the bird from the coop and check it all over for any dirt or "poo" that may have gotten on your bird. Use the baby wipes to clean the feet and toes.

Step 2 - Put a little baby oil on the shanks, feet, toes, beak, comb, wattles and earlobes. Remember, a little is better than too much. Birds with feathered shanks and toes should have just a dab on the bare part of the legs and feet. Spurs look nice with a little shine too. You can use your fingers to put this on or you can use the cotton balls.

Step 3 - Smooth any rough feathers by running your fingers down them and putting the web back together. This is especially important for the wings and tails.

Step 4 - Using the silk cloth, rub the bird from head to tail several times. Don't forget the underside. This puts a soft, natural shine on the feathers. Tightly feathered birds benefit from extra rubbing while heavily feathered birds usually need only 10 or so strokes.

Step 5 - Gently place the bird back in the coop and give them one last wipe with the silk cloth. You are now finished and can leave your bird knowing you did the best job possible.