

# *Preparation For Show BY*

## *REX MATTHEWS*

*This is how I prepare for a show*

Useful combs and things to keep  
while showing Rex Guinea Pigs



Wide tooth comb useful for  
removing hay seeds and other  
large items from the coat

Fine tooth comb good for  
removing dead hair



Curry comb helps with presentation  
of the Rex lifts the coat and helps  
with direction

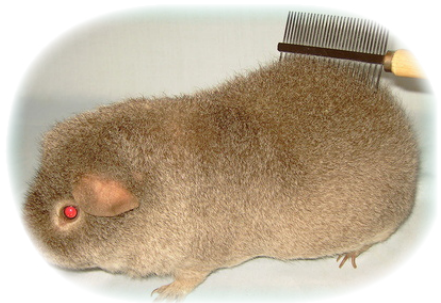
A picture of an ungroomed Rex take a close look at the guard hairs they need to be removed in order for them to be shown to their true potential



Thumb and finger grooming is probably the best way to groom a Rex, but be very careful not to take more than just the guard hairs as this will leave bald area's ,and thin the coat when we are looking for the most dense coat possible

To groom this way draw your thumb over your index finger very gently to remove the guard hairs.

Picture to the right show's finger grooming also in this picture the pig has some wood shavings in the coat to remove this and also hay seeds use a wide tooth comb





After using the wide comb step down to narrow comb to clear out the loose dead hair, nearly ready to be shown.

Next job clip the nails be careful not cut into the quick,



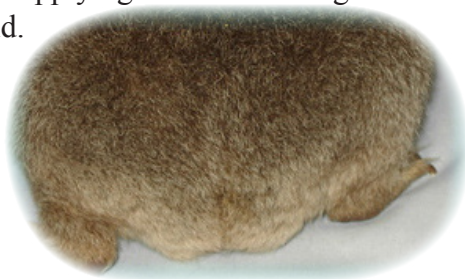
if in any doubt cut them a little longer but make sure you cut the nails evenly as they look neat and tidy for the show bench

Not the most glamorous picture of a Rex.

This pic show's the grease gland located at the bottom of the spine. It needs to be cleaned, this can be done in a number of different ways. One way is to use swarfega after applying this and rubbing in well clean off with washing up liquid.

Second method is to use a product called Zoff this is a cleaning wipe just rub gently around the grease gland.

Third method which is the one I prefer is Isopropanol an alcohol based liquid just apply with a cotton wool bud





Finally put a curry comb over the coat, always comb from the rump toward's the head, gently as using this comb can take out a lot of hair

I am now ready for the show just hope i do well after all that work



The feature pig in this article is Basher owned by Rex Matthews he was so patient while i took these photo's

## **How it all began**

### **by Rob and Linda Monk (Pickersleigh Stud)**

We are always asked that question “ Why do you show Rex Cavies?”. We have always showed dogs under the Stud name of Pickersleigh , but to go further you needed at least 6 dogs and when you showed Old English Sheepdogs, 3 were enough in our living room. So we decided to show something smaller that would live outside. We first decided on Netherland Dwarf rabbits. We went to some rabbit shows and bought a couple of pairs from a well known breeder. Then when visiting a pet shop we saw a Guinea pig, which we fell in love with. So having a spare cage we took it home. It got fatter and fatter and yes, it produced 4 babies. They were up and running from day one, not like the rabbits which seemed like guesswork to know if they had babies.

We thought we would like to show cavies and went to a local show called Wyeevern at Storridge Village Hall. The people were very friendly and we were made to feel welcome, so we made up our minds to concentrate on cavies. Next decision – what breed to keep. We saw a baby Rex in a sale pen and instantly fell in love with the breed. We decided to go to the National Cavy Club Show at Northampton to learn more about Rexes and find a reputable breeder. They held an auction that day and we saw a trio of Rex that were to be sold. A friend of ours from the dog showing world, who also showed Longhairs, asked Fred Holmes for his comments on the Rex. He suggested we should bid for them as they would be good foundation stock and were from a reputable breeder – Lexey Hollingdrake. So we bid for them and won. These were our first breeding trio, bought in 1993. The following year the boar won Best in Show at Bristol show and we were hooked. Over the next couple of years we only bought new stock from Lexey. After 5 years we had about 100 Rex and now only needed to bring in fresh blood once or twice a year.