

## **WASHING BIRDS FOR THE FAIR**

*.by.....Larry Lokai- Junior Fair Judge*

Below is ONE system of washing birds ( not large birds such as geese & turkeys )

Supplies needed:

1. Two five gallon plastic buckets- or tubs
2. Two additional five gallon plastic buckets- or tubs (optional )
3. Cheap bottle of liquid soap or Orvis soap if you are rich
4. Cloth glove ( old discarded work gloves work fine )
5. Soft bristle brush and/or old tooth brush
6. Hair dryer and/or old towel or diaper
7. Bottle of Woolite ( optional )
8. Bottle of Showbrite or Blueing ( optional )

Steps in process- keeping in mind birds are not used to being washed in water

1. Fill the two or four buckets with lukewarm water to the level in bucket so bird can stand on bottom of bucket and water comes to base of birds neck-no deeper
2. Bucket #1- add soap to desired level of your choice ( usually a few squirts )
3. Bucket #2- clear water to rinse bird
4. Bucket #3- (optional)- add showbrite or Blueing- usually a few squirts
5. Bucket #4- (optional)- add Woolite- again a few squirts just like grandma did
6. By holding birds wings under control, dip feet first bird into bucket #1 and let bird soak 2-3 minutes to loosen soiled feathers and let bird adjust to water.
7. If only using two bucket method, remove all soiled feather material and transfer bird to bucket #2 for rinsing.
8. If you selected the four bucket (tub ) method dip bird into a third bucket filled with showbrite or blueing.
9. Once bird finishes in bucket #3 transfer bird to bucket #4 with Woolite.
10. Remove wet bird from bucket #4 if 4-bucket method, or bucket #2 if 2-bucket method and either blow dry with dryer, wipe feathers with towel, or simply wrap towel/diaper around bird and let bird sit for about 5 minutes.
11. Carefully place birds back into cages with clean bedding

**VERY IMPORTANT TO CHECK PENS HOURLY FOR MANURE DROPPINGS.**

To avoid bruises to the wing when washing, hold wings against body of bird tightly and **DO NOT** allow bird to flap wings.

### ***RULE OF THUMB:***

Treat the birds wings like they were made of glass and you should not have any bruising problems.