

What's in a Showbox?

BY BARBARA LABARBARA

*V*eterinary supplies, aspirin,
soda pop, potato chips,

*stale cookies, a deck of
cards, soap, toy cars, old
ribbons, hamburger
wrappers, dirty socks,
cans of spray paint and
glue, worn out gloves,
combs, brushes, electric
clippers, overshoes,
health and registration
papers, rags, Chapstick, a
package of hard chewing
gum, paper towels, and a
few things you forgot you
even owned!*



A showbox is a vet supply house, a hardware store, a pharmacy, a snack stash, an entertainment center, a suitcase and clothes hamper, a safety deposit box for important documents, and a bottomless pit when looking for the clipper oil or keys to the truck.

A showbox is usually rectangle or square in shape. It can be of the plain, pine variety, or a fancy, manufactured aluminum model with a padded leather top. What's most important is its contents.

A showbox is never large enough until it's time to load it on the truck. Then it is enormous. Its contents: too much but seldom what you need.

A showbox not only carries equipment, it holds dreams of winning, memories of being champion and of losing. Like a country kitchen table, it draws friends and new acquaintances around. And, at the end of a long show day, you'll find it serves as a mighty fine foot rest or sturdy cot to lay your head.



SHOWBOX cont.

Never leave Home Without It

Here's a list of the essentials, plus a few favorite items to stash in a showbox:

I Official papers

- Registration papers
- Brand inspection certificate
- Health papers signed by a veterinarian

I Promotional pieces

- Farm signs
- Business cards and brochures

■ Fitting equipment

- Blower
- Ear nose ring
- Dental brushes and combs, varying sizes and styles
- Electric clippers, extra blades and clipper oil
- Extension cords, heavy duty
- Hair sprays including rag oil, show shine, adhesive and paints
- Rags, toilet paper, Kleenex and paper towels
- Rope halters and neck ropes
- Show halters
- Show stick
- Scissors
- Spray bottles
- Tail ties
- Water hoses, nozzles and soap

■ Hardware

- Boltcutter
- Knife
- Locks, keys, spare key
- Nails, nuts and bolts
- Tools, e.g. pliers, wrenches, hammers, screwdrivers
- Wire cutter
- Baling wire for putting up signs and holding stalls together

I Veterinary supplies

- Balling gun and one ounce empty gelatin capsules
- Broad spectrum antibiotic
- Anti-bloat medicine, e.g. Therabloat
- Gauze and tape
- Health papers
- Iodine and/or peroxide
- Veterinarian's telephonenumber



The "cow stuff" takes up more room than the cows.



Really neat! How do they do that?



I Human pharmaceuticals

- Acebandage
- Antacid
- Aspirin
- Tissue
- Eyedrops
- Band-Aids®
- Antibiotic ointment, e.g. Neosporin®
- Decongestant/antihistamine
- Prescriptionmedicines

I Clothes

- Coats
- Coveralls
- Extra pair of boots or shoes
- Extra socks
- Gloves
- Rubber wash pants and boots
- Show clothes
- Workclothes plus a change

I Snacks

- Beef jerky
- Bottled water and soda pop
- C a n d y
- Chips, pretzels, crackers
- Fruit and raw veggies
- Homemade goodies
- Money so you can buy what you forgot to bring

I Entertainment

- Backgammon
- Checkers
- Deck of cards
- Electronic game
- Laptopcomputer
- Toys for the little ones

I Things that don't fit in a box

- Blockingchutes
- Cooler
- D o l l y
- Electric fans
- Floor mats
- Folding chairs or captain chairs
- Pitchforks, one for the barn and one for the out
- Rakes
- Shovels for a pooperscooper
- Wheelbarrow
- Hay and straw
- Grain
- Water and feed buckets



Nap time



Sometimes boys like cars better than cows.

A D V I C E F R O M A V E T E R A N

Teela Sadowsky of Osage Grass & Livestock, Eagleville, Mo., offers the following tips for a more stress-free show:

- ✓ Call ahead to the fair or show grounds to find out about the facility (don't forget to ask for directions)
- ✓ Check on stalls
- ✓ Check on tie outs
- ✓ Check on availability of straw and/or sawdust
- ✓ Arrive early-allow time for a flat tire, be sure spare has air
- ✓ Remember health and registration papers
- ✓ Remember homemade goodies
- ✓ In your rush, don't forget the cattle



Worn-out gloves = experience

