



ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY & QUALITY OF EXHIBITS

September 15 – 25

Oklahoma State Fair Inc. is committed to the humane treatment of all animals exhibited. Every possible precaution is taken to ensure the animals' safety and wellbeing. Any exhibitor found using unethical practices or mistreating an animal at the Oklahoma State Fair (OSF) will be immediately removed from the premises and reported to the proper authorities. All privileges will be withdrawn, attraction fees will be prorated, and premiums will not be awarded.

LIVESTOCK SHOWS AND COMPETITIONS

Any animal not cleaned or fitted to show as a true representative of the breed it represents shall be disqualified, and the judges will not award premiums on such animal. Exhibitors are requested to see that their attendants are neatly and appropriately dressed when they lead their animals into the show ring. Herdspersons are requested to present an attractive and appealing barn exhibit(s), by keeping their stall areas neat and clean, keeping the spectator walkways clear of all straw, feed, etc., refraining from cooking in the barns, keeping radios, etc. at a low volume, following any fire and life-safety rules, and maintaining positive behavior at all times.

- A. Summary of Program
Exhibitors show animals for many reasons. The exhibition provides education to the public about livestock and farm animals, as well as the overall agriculture industry. Competition in the show ring provides a forum for comparison of livestock animals, based on selected or desired characteristics and genetics. The results contribute to breed and overall species improvement. These selected characteristics reflect in the market and usually follow consumer demand for a certain type of product (for example, leaner meat). The Fair also provides advertisement for the breeders and owners of the animals. The 4-H and FFA programs and other junior organizations teach valuable skills to youth, such as finance management, responsibility, decision making and leadership, to name a few.
- B. Education
The Oklahoma State Fair has several educational exhibits and programs designed to educate, entertain and inform the public about livestock and agriculture. The Fair utilizes judging commentators during the livestock shows to involve and inform the public about what is taking place in the show ring. Commentators cover what the judge is looking for in the animals, judging terminology (or "reasons"), as well as fun and educational information about the judged animals. The junior livestock exhibitors display educational exhibits in the livestock area during the Fair. The Fair has a special livestock exhibit area designed to provide species diversity and special education.
- C. Livestock Exhibits
 - 1. Livestock Exhibitor Guidelines
 - a. The Fair expects exhibitors to be knowledgeable about exhibit rules, about their projects, and always to be prepared to answer questions. The exhibitor's role is that of ambassador.
 - b. Exhibitors should learn additional details about animals and their roles in society. For example, it is fun and interesting to share by-product uses and other facts with the public. The Fair encourages educational exhibits in tack or surrounding areas.
 - c. The Fair expects the exhibitors to cooperate with the Livestock Coordinator, the assistants, the barn crew, the Fair Management, and any appointed volunteers. The Fair also expects good sportsmanship, conduct, and open communication.
 - d. Notify the Livestock Coordinator if there is a confrontation with animal activists or if there is someone approaching exhibitors and asking questions, which make the exhibitors uneasy. Also notify the Livestock Coordinator if someone who is unfamiliar, or who looks suspicious, is taking photographs or video footage of the animals.
 - 2. Livestock Exhibit Guidelines
The Fair expects livestock exhibitors to follow the General and Safety Procedures as outlined in this manual.
 - a. Keep the needs of the animals as the number one priority with regard to the following.
 - 1. Food and water are clean and fresh.

2. Stalls are clean, with fresh bedding, and free of debris and waste.
 3. Animals are clean and well groomed.
 4. Transportation is safe and clean. Use care when loading and unloading.
 5. Stalls have enough space to prevent crowding, fighting or discomfort.
 6. Animals are tied in the stalls with enough slack in the rope so they may lie down.
 7. Use proper grooming techniques and equipment when preparing the animals for showing, to cause the least amount of discomfort to the animal.
 8. The management will not tolerate any practices deemed inappropriate, unethical or inhumane. Report any sick animal immediately to the proper authority who may suggest that the exhibitor contact the veterinarian.
- b. Feed and Pharmaceutical
- Feed shall be appropriate for the animal's age, weight, and species. Exhibitors should read all feed labels for appropriate use and portions. Adhere to all proper withdrawal times if using medicated feeds. Follow the requirements of the Food and Drug Administration dosages and withdrawal times of drugs. *See Drug Residue Policy*. The Fair prohibits any unnatural, inhumane weight control prior to weigh-in.
- c. Equipment
- Exhibitors should know the proper use of all equipment and exhibit safety awareness. This includes removing equipment from walkways so it is not a hazard to people or animals. Tack areas and stalls, pens or cages shall be neat and clean, with equipment put away in tack boxes or stored out of the way. Exhibitors shall use all equipment for approved and legal uses ONLY.

HORSE SHOWS AND COMPETITIONS

USDA and APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service), under the Horse Protection Act, which prohibits making a horse sore to enhance its performance, regulate horse shows. OSF also regulates horse shows regarding prohibited substances and the drugging of horses. USEF members and affiliated shows are subject to the rules and industry review program administered by the United States Equestrian Federation. Shows may also be subject to standards set by the individual breed associations, when and if applicable.

ANIMAL ATTRACTIONS AND EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

Fair Management contracts and supervises animal attraction and educational exhibits. Both animal attractions and educational exhibits are required to provide educational material about their animals and their care to the public. Fair Management encourages interaction with the public. This may be a criterion for issuing a contract.

Prior to opening to the public, a Fair-designated veterinarian may inspect each animal exhibit. The veterinarian may also make periodic checks throughout the Fair.

Each animal exhibit will designate a representative to be responsible and to be available during the Fair operating hours to answer questions, talk to the media, or respond to an emergency situation.

A. General guidelines for care

1. Exhibit staff shall be available at all times. Signs will be posted informing the public of acceptable behavior in any petting facility.
2. The staff should be familiar with basic animal husbandry practices.
3. Keep animals groomed and clean at **all** times. Keep feed and water receptacles clean and free of debris. The exhibitor will clean animal stalls or pens, daily. Properly dispose manure and used bedding in the appropriate receptacles or areas. Replace old bedding with fresh material.
4. Alternate and give rest periods to the animals especially during hot weather. The resting pens and working area shall have shade with proper ventilation.
5. Feed animals a nutritionally balanced diet as appropriate and with consideration to the animals' age, weight and species. Water regularly when working and have clean water available in resting pens.
6. The facility operator should make an effort to control flies in the exhibit and resting areas. Proper and prompt disposal of manure and used bedding is beneficial to this effort.
7. Exhibitors shall use all equipment for approved and legal uses ONLY. The management will not tolerate any practices deemed inappropriate, unethical or inhumane.

8. Report any sick or injured animal immediately to Fair management, who may suggest that the exhibitor contact the veterinarian.

B. Animal Petting Facilities

The design of an animal petting facility should help educate the public about different types of animals and animal care while regarding the animals' basic needs including time away from the public. It should also provide the rare opportunity for contact and interaction with animals. Petting zoos feature exotic animals not typically raised on farms.

C. Pony Rides

1. The ponies should have a pad or cushioned surface such as lawn or shavings to prevent ponies from walking on the ground or asphalt for extended periods of time.
2. The pony ride should be a safe site, away from potential, unexpected noises and sudden movements.
3. Alternate the ponies to allow for reasonable rest periods.
4. Water the ponies regularly.
5. Do not expose the ponies to sun for extended periods of time without breaks for rest, shade and water.

D. Pig Races

Pig races provide fast-paced family entertainment and crowd interaction.

The USDA regulates pig races and requires an exhibitor license for performing animals. The USDA requires health permits to enter the state and blood tests for animals coming from certain states. The owner/operator of the pig races may need to produce current and correct copies of all health permits and results of blood tests as requested by Fair Management or in compliance with their contract. The owner/operator of the pig races may need to produce current and correct copies of all licenses as regulated by the USDA. Operator should maintain itinerary or schedule of Fair dates to document past and future exhibitions. Pig races shall follow the general policies outlined in this manual, as well as the appropriate feed for piglet age.

E. Other Animal Exhibits (not previously listed)

It is up to the exhibitor of animal attractions including: any owner exhibiting animals doing tricks or shows; carnivals and concessionaires who exhibit regulated animals; anyone who uses regulated animals to promote or advertise goods and services; animals used to promote photographs or photography; and anyone exhibiting farm animals for nonagricultural purposes to have knowledge of and obtain in a timely manner any required licenses.

ANIMAL CARE: POLICY DISCIPLINE AND VIOLATION NOTICE

- A. Fair Management relies on staff members, volunteers, exhibitors, and the public to report any situations that may be potential policy violations.
- B. Fair Management will investigate and determine the severity of all complaints and concerns.
- C. If there is a violation of the Animal Welfare Policy, the exhibitor will receive a verbal warning and the steps needed to correct the violation.
- D. With the second violation, the exhibitor will receive a written violation notice, and Fair Management may call the Humane Society or the veterinarian, at the exhibitor's expense, depending on the severity of the violation. The removal of animals and/or exhibitor from the fairgrounds may become necessary.
- F. A record of the verbal violation warning and copies of the violation notices will become part of the exhibitor's file. Fair Management will consider these before issuing another contract.
- G. Any other public or staff complaint filed will become part of the exhibitor's file. Exhibitor will receive copies.
- H. Fair Management reserves the right to disqualify any competitive exhibitors in violation of the animal care policy from any awards and premiums.

Oklahoma State Fair, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation that serves the people of Oklahoma and is dedicated to continuing the organization's heritage of education, entertainment and economic development through the operation of State Fair Park and the annual Oklahoma State Fair®.

**OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR®
ANIMAL CARE POLICY
VIOLATION NOTICE**

VIOLATOR: _____

AREA: _____

CONTACT#: _____

DATE OF VIOLATION: _____

DESCRIPTION	OF	VIOLATION

ACTION
TAKEN: _____

WITNESS: _____

DATE: _____

Cc: Fair Manager, Exhibit Supervisor