

MARION COUNTY FAIR POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Sponsoring Department:
Public Works- County Fair

SUBJECT: MARION COUNTY FAIR ANIMAL WELFARE

1.0 Purpose

To establish a policy addressing the safety, security, health, and general well-being of the livestock and other animals exhibited at the Marion County Fair.

2.0 General Policy

The majority of animals exhibited at the fair are involved in the 4H or FFA programs. The fair strives to provide each fair participant an opportunity for a positive educational experience and competitive excellence.

Other potential fair exhibitors include animals in the open class livestock shows, the petting zoo, pony rides, exotic animal exhibits, and dogs entered in the Flyball Tournament. The same guidelines apply for all animal exhibitors.

The utmost care will be taken to provide members of the public, who visit any of the areas in which animals are housed, a safe, clean, fun and engaging fair experience.

3.0 Policy Guidelines/Procedures

- 3.1 All 4H/FFA student exhibitors and open class show participants will follow their particular organization's written animal code of ethics.
- 3.2 All animals on grounds will have passed the standard veterinary check requirements established by their organizations.
- 3.3 All animals will be handled in the most humane and ethical manner.
- 3.4 Fair management will not tolerate any cruelty or mistreatment of animals and will take action should these occur.
- 3.5 The fair requires that all animals' basic needs are met; that they are provided with clean bedding, food, and clean water. When pertinent, accommodations should be made to keep the animals as comfortable as possible during extreme temperatures or other weather events.
- 3.6 For safety purposes, all animals will be contained in the appropriate sized enclosures with secure operating and locking mechanisms. (Owner contact information should be readily available near the enclosures.)

- 3.7 Sick animals are to be removed from the grounds as soon as identified as ill to ensure other healthy animals are not impacted.
- 3.8 Animals on special display such as mother/baby pairs will be appropriately protected from fair visitors' inadvertent harm such as through handling. (The fair contracts with a petting zoo provider as an alternative to a "hands on" animal experience. These animals are socialized and accustomed to being handled by strangers.)
- 3.9 Animals susceptible to human viruses that can result in harm to the animal, such as the *Swine Flu*, will be contained in such a manner that human access is limited.
- 3.10 All animal exhibitors will be diligent in keeping their animal areas and corresponding walkways clean in accord with biosecurity guidelines. (See *Marion County Biosecurity Guidelines*.)
- 3.11 In order to ensure all common traffic areas (aisle ways used by the public) are kept clean and free of debris and manure, the fair awards a *Herdsmanship Scholarship* to chosen clubs/chapters.

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