

Iowa State Fair

Animal Care Committee

August 11, 2015

Purpose of the Animal Care Committee:

The Animal Care Committee was established by the Iowa State Fair Board to ensure that all animals at the Fair receive the best care that is possible and practical. The Iowa State Fair is a showplace for animal agriculture in the state. Many animal species, in addition to livestock, are on exhibition at the Fair. Many attendees are not familiar with common standards of care for livestock, pets and other animals. The animal displays and exhibits are intended to provide enjoyment and education for exhibitors and the general public. The Committee endeavors to enhance the image of animal ownership, the Fair and to provide a positive experience for all involved.

General:

- Society does not tolerate animal cruelty, abuse, neglect or even discomfort.
- The Fair is the only contact that many members of the public have with livestock.
- The image of quality care is as important as the reality.
- This is a teaching opportunity.
- The Iowa State Fair provides an opportunity to educate the public about basic husbandry.
- The Iowa State Fair provides a wholesome venue for exhibition, education and competition for youth and adults from throughout Iowa and beyond.
- Standards of animal care have changed over time.
- The role of animals, especially companion animals, in the quality of life of many members of the public has dramatically increased.
- There are many so-called “experts” on animal care, but few are well-trained.
- Many confuse tradition with acceptable standards. They may not be the same.
- The Iowa State Fair makes a major effort to ensure the safety of the public, as well as animals, at the Fair.

Superintendents:

- Superintendents are responsible to Management for ensuring accepted standards of animal care and for assisting in the enforcement of all regulations.
- Animals, contests, displays, pens and the associated environment should be viewed from the perspective of Fair visitors who know little about husbandry, standards of care and related matters.
- Animals should be clean, well-bedded, fed and watered at all times.
- Problems and concerns should be called to the attention of the exhibitors immediately.
- Violations should be dealt with in a professional manner, but Superintendents should insist on corrective action.
- Serious problems should be referred to the Iowa State Fair Veterinarians and to Management.
- Animal abuse or neglect is cause for removal from the Fairgrounds. This action should be taken by the Iowa State Fair Board.
- Rules require that all animal treatments, injections or administration of medications, including oral medications, must be approved by the Iowa State Fair Veterinarians. This **means all animals, all classes, no exceptions.**
- Watch carefully for signs of discomfort or distress, especially heat stress, and take corrective action immediately.
- Report evidence of disease or significant discomfort to the Iowa State Fair Veterinarian.

- Any animal showing signs of infectious or contagious disease will be immediately isolated and removed from the Fairgrounds as soon as possible.
- The Board has implemented a policy that no dogs will be allowed on the Fairgrounds, except for exhibition or those that provide assistance such as guide dogs for the blind.

Iowa State Fair Veterinarians:

- The Iowa State Fair Veterinarians are responsible for the delivery of veterinary services and performance of health procedures at the Fair.
- All issues of animal care, welfare or health should be referred to them.
- The Veterinarians will report all major health and animal care issues to Iowa State Fair Management.

Regulatory Veterinarians:

- The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Veterinarians are responsible for enforcing state and federal animal disease control regulations. Only the IDALS Veterinarians and their designees have authority to make decisions related to disposition of animals that have or are suspected of having an infectious or contagious animal disease.
- All animals must be free of infectious, contagious or communicable disease or exposure thereto.
- Issues related to control of infectious diseases and regulatory matters shall be referred to the State Veterinarian or members of his staff.
- Animal drug use is governed by the Food and Drug Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Illegal use of animal drugs is a criminal violation of the U.S. Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, Animal Medical Drug Use Clarification Act, and other laws and regulations of the FDA.
- Rigorous control of veterinary drugs in show animals is necessary in order to protect the reputation of the Fair and the market for show animals exhibited at the Fair.

Other Personnel:

- It is the responsibility of Board Members, employees, volunteers and especially the exhibitors to help provide and enforce high standards of animal care at the Iowa State Fair.
- Discrepancies or concerns should be reported to the Superintendents, responsible employees, Veterinarians and Board Members.
- Confrontation should be avoided if possible, but animal abuse or neglect will not be tolerated.

Protests and Demonstrations:

- The right of free speech may not be abrogated on public property.
- No individual or group may interrupt the normal activities of the Fair.
- Handing out literature of any type must be from a rented booth or similar facility.
- If confrontations or protests occur or appear likely to occur, notify the Manager and/or President of the Iowa State Fair Board immediately. Do not take personal or direct action.
- Parents and exhibitors should be advised of these policies.
- Media questions about protests, picketing or issues related to animal care should be addressed by the Manager, the Board President or their designees.

Bio-security:

- Signs that address prevention or introduction of contagious foreign animal diseases are posted throughout exhibition areas.
- No raw food products prepared in a foreign country may be brought onto the Fairgrounds.
- Questions regarding these matters should be addressed to the Veterinarians.
- Being alert and observant can do much to help protect the livestock industry of the state and nation.