



Animal Care Codes of Practice for Markham Fair

Guiding Principles

The wellbeing of animals participating in events at our organization must be safeguarded. It is essential that there is clear understanding and acceptance of responsibilities by all of our volunteers, personnel, competitors and exhibitors.

The care of animals for competition, exhibition or education at our organization requires both experience and the observation of accountable standards. Unless that work is done well, the wellbeing of the animals cannot be adequately protected. Our guiding principles and practices are intended to ensure all those responsible for their implementation accept responsibility for the husbandry, care and handling outlined in the Animal Care Code of Practice.

Our organization will keep current on regulatory policy and guidelines as needed and monitor industry information related to animal care.

Our organization will ensure the ongoing maintenance of its Codes of Practice to create an environment that results in the respect and humane care of all animals at our facility.

Our organization will ensure our Volunteer animal handlers are competent to handle and care for those animals.

Our organization will ensure that people who have responsibilities in the organization for the production of events have knowledge of animal welfare and make sure those requirements are met.

Guidance and Regulatory

Responsible management of our animals and their care at our organization is informed with guidance from organizations such as: **Ontario Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs, Ontario SPCA, Farm and Food Care Ontario, International Association of Fairs & Expositions, Canadian Association of Fair and Exhibitions.**

Our organization ensures that it is compliant with regulatory standards such as: **Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Ontario Equine Federation's First Safe Strides, Equine Canada.**

Authority

Our organization, Official Veterinarian (OV) and Judges will be empowered to discipline any person, including personnel, contestants, contractors and exhibitors who compromise the wellbeing of an animal.

Our organization retains the right to dismiss, fine and/or suspend anyone not conforming to our organization's rules, conditions and codes of practice. Our organization has the ultimate and final authority on all matters of disciplinary action.



Official Veterinarian (OV)

The OV reports to our Management and is responsible for providing expert advice on the health, injury or disease status of an animal and its suitability for competition.

The OV will be experienced in treating all species of animals participating in events at our facilities.

The OV will be the sole arbiter on issues of animal wellbeing.

The OV will complete a record of injuries and other defects, including treatment & medication in the Animal Care Treatment Log. All licensed veterinarians who have been approved by the OV and accredited by our organization, must record all veterinary treatment provided by the veterinarian or by the person acting under the veterinarian's supervision and control, on forms supplied by our organization.

The treatment log should include:

- the name of the licensed veterinarian and any person acting under the veterinarian's supervision and control;
- the name and identification of the animal to which veterinary treatment is provided by tattoo number, brand or description, including markings, colour, age, sex and microchip (where applicable);
- name of the owner;
- the place, date and time, and the nature of the treatment, prescription or administration;
- the identification of the drug or medication by generic name and dosage prescribed or administered;
- circumstances, if applicable, that may have contributed to the reported condition; and
- The health/condition of the animals should be followed up on when applicable and animals only allowed back into competition when approved by the OV

Copies of all Animal Care Treatment Forms must be made available and delivered to our organization or the OV(s) on a daily basis to a place specified by our organization.

Contestant/Exhibitor/Competitor Protocol

Our Organization, its personnel, contractors, contestants, competitors and exhibitors will clearly understand and accept their responsibilities. All people involved with and participating in our organization's events will be familiar with our organization Animal Care Code of Practice, where applicable.

All contestants/exhibitors/competitors will comply, where applicable, with the requirements of our organization's Animal Care Code of Practice by acknowledging and signing the required agreement-consent forms.

Each contestant/exhibitor/competitor or contractor is responsible for the animals he or she uses or provides during any event held by our organization and must comply with all applicable sections of our organization Animal Care Code of Practice.

Contestants/exhibitors/competitors/contractors must not intentionally treat animals in a way that compromises their well-being. Violation of our organization's Animal Care Code of Practice could result in disqualification, fines, or suspension.



Participation of Animals

Any animal that is deemed unfit by the OV will not be permitted to participate.

If an animal becomes sick or injured at our organization, that animal will not be used and will be immediately treated by an Accredited Veterinarian

Care and Treatment of Animals at Events

Only experienced animal handlers with the approval of our Committee Chairperson will undertake the preparation of animals for events.

Livestock under the care of our organization will be provided with fresh water, food and bedding according to the needs of the animal (based upon participation schedule).

Injured Animal Protocol

Injured animals must be attended to as soon as possible with veterinary attention being sought immediately.

The “injured animal” procedure is activated if an animal requires assistance.

Specific to Agriculture

Official Veterinary (OV)

- a) An OV will make daily rounds in the stalling areas to ensure wellbeing of animals
- b) OV are scheduled accordingly to monitor and service the barns, view newly arriving livestock, and assigned to specific event attendance.

Care and Treatment of Animals

- a) Equipment for the purpose of showing or competing must not cause harm to animals.
- b) Livestock for event purposes are scheduled with the intent of having their stay at our venue being as short as possible.
- c) Exhibitors are responsible to ensure that their livestock has suitable access to water and feed appropriate to their respective management plan.
- d) Livestock must be removed from arena immediately after completion of an event. Water will be immediately provided to the animals following the competition.
- e) Any animal that becomes excessively excited or attempts to jump out of arena area in a manner that may cause it to injure itself must be released immediately.



- f) Our organization will ensure that animal handlers are informed prior to the start of the fireworks.
- g) Only quiet animals with good temperaments can be exhibited or placed in agriculture programming and competition.

Stalling and Arenas

Stalling

- a) Access to well-maintained and clean stalling areas, daily manure management procedures, proper ground preparation, designed competition rings, proper air flow, and well planned specie stalling will be provided by our organization at all venues.
- b) Exterior livestock holding pens must have shavings or post peelings in place for bedding.
- c) All stalls and housing areas will be free of sharp edges and protrusions that may injure the animals. All penning material will be appropriate to the animal being housed to prevent the animals from getting their heads or other body parts trapped or enabling escape from the pens. All enclosed pens will be equipped with gates that safely secure shut.
- d) Tie stalls will be equipped with appropriate rings for animals to be tied securely and comfortably.
- e) All animals that are tied up must be done in a secure manner, but with a quick release style knot allowing for easy removal in the event of an emergency.
- f) Stalling space will be provided according to each species' needs.

Arenas

- a) Arenas will be leveled annually in advance of an event at our venue.
- b) The arena should have a suitable surface prepared to allow for secure footing and traction specific to the type of animal event.
- c) There must be no protrusions, jagged edges or gaps in fences, gateways or chutes that will cause injury to stock.
- d) The arena must be free of holes, rocks, obstacles and any other hazards that may injure stock.
- e) All arenas must be designed to ensure safe containment of any animals that may get loose during a competition.