

National Code of Show Ring Ethics

- 1.** All exhibitors must present, upon request of fair and livestock show officials, proof of ownership, length of ownership and age of all animals entered. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited.
- 2.** Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or absolutely responsible persons shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by fair or livestock show officials.
- 3.** Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at the fairs or livestock shows.
- 4.** Animals shall be presented to show events where they will enter the food chain free of violative drug residues. The act of entering an animal in a livestock show is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitors, fitters, trainers and/or absolutely responsible person for show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. Animals not entered in events, which culminates with the animal entering the food chain, shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with federal, state, and provincial statutes, regulations and rules. If the laboratory report on the chemical analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample taken from livestock indicates the presence of forbidden drugs or medications, this shall be prima facie evidence such substance has been administered to the animal either internally or externally. It is presumed that the sample of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample tested by the approved laboratory to which it is sent is the one taken from the animal in question, its integrity is preserved and all procedures of said collection and preservation, transfer to the laboratory pertains to the sample taken from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken, with burden of the owner, exhibitors, fitters, trainers or absolutely responsible person to prove otherwise at any hearing in regard to the matter conducted by the fair or livestock show premises, all treatment involving the use of drugs, and/or medications shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian.
- 5.** Any surgical procedures or injection of any foreign substances or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counterirritant or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, conformation, or appearance, except external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals which affect appearance only and except for surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal, is prohibited.
- 6.** The use of showing and/or handling practices of or devices such as striking animals to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited.
- 7.** Direct criticism or interference with the judge, fair or livestock show management, other exhibitors, breed representatives, or show officials before, during or after the competitive event is prohibited. In the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock show management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.

8. No owner, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or absolutely responsible person shall conspire with another person or persons by affirmative action or inaction to violate this code of ethics. Violation of this rule shall subject such individual to disciplinary action.

9. This application of this code of ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, exhibitors, fitter, trainer or participant whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had knowledge of the treatment of the animal in contravention of this code of ethics.

10. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or absolutely responsible person to have any disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show against such individuals responsible person to have any disciplinary action taken by the fair or livestock show against such individuals published in any publication of the IAFE, including Fairs and Expositions and any special notice to members.

11. The act of entering of an animal in a fair or livestock show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitors, fitters, trainers or absolutely responsible person that he/she has read the IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics and understands the consequences of and penalties provided for actions prohibited by the code. It is further a consent that any action which contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal, state, or provincial statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorized with jurisdiction over such infractions.