

EANS Newsletter

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HORSE PULLS AND SHOW RING COMPETITIONS

Information provided by the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) and the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (CAFE) on efforts to address the problems of animal abuse and use of performance enhancing drugs at show events across Canada and the United States.



Much work has gone into investigating ways to prevent the use of performance enhancing drugs at show events such as Agriculture Fairs and Exhibitions, besides the one day show events at various locations. The key question is liability. If a regulating authority developed a regulation under legal Legislation, this regulation could be used as reference for admission for exhibits. Unfortunately, no such regulation exists and the next best thing is a “ Code of Ethics “ accepted by all users. The information contained in the following pages is provided by IAFE and CAFE could serve as guidelines for the development of a Code of Ethics by EANS that could be used for the Province’s Agricultural Fairs and Exhibitions.

IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics

Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of agricultural education. This code applies to junior as well as open class exhibitors who compete in structured classes of competition. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at a livestock show. In addition to the "IAFE National Code of Show Ring Ethics", fairs and livestock shows may have rules and regulations which they impose on the local, county, state, provincial and national levels. All youth leaders working with junior exhibitors are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts. Their moral values must be so certain and positive that those younger and more pliable will be influenced by their fine example. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers and absolutely responsible persons who violate the code of ethics will forfeit premiums, awards and auction proceeds and shall be prohibited from future exhibition in accordance with the rules adopted by the respective fairs and livestock shows. Exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and should be prohibited from competition at all livestock shows in the United States and Canada.

The following is a list of guidelines for all exhibitors and all livestock in competitive events:

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 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, exhibitor, fitter, trainer 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 an event which culminates with the animal entering the food chain shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal, state and provincial statutes, regulations and rules affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event. If the laboratory report on the analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample taken from livestock indicates the presence of forbidden drugs or medication, 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 urine, saliva, blood, or other substance tested by the 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 and analysis of the sample are correct and accurate and the report received from 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 the burden on the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to prove otherwise. At any time after an animal arrives on the Fair or livestock show premises, all treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal shall be administered by a licensed veterinarian.

5. Any surgical procedure or injection of any foreign substance or drug or the external application of any substance (irritant, counter-irritant, or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, confirmation, or appearance, except external 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 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 or 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, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person shall conspire with another person or persons to intentionally violate this code of ethics or knowingly contribute or cooperate with another person or persons either by affirmative action or inaction to violate this code of ethics. Violation of this rule shall subject such individual to disciplinary action.

9. The application of this code of ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or participant whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual 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, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person to have disciplinary action taken by the Fair or livestock show for violation of this Code of Show Ring Ethics and any other rules of competition of the Fair or livestock show without recourse against the Fair or livestock show. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent that any proceedings or disciplinary action taken by the Fair or livestock show may be published with the name of the violator or violators in any publication of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, including Fairs and Expositions and any special notices to members.

11. The act of entering of an animal in a Fair or livestock show is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person that he or 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 authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.

National Coalition for Best Practices for Show Animals

Recently the Markham Fair has been made aware that a proposal has gone to Markham City Council to implement an animal-rights-based bylaw similar to the one implemented because of the calving incident at the Cloverdale Rodeo in BC. A group of concerned representatives from various disciplines (including the Markham Fair, the Ontario Equestrian Federation, the Canadian Professional Rodeo Association, the Royal Winter Fair and the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions) recognizes that this is a potential threat to more than just the Fair industry that must be dealt with immediately. The proposed bylaw amendment currently stipulates the following:

13 (3) No person shall operate or carry on any exhibit, public show, or other display or act of entertainment in the Town in which animals are subjected to the following practices:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) calf or goat roping or tie-down roping, in which a person ropes and restrains a calf or goat or attempts to rope and restrain a calf or goat, in order to tie, or attempt to tie, some or all of the calf's or goat's legs together; (b) horse tripping, in which a person causes or attempts to cause a horse to trip and fall to the ground; (c) steer busting, in which a person ropes a steer's horn or attempts to rope a steer's horn, and causes or attempts to cause the steer to turn over and fall to the ground, in order to tie, or attempt to tie, some or all of the steer's legs together; (d) steer wrestling, in which a person moves from a horse onto a steer, or attempts to move from a horse onto a steer, and twists the steer's neck, or attempts to twist the steer's neck in order to cause or attempt to cause the steer to fall to the ground; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (e) use of electric prods or other shocking devices, in which a person administers, or attempts to administer, volts of electricity to an animal by means of an electric prod; (f) use of bucking or flank straps, fastens or attempts to fasten around an animal's flank area a bucking or flank strap, meaning any belt, rope or other material, in order to cause or encourage the animal to buck; (g) use of caustic ointments, meaning any substance that causes the animal to suffer inflammation, irritation, pain or discomfort; (h) chuck wagon racing (i) wild cow milking (j) farm animal chasing (k) sheep & goat rides |
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The National Coalition for Best Practices for Show Animals has been formed of concerned stakeholders to address this threat. It was agreed by the Coalition's Steering Committee that the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (C.A.F.E.) should facilitate the process. Our first task is to deal with the immediate threat to the Markham Fair. This is, however, a first step toward creating a marketing package to use when this issue arises anywhere across the country.

Our request to you is for a letter of support in this matter.

Cont'd...

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
<http://www.eans.ca>

To show your support, please visit the following web site:

http://canadian-fairs.ca/letters/animal_support.html

You can fill out the form on-line, or download a form letter to complete on your letterhead. Letters should be mailed to:

Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions
43 Eccles St.
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 6S3

Or sent via email to:

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