

Morton County Fair

Animal Care and Livestock

Emergency Plan

Morton County Fair

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The Animal Care and Emergency Plan is in place to ensure the following standards are met regarding the wellness, care, and safety of animals at the Morton County Fair.

- The Morton County Fair will not tolerate animal cruelty, abuse, or neglect.
- For many in the public, the events at the Morton County Fair provide their one and only experience or exposure to animals, especially livestock.
- Educating the public about the high standard of care provide to the animals in agriculture is a key role for everyone at the Morton County Fair.
- The Morton County Fair provides a show ring and arena for youth to share their knowledge and appreciation for the highest standards of animal care and show ring.

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- Code of Show Ring Ethics

Animal Care and Management

The care, custody, and control of the animals brought onto the Morton County Fairgrounds property is the responsibility of the owner/exhibitor. The Morton County Fair will use diligence to ensure the safety of animals after their arrival and placement, but under no circumstances will the Morton County Fair be responsible for loss, injury, or damage done to, or occasioned by, or arising from any animal on exhibition.

The Morton County Fair expects owners/exhibitors to keep the needs of their animals as their number one priority in regards to the following:

- Food and water are clean and fresh.
- Stalls are clean with fresh bedding and free of debris and waste.
- Animals are clean and well-groomed.
- Transportation is safe and clean, animals are loaded and/or unloaded calmly.
- Stalls have enough space to prevent crowding, fighting, or discomfort.
- Animals are tied in the stalls with enough slack in the rope so they may lie down.
- Proper grooming techniques and equipment will be used when preparing animals for the show.

It is the responsibility of the owners/exhibitor for each animal being brought to the Morton County Fair to be aware of and adhere to the most current regulations and rules regarding animal transportation, disease control, vaccinations and health documentation requirements in accordance with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture. The owner/exhibitor is also responsible for adhering to any other regulations and rules regarding animal care and animal health that might be required by the fair.

Fair

The owner /exhibitor for each animal brought to the fair must comply with the most up-to-date "Health Requirements for Exhibition of Livestock, Poultry, and Birds at State Fair and District Shows" that are published annually by the State Veterinarian and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture, as well as any additional rules and regulations regarding animal care and animal health found in the Fair's exhibitor handbooks, on the Fair's website, or in other correspondence between the Fair and the exhibitor. All the animals presented for exhibition at the fair shall be subjected to examination by a local veterinarian and daily inspections during the fair.

The owner/exhibitor for each animal brought to the fair must also comply with the International Association of Fairs and Expositions Code of Show Ring Ethics (See appendix).

Owners/exhibitors are expected to take advantage of every opportunity to enhance public awareness and education of proper livestock management and handling practices.

Owners/exhibitors are also expected to present a "positive picture" of animal agriculture by seeing that their show ring handlers are neatly and appropriately dressed, and that their barn exhibit(s) are attractive and appealing (keep stall areas neat and clean, keep walkways clear of straw, feed, manure, etc., keep radios, etc. to a low volume, and follow all fire and life- safety rules. The owners/exhibitors should interact with fairgoers regarding their animals.

Compliance and Discipline

During the Fair, compliance to this plan is the responsibility of the Morton County Fair Board, Barn Bosses, and other fair staff. Should a staff member, volunteer, exhibitor, or member of the general public have a concern for the care or wellness of an animal on Morton County Fairgrounds property, the following procedure shall be used:

- Morton County Fair Board will investigate and document all findings on an Animal Incident Report (see appendix).
- If there is a violation of the Animal Care and Livestock Emergency Plan, the owner/exhibitor will receive a verbal warning and the steps to correct the violation.
- With the second violation, the owner/exhibitor will receive a written violation notice, and Morton County Fair Board will call the local veterinarian or other local authorities, depending on the severity of the violation. The removal of animals and/or owner/exhibitor(s) will occur.
- Whether or not a violation was found, the Morton County Fair Board will follow up with the individual(s) who expressed concern.

Animal Rights Interest Groups

All inquiries from the public, news media, or representatives of animal rights interest groups regarding the care and wellness of an animal on Morton County Fairgrounds property shall be referred to the Morton County Fair Board.

If an owner/exhibitor is approached by a representatives of an animal rights interest group, the owner/exhibitor should refer the representatives to the Morton County Fair Board.

For those animal rights interest groups who wish to peaceably protest and demonstrate, the Morton County Fair Board will not allow said groups to protest or demonstrate on Morton County Fairgrounds property.

Public Health

The Morton County Fair Board will facilitate the release of factual information regarding any animal care or livestock emergency situation that may arise at the Morton County Fair.

The Morton County Fair Board will be the official spokesperson for the Morton County Fair. Other personnel will not make statements to the media and will direct all media to the Morton County Fair Board. No Morton County fair staff or volunteers will speculate when releasing information to the general public or media. Public safety officials (if involved), and/or local veterinarian may also make official statements in coordination with the Morton County Fair Board.

Livestock Emergency Protocols

Animal Illness or Injury:

If an animal on Morton County Fairgrounds property becomes sick or injured, the local veterinarian will be immediately notified to coordinate a prompt, expeditious, and appropriate response.

An animal with clinical signs of infection, contagious, or toxicological disease should be removed from the fair, or isolated at the discretion of local veterinarian and Morton County Fair Board.

- If the animal is to be removed from Morton County Fairgrounds property, the owner/exhibitor must immediately make accommodations to remove the animal. This is the sole responsibility of the owner/exhibitor.
- If the animal is to be placed in isolation, the quarantine facility will be a stock trailer.

Animal Death:

If an animal on Morton County Fairgrounds property dies (natural causes or euthanasia), the local veterinarian, in conjunction with the Morton County Fair Board, and the owner/exhibitor will work together to coordinate animal disposal. In order to remove the animal's body from public view, the animal will be covered with a tarp and moved to a designated location away from spectators.

Escaped Animal:

If an animal on Morton County Fairgrounds property escapes its designated housing area, an attempt to contain the animal should be made by the owner/exhibitor since they have the most experience with the animal. Should the animal escape the barn or fair property, Morton County Fair Board will work with local authorities to contain the animal.

Severe Weather:

If severe weather is forecast or occurs during an animal event, the procedure for severe weather outlined in the Morton County Fair Emergency Manual will be followed. For animal's safety during severe weather, animals will remain in designated housing areas.

Barn Evacuation:

If any portion of an animal barn or housing area becomes unsuitable for animal occupation the procedure for human evacuation as outlined in the Morton County Fair Emergency Manual for building collapse, fire or severe weather will be followed.

For animal evacuation, Morton County Fair staff, in conjunction with local authorities, will develop alternate animal housing, including moving animals to other animal facilities at the Morton County Fair, setting up temporary holding pens in parking lots or other spaces or recommending that owners/exhibitors remove their animals from Morton County Fair property.

Human Injury:

If any human is injured in an animal-related activity, the procedure for medical emergencies/first aid as outlined in the Morton County Fair Emergency Manual will be followed.

There is **A ZERO TOLERANCE POLICY** by the Morton County Fair Board for unauthorized animals that bite a human. The animal will be examined by the local veterinarian who will determine its disposition. Once the examination is complete, the local veterinarian will coordinate a prompt, expeditious, and appropriate response.

Appendix

Animal Incident Reports

Code of Show Ring Ethics

Morton County Fair
Animal Incident Report

Date _____ Time _____

Person(s) Involved _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Location of Incident _____

Description of Incident:

Action Taken:

Witness _____

Signature of MCF Director _____

CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS

IAFE (INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS) CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS

Exhibitors of animals at livestock shows shall at all times deport (conduct) 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. 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 be 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. (Health Certificates are not required for Nemaha County Fair.)
3. Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at fairs or livestock show.
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 reflect the conditions 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, counterirritant or similar substance) which could affect the animal's performance or alter its natural contour, confirmation 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 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, 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.