

## **IAFE (INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FAIRS AND EXPOSITIONS) 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 anytime after an animal arrives on the fair or livestock 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 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 to 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 the 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 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.

## **THE PUREBRED DAIRY CATTLE ASSOCIATION SHOW RING CODE OF ETHICS**

(Adopted by PDCA in March 1969; Revised March 1971, February 1977, February 1982, February 1986, February 1989, February 1992, February 1993, and November 1995.)

The showing of registered dairy cattle is an important part of the promotion, merchandising and breeding program of many breeders. Additionally, it is an important part of the program of the various dairy breed associations to stimulate and sustain interest in breeding registered dairy cattle. This relates to both spectators and exhibitors. In this connection, the PDCA believes that it is in the best interest of the breeders of registered dairy cattle to maintain a reputation of integrity and to present a wholesome and progressive image of their cattle in the show ring.

PDCA endorses this Code of Ethics in all breed shows and will give full cooperative support to the judges and the respective national breed associations to keep show procedures within these guidelines. It is recognized that there are certain practices in the proper care and management of dairy cattle to and between shows that are advisable to keep them in a sound healthy state so they might be presented in the show ring in a natural, normal condition. Conversely, the following practices or procedures are considered unacceptable in the showing of cattle.

**The following major violations are considered fraudulent or unethical and will be reported to the respective breed associations and show management and can result in animals or exhibitors being barred from showing in their respective breed shows:**

- (1) Misrepresenting the age and/or milking status of the animal for class in which it is shown.
- (2) Treating the animal, particularly the udder, internally or externally, with an irritant or counter-irritant, or other substance to artificially improve the conformation.
- (3) Surgery or insertion of foreign material under the skin or into body cavities, performed to change the natural contour or appearance of the animal's body, though not to preclude practices required or involved in normal management.
- (4) Criticizing or interfering with the judge, show management or other exhibitors while in the show ring, or other conduct detrimental to the breed or the show.
- (5) Challenging, threatening, or interfering with an ethics committee appointed by show management to monitor the animals on exhibit on the show grounds.
- (6) Excessive manipulation of hair.

**The following violation is defined as unethical practices that detract from the show ring and will be given slight to serious discrimination. Exhibitors will be asked to undo or remove the manipulation before they enter the ring or the judge will give the animal discrimination in class by lowering the animal's class rank:**

- (1) Setting teats or manipulating a teat to alter its normal position such as to unnaturally hold it plumb or to alter its length is an unacceptable practice.

**The following minor violations are considered to detract from the image of the show when carried to excess and will be given slight to moderate discrimination by the judge when placing animals:**

- (1) Improper fitting practices such as overfilling and overbagging.
- (2) Use of artificial hair except for false switches.
- (3) Mistreatment of an animal.
- (4) Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of showmen.

**Practices which should be encouraged to enhance the image of the show:**

- (1) Establish uniform dress code for exhibitors in the show ring.
- (2) Recognize good herdsmanship and exhibits in the barn. In keeping with the basic philosophy of the PDCA, ethics are an individual responsibility of the owner of each animal shown.

**Violations of these policies are subject to the disciplinary provisions of the appropriate dairy breed association and/or show management.**

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