



Animal Welfare Policy

Philosophy

The Hood River County Fairgrounds believes that every animal participating in activities of the fairgrounds shall at all times be provided proper care and management in the best interest of the animal's welfare.

Policy for Care and Management of Animals

The care, custody, and control of the animals brought to the fairgrounds is the responsibility of the owner and/or exhibitor. The fairgrounds will at no time have care, custody, and/or control of any animals, whether or not exhibited, which are brought onto the fairgrounds. However, in an emergency or other compelling circumstance, the fairground's authorized personnel will take charge of the animal and direct the resolution of the problem.

Fairgrounds personnel, in conjunction with the official fairgrounds vet, reserve the right to require that animals identified as unsuitable for public display and/or in distress, be removed to a locations designated by the fairgrounds and/or removed from the fairgrounds at the owner's expense.

Procedure for Care and Management of Animals

In the case of an emergency, the official fairgrounds vet, working with the fair board/fairgrounds manager, would be the lead individual in directing the resolution of a problem in the livestock and horse areas. If the contracted veterinarian were not available, the fairgrounds would contact another vet clinic as a backup at the owner's expense.

Policy for Escaped Animals

In the event an animal escapes from its designated confinement, every effort should be made by the owner/exhibitor and fairgrounds personnel to confine it as quickly as possible.

Procedure for Escaped Animals

In the event an animal escapes, an attempt to contain the animal should be made by the owner/exhibitor since they have the most experience with that animal. If the animal escapes the fairgrounds area, contact the fairgrounds office and the Hood River County Sheriff's Department. In the event the animal escapes after the fairgrounds closes, the fairgrounds security will attempt to contain the animal and notify the Sheriff's Department if necessary.

Policy for Handling Exotic Animal Exhibits

Regulatory authority for exotic animal exhibits falls under the auspices of USDA and/or Oregon Department of Agriculture. In the event an issue arises with such an exhibit and/or display at the fairgrounds, the issue will be dealt with by one or both of the above parties.



Procedure for Handling Exotic Animal Exhibits

The fairgrounds will require that all exotic and performing animal acts will follow the Animal Health Rules and Regulations and obtain all necessary permits. A copy of the permit must be attached to the contract before it will be validated. In the event any incident arises involving an exotic or performing animal act, the fairgrounds administration will contact the appropriate representatives to handle the incident.

Policy for Injured/Dead Animals

If an animal on the fairgrounds is injured or dies, the designated veterinarian will be immediately notified to coordinate a prompt, expeditious, and appropriate response. In the event that emergency measures are necessary before the veterinarian arrives, authorized fairgrounds personnel will ensure that the animal is properly moved to a designated location for evaluation as quickly as possible.

Procedure for Injured/Dead Animals

A stall/area in the livestock and horse areas shall be reserved for the treatment and/or evaluation of injured or sick animals. A sled/trailer will be available for moving an animal to the designated location if necessary. In the event an animal dies while on the fairgrounds, fairgrounds personnel and the veterinarian will assist the exhibitor and coordinate animal disposal at the owner's expense.

Animal Disposal Procedure: Animal should be loaded onto a sled/trailer and covered with a tarp for removal from public area to a designated location.

Policy for Evacuation of Animals

In the event an emergency is declared, and an evacuation of the livestock barns is necessary due to emergency conditions, fairgrounds staff, in conjunction with the fairgrounds security and the Hood River County Sheriff's Department will take the appropriate steps.

Procedure for Evacuation of Animals

In the event of severe weather conditions, it has been determined that the animals are as safe in the barns as anywhere. In the event of an emergency, the fairgrounds will work with the Hood River County Sheriff's Department to evaluate the situation. If the decision is made to evacuate as a result of an emergency, the Sheriff's Deputies will take command of the evacuation.

In the event a mass evacuation of animals is necessary, the Hood River Sheriff's Department should be contacted as to the possibility of moving animals with trailers and other local resources. As a last resort, animals are to be turned loose and herded toward the horse arena if possible.

Policy for Preventing and Responding to a Suspected Animal or Zoonotic Disease Outbreak

Should a communicable disease be suspected, the veterinarian contracted by the fairgrounds will be responsible for addressing the issue and notifying the appropriate individuals.



Procedures for Preventing and Responding to a Suspected Animal or Zoonotic Disease Outbreak

If a communicable disease is suspected, the contracted veterinarian will notify the appropriate individuals

Policy for Handling Animal Rights Issues

For all Fairgrounds Personnel:

All inquires from the public, news media, or representatives of animal interest groups regarding the care of management of animals should be referred to the fairgrounds manager.

For Exhibitors:

If approached by a representative of animal interest groups, exhibitors should politely refer them to the manager. Under no circumstance should any exhibitor engage in a debate of animal rights issues or opinions. Avoidance of any confrontation should be foremost. In the event a demonstration should occur, it is the policy of the fairgrounds to allow reasonable access to its grounds and to designate free speech expression zone as allowed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. The designated free expression zone provided by the fairgrounds, is provided to allow for free speech activity but at the same time protect the interest of patrons attending the events on the fairgrounds.

Any other activity of demonstration that creates a problem for fairgrounds patrons, exhibitors, or livestock is to be managed by the fairgrounds administration and or Sheriff's Deputies. The fairgrounds are county owned property; any person or persons engaged in activities not in the best interest of the county or fairgrounds may be ejected from the grounds.

Procedure for Handling Animal Rights Issues

If disruptive activity should occur:

The manager should be notified. The Hood River County Sheriff's Department will be called (if the situation warrants) and fairgrounds security/staff should keep the situation under observation and control until the Sheriff's Department arrives. If it is determined that they are disrupting the fairgrounds program by distributing literature outside their designated area, harassing fairgrounds goers or exhibitors, or picketing, we reserve the right to have them removed from the grounds. This should be done by the Sheriff's Department.

All media questions concerning the event should be directed to the fairgrounds manager. No one else is authorized to address the situation.