

ELIZABETHTOWN FAIR

CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS

The Elizabethtown Fair has developed a Code of Show Ring Ethic to curtail unethical, deceptive and fraudulent show ring practices. The Code is as follows:

Exhibitors or livestock at the Fair shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Their conduct in this competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standard 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 at competition. This code applies to all livestock offered in any event at the livestock show.

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 may be prohibited from future exhibition in accordance with the rules adopted by the Fair Board. Exhibitors who violate this code of ethics demean the integrity of all live stock Exhibitions 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 show official, proof of ownership, length of ownership and age of all animals entered. Misrepresentation of ownership, age or any fact relating thereto is prohibited.
2. Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers, or absolutely responsible persons shall provide animal health certificates from licensed veterinarians upon request by show officials.
3. Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their own animals at the 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 and state statutes, regulations and rules. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal and state 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 wither internally or externally. It is presumed that the sample of urine, saliva, blood, or other substance 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 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 an animal arrives on the Fairgrounds, all treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medication 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, conformation, or appearance, except external applications of substances to the hoof 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 interference with the judge, 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, 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 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.
9. The application of this code of ethics provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's conditions 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 Board for violation of the Code of Show Ring Ethics. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent that any proceedings of disciplinary action taken by the Fair Board may be published with the name of the violator or violators in any publication of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, including Fair and Expositions and any special notices to members.
11. The act of entering an animal in the show is the giving of verification by the owner, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person that he or she has read the Code of Show Ring Ethics and understands the consequences of and penalties provided for actions prohibited by this code. It is further a consent that any action which contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal and state statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infraction.