



COLORADO STATE FAIR ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

(Final Draft)

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to detail the expectations regarding animal welfare and handling on the property of the Colorado State Fair Authority (Authority). The Authority prioritizes the health and welfare of animals with the highest level of importance and also understands its unique role as a platform to demonstrate humane animal handling and care. It is critical for all animal owners, caretakers, exhibitors, contractors, and providers to properly manage all the animals that they raise, care for, and exhibit – whether for companionship, competition, demonstration, or entertainment – on the Authority’s property.

The Authority abides by the regulations and policies established by the following agencies: United States Department of Agriculture, Food and Drug Administration, Colorado Department of Agriculture, American Veterinary Medical Association, American Horse Show Association, American Quarter Horse Association, Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association, Mexican Federation of Charrería USA, and International Association of Fairs and Expositions. These organizations are well established and understand the important role that fairs and fairground facilities play in educating and showcasing animals.

The mistreatment or improper care of animals is strictly prohibited in the state of Colorado as outlined in sections 18-9-201 through 209 and 35-42-101 through 115, C.R.S. In the event any member of the Authority’s management (Management) has reason to believe that any person is violating or has violated any of these laws while on the Authority’s grounds, Management may make a report to the appropriate authorities, which may result in criminal or civil consequences, and which may also result in disqualification from any and all competitive exhibits at the current and future Colorado State Fair or removal from the Authority’s Grounds.

Animal Health and Welfare

I. Unfit Animals:

The Authority does not condone the exhibition or showcasing of unfit animals. The term “unfit” would be used to describe those animals that appear to be unhealthy, diseased, injured, sick, weak, malnourished, or possesses physical or visual impediments. If an animal is determined unfit to exhibit, compete, or demonstrate, then no such animal will be fit to participate in any events or competitions.

II. Animal Loading and Unloading:

Animals must be loaded and unloaded in adequate lighting and with safe and humane industry-practiced standards. It is the obligation of the exhibitor or contractor that, when loading and unloading animals, these animals not be mistreated in any way. Proper chutes and ramps should be used when necessary.

III. On-Site Housing of Animals:

All animals that stay on-site must be housed in a comfortable and reasonable space when not actively involved in exhibition, demonstration, or competition. Each animal must have access to shade and shelter, as necessary for the species, from the heat and other adverse weather conditions when present. Pen spaces shall be reasonable in size to accommodate the space requirements for each animal. If housed on concrete, all animals are required to have bedding in their housing area to supply ample footing and comfort.

IV. On-Site Care of Animals:

All animals that are to exhibit, demonstrate, or compete at any time while on the Authority's property must receive proper treatment and care from any exhibitor or contractor prior to, during, and following any event or competition conducted on the Authority's property. All animals must be provided with fresh food and water, as well as a comfortable space to be housed in, during their entire stay at the Fairgrounds. In addition, it is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor or contractor to transport animals to and from the Fairgrounds in a safe, appropriately equipped conveyance option.

V. Injured Animals:

Animals that are injured on the Colorado State Fairgrounds will be safely and comfortably transported to a designated recovery area. This recovery area will be appropriate in size, will have full access to fresh food and water, as well as access to an area for shade and cover from adverse weather conditions. Injured animals housed in the recovery area will be inspected by Authority Management, including any on-site licensed veterinarian when available, and the owner of the injured animal, who will determine the most appropriate and humane course of action moving forward. All decisions will be made while keeping the animal's welfare at the forefront of the decision.

The following list details the action plan to be followed should an animal become injured in a competition or event:

- i. If an animal is suspected to be injured during an event or competition, then all activities within the event or competition will cease until the animal has been safely removed.
- ii. Comfortable space will be given to the injured animal, and the appropriate individuals, including Management and event staff, will move in for closer inspection.
- iii. At that time, Management in consultation with event staff will determine the most appropriate way to move the injured animal to a designated recovery area, keeping the animal's comfort and welfare as the priority in the decision-making process. The owner or person having control or possession of the animal will be informed of the transportation plan and the recovery location.
- iv. After a transportation plan has been established, the animal will be moved from the incident location to the recovery area.
- v. Once at the recovery area, the Authority will inspect the injured animal and determine the most humane way to treat the animal. Once a determination has been made, the Authority and the owner of the injured animal will follow the discretion of the Authority's final determination.
- vi. An incident report will be compiled by Management in order to document the full details of the incident and its handling.

The Authority acknowledges that accidents involving animals can occur during the competitions or events. If an animal is injured by an exhibitor, contractor, or member of the public, then Management will collaborate to determine if any actions should be taken against the person(s) who committed the act.

VI. Abuse or Neglect of Animals:

The Authority condemns any and all mistreatment, neglect, and abuse to any animal. Any exhibitor, contractor, or member of the public who displays unnecessary abuse or neglect to animals will be subject to consequences determined by the Authority.

VII. Death of Animals:

In any case where a domestic animal is pronounced dead while on the Authority's property, said animal will transfer to and remain in possession of the Authority until a determination as to the cause of death has been made. Cause of death will be determined by a licensed veterinarian.

All domestic animal deaths occurring on the Authority's premises are taken very seriously. A full incident report of the events leading up to the animal's death, the cause of death, and the steps taken following the animal's death will be thoroughly documented and kept on file for one year. Should the result of death be linked to a communicable zoonotic or non-zoonotic disease, then immediate action will be taken to notify the Colorado State Veterinarian's Office or the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment in order to implement any necessary response.

The deceased animal will then be respectfully transferred to the appropriate postmortem facility as determined by the Authority Management.

VIII. Non-Approved Drug Administration

Exposing animals to medications or feed additives that are not approved through the Food and Drug Administration, or the improper use of withdrawal periods of approved medications, is strictly prohibited.