

CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS

Adapted from the IAFE 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 the Tanana Valley State Fair.

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

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 officials.
- 3)** Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at the fair.
- 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 the Tanana Valley State Fair is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, and/or absolutely responsible person for Fair 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 local statutes, regulations, and rules. Livestock shall not be exhibited if the drugs administered in accordance with federal, state, and local 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, and the cost of the tests will be the responsibility of the owner of the animal. If the laboratory report on the analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample taken from livestock does not indicate the presence of forbidden drugs or medication, the cost of the tests will be the responsibility of the Tanana Valley State Fair Association. 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.
- 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 management, or other fair 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 Tanana Valley State Fair Association for violation of this Code of Show Ring Ethics and any other rules of competition of the Tanana Valley State Fair without recourse against the Tanana Valley State Fair Association.

11) The act of entering of an animal in the Tanana Valley State Fair is the giving of verification by the owner, exhibitor, 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 the code. It is further a consent that any action which contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal, state, or local statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.

TO BE INCLUDED ON FAIR ENTRY FORM

EXHIBITOR ENTRY STATEMENT

I have read and understand, and in consideration for being permitted to exhibit at this event, agree and consent to abide by the rules of competition, including the Code of Show Ring Ethics as stated in the Exhibitor's Guide of this event.

Date: _____

Exhibitor (owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer,
or absolutely responsible person)

Date: _____

Guardian or Parent of the above Signatory