

ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY AND STATEMENT OF ANIMAL CARE OF THE BROWN COUNTY FAIR

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Brown County Fair “Animal Welfare Policy and Statement of Animal Care” is to address issues of animal care and welfare which include:

- The philosophy of the Brown County Fair in regard to animal care and management.
- Appropriate care and management of animals while on the Brown County Fair fairgrounds by exhibitors. Mistreating any animal or using unethical practices will not be tolerated.
- Providing educational programs for exhibitors and patrons of the Fair.
- Handling expressions of concern for animal care from the public.

GENERAL PUBLIC PERCEPTIONS

- Society does not tolerate animal cruelty, abuse, neglect or even discomfort.
- For some people, a fair may be the only contact they have with livestock.
- The image of quality treatment and care is as important as the reality.
- The Brown County Fair is committed to providing education to the viewing public about farm animals and livestock, as well as the overall agricultural industry.
- Standards of animal care have changed over the years and many confuse tradition with acceptable standards. They may not always be the same.
- The role of animals, especially companion animals, in the quality of life of many members of the public has dramatically increased.

BROWN COUNTY FAIR RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Ensure the safety and health of the public, exhibitors and animals.
- Ensure the welfare of all animals.
- Provide opportunities to inform and educate the public on animal treatment and use.

SUPERINTENDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Ensure the acceptable standards of animal care are followed by enforcing all rules and regulations of the Fair.
- Animals, contests, displays, pens and the related environment should be seen from the perspective of the Fair visitor, who may know very little about husbandry. Therefore, it is important that all animals be clean, well bedded, fed and watered at all times.
- Concerns or problems should be called to the attention of the exhibitor immediately.
- Violations, such as animal abuse or neglect, should be dealt with in a professional manner. Such violations will be cause for removal from the grounds. This action should be taken by the Brown County Fair executive committee.
- Rules require that all animal treatments, injections or administration of any medications must be approved by the Brown County Fair veterinarian.
- Watch all animals for signs of discomfort or distress, especially heat related, and take action as necessary. This action may include contacting the Brown County Fair veterinarian. Any signs of infectious or contagious disease must also be handled immediately.

BROWN COUNTY FAIR VETERINARIAN:

- The Brown County Fair veterinarian is responsible for the delivery of veterinary services and performance of health procedures at the Fair.
- All issues of animal care, welfare or health should be referred to him/her.
- The Brown County Fair veterinarian will report all major health and animal care issues to the Brown County Fair executive committee.

HOW DOES BROWN COUNTY FAIR FULFILL ITS RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Health Papers – Identifying animals and ensuring that said animals are apparently free of contagious or infectious disease.
- Animal Welfare – Adequate food, water, shelter, comfort and freedom from stress and pain; medical care available 24-7; constant observance by personnel watching for animal misuse or abuse.

OTHER PERSONNEL:

- The Fair Board President is the spokesperson for all livestock related issues with the public and the media.
- It is the responsibility of Board Members, volunteers and especially the exhibitors to help provide and enforce high standards of animal care at the Brown County Fair.
- Confrontation should be avoided if possible. Animal abuse or neglect will not be tolerated. Concerns should be reported to the Brown County Fair President and/or executive committee.

PROTESTS AND DEMONSTRATIONS:

- No individual or group may interrupt the normal activities of the Fair.
- If confrontations or protests occur or appear likely to occur, notify the President of the Brown County Fair immediately. Do not take personal action.
- Parents and exhibitors should be advised of these policies.
- Media questions about protests, picketing or issues related to animal care and welfare should be addressed by the President of the Brown County Fair or his/her designee.

BIO-SECURITY:

- Hand washing stations will be provided throughout the fairgrounds for use by the public.
- Being alert and observant can do a lot to help protect the livestock industry.

STATEMENT OF ANIMAL CARE

The Brown County Fair is a showplace for animal agriculture and animal care for the County. The Brown County Fair considers itself an animal welfare advocate and requires the humane treatment of all animals on the grounds. All animals and livestock shown, housed or displayed shall receive care that is humane, healthful, stress free and consistent with public expectations. Cruelty, neglect or indifference to animal comfort and welfare will not be tolerated and will constitute immediate disqualification and grounds for removal from the premises. Ample feed and clean fresh water must be provided to all livestock, poultry and other animals consistent with sound animal husbandry practices and with rules and regulations set by the Brown County Fair Board. All animals entering the grounds for display or competition must meet all State of Wisconsin and Brown County Fair requirements. The environment in which animals are kept must be clean and sanitary at all times. Professional veterinary care will be provided as needed. Animals experiencing illness, injury or discomfort will be attended to as quickly as possible and only by a licensed veterinarian authorized by the Brown County Fair Board.