

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 entered in any event at the Washington County 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 fine example.

Owners, exhibitors, fitters, trainers and absolutely responsible persons who violate the Code of Ethics will forfeit premiums, awards and sale proceeds and may be prohibited from future participation in the Washington County Fair.

Exhibitors who violate this Code of Ethics demean the integrity of all livestock exhibitors and will be reported to the Texas Association of Fairs and Exhibitions and other appropriate entities, which may result in an exhibitor being 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 fair and livestock 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 an animal health certificate from licensed veterinarians upon request by fair or show officials, etc.
3. Junior exhibitors are expected to care for and groom their animals while at the Fair.
4. Drug Rules see Release of Liability & Indemnity, and Drug Certification Agreement.
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 later its natural contour, conformation, or appearance, 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 is not accepted 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. On the furtherance of their official duty, all judges, fair and livestock management, or other show officials shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect. No person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them. Protests may be made in accordance with Rule 18 of the General Rules and Regulations.

8. No owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person may 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 in action to violate this code of ethics. Violations 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 to the 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 the code of ethics.

10. The act of entering an animal is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible persons to have disciplinary action taken by the fair or show for violation of the code of show ring ethics and any other rules of competition of the fair or show without recourse against the fair.

11. The act of entering an animal in the fair is giving of certification by owner, exhibitor, fitter, trainer, or absolutely responsible person that he or she has read the Washington County Fair Association's Code of Show Ring Ethics and understands the consequences 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 provincial statutes, regulations, or rules may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.