



PO Box 52,
323 Boundary Road,
Goondiwindi QLD 4390

Phone: 0437 809 415
Email: goondiwindishow@bigpond.com
ABN: 75 445 279 750

ANIMAL WELFARE POLICY

Goondiwindi Pastoral & Agricultural Society is committed to the humane treatment of all animals exhibited. Every possible precaution is taken to ensure the animals' safety and wellbeing. Any exhibitor found using unethical practices or mistreating an animal at the Goondiwindi Pastoral & Agricultural Society will be immediately removed from the premises and reported to the proper authorities. All privileges will be withdrawn, attraction fees will be prorated and premiums will not be awarded.

ANIMAL EXHIBITS, SHOWS AND COMPETITIONS

It is the responsibility of the owner/exhibitor/handler/agent for each animal being brought to the Show to be aware of and adhere to the most current rules and regulations regarding animal transportation, disease control, vaccinations and health documentation requirement, in accordance with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Any animal not cleaned or fitted to show as a true representative of the breed it represents shall be disqualified, and the judges will not award premiums on such animal. Exhibitors are requested to see that their attendants are neatly and appropriately dressed when their animals enter the show ring.

Herdspersons are requested to present an attractive and appealing exhibit(s), by keeping their stall areas neat and clean, keeping the spectator walkways clear of all straw, feed, etc., keeping radios at a low volume, following any fire and life-safety rules, and maintaining positive behavior at all times.

- A. **Summary of Program:** Exhibitors show animals for many reasons. The exhibition provides education to the public about livestock and farm animals, as well as the overall agriculture industry. Competition in the show ring provides a forum for comparison of livestock animals, based on selected or desired characteristics and genetics. The results contribute to breed and overall species improvement. These selected characteristics reflect in the market and usually follow consumer demand for a certain type of product, example: leaner meat. The Show also provides advertisement for the breeders and owners of the animals. The Young Judges and Paraders Competitions and other youth programs, teach valuable skills to youth, such as, animal husbandry, show preparation and presentation, decision making and leadership.
- B. **Education:** The Goondiwindi Pastoral & Agricultural Society has several educational exhibits and programs designed to educate, entertain and inform the public about livestock and agriculture. The Show utilizes Ring Announcers and the Stewards during the livestock competitions and events to involve and inform the public about what is taking place in the show ring. Ring announcers and stewards cover what the judge is looking for in the animals, judging terminology (or "reasons"), as well as fun and educational information about the judged animals.
- C. **Livestock Exhibits**
 1. Exhibitor Guidelines
 - a) The Show expects exhibitors to be knowledgeable about exhibit rules, about their projects and always to be prepared to answer questions. The exhibitor's role is that of an ambassador.

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- b) Exhibitors should learn additional details about animals and their roles in society. For example: it is fun and interesting to share by-product uses and other facts with the public. The Show encourages educational exhibits in livestock sheds.
- c) The Show expects the exhibitors to cooperate with the Management Committee and any appointed Stewards and volunteers. The Show also expects good sportsmanship, conduct and open communication.
- d) Notify the Show Office if there is a confrontation with animal activists, or if there is someone approaching exhibitors and asking questions that make the exhibitors uneasy. Also notify the Show Office if someone who is unfamiliar or looks suspicious is taking photographs or video footage of the animals.

2. Livestock Exhibit Guidelines

- a) Keep the needs of the animals as the number one priority with regard to the following:
 - Food and water are clean and fresh.
 - Stalls are clean, with fresh bedding, and free of debris and waste.
 - Animals are clean and well groomed.
 - Transportation is safe and clean. Use care when loading and unloading.
 - Stalls have enough space to prevent crowding, fighting or discomfort.
 - Animals are tied in the stalls with enough slack in the rope so they may lie down.
 - Use proper grooming techniques and equipment when preparing the animals for showing, to cause the least amount of discomfort to the animal.
 - The management will not tolerate any practices deemed inappropriate, unethical or inhumane. Report any sick animal immediately to the proper authority who may suggest that the exhibitor contact a veterinarian.
- b) Feed shall be appropriate for the animal's age, weight and species. Exhibitors should read all feed labels for appropriate use and portions.
- c) Exhibitors should know the proper use of all equipment and exhibit safety awareness. This includes removing equipment from walkways so it is not a hazard to people or animals. Tack areas, stalls, pens and cages shall be neat and clean, with equipment put away in tack boxes or stored out of the way. Exhibitors shall use all equipment for approved and legal uses only.

ANIMAL ATTRACTIONS AND EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

The Management Committee may contract animal attraction and educational exhibits. Both animal attractions and educational exhibits are required to provide educational material about their animals and their care to the public. The Management Committee encourages interaction with the public. This may be a criterion for issuing a contract.

Prior to opening to the public, a Show designated veterinarian may inspect each animal exhibit. The veterinarian may also make periodic checks throughout the Show. Each animal exhibit will designate a representative to be responsible and to be available during the Show operating hours to answer questions, talk to the media or respond to an emergency.

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A. General guidelines for care

- 1) Exhibit staff shall be available at all times. Signs will be posted informing the public of acceptable behavior in any petting facility.
- 2) The staff should be familiar with basic animal husbandry practices.
- 3) Keep animals groomed and clean at **all** times. Keep feed and water receptacles clean and free of debris. The exhibitor will clean animal stalls or pens daily. Properly dispose manure and used bedding in the appropriate receptacles or areas. Replace old bedding with fresh material.
- 4) Alternate and give rest periods to the animals especially during hot weather. The resting pens and working area shall have shade with proper ventilation.
- 5) Feed animals a nutritionally balanced diet as appropriate and with consideration to the animal's age, weight and species. Water regularly when working and have clean water available in resting pens.
- 6) The facility operator should make an effort to control flies in the exhibit and resting areas. Proper and prompt disposal of manure and used bedding is beneficial to this effort.
- 7) Exhibitors shall use all equipment for approved and legal uses only. The management will not tolerate any practices deemed inappropriate, unethical or inhumane.
- 8) Report any sick or injured animal immediately to Show management, who may suggest that the exhibitor contact a veterinarian.

B. Animal Petting Facilities

The design of an animal petting facility should help educate the public about different types of animals and animal care while regarding the animals' basic needs, including time away from the public. It should also provide the rare opportunity for contact and interaction with animals. Petting zoos may feature exotic animals not typically raised on farms.

C. Pony Rides

- 1) The ponies should have a pad or cushioned surface such as lawn or shavings to prevent ponies from walking on the ground or asphalt for extended periods.
- 2) The pony ride should be a safe site, away from potential, unexpected noises and sudden movements.
- 3) Alternate the ponies to allow for reasonable rest periods.
- 4) Water the ponies regularly.
- 5) Do not expose the ponies to sun for extended periods without breaks for rest, shade and water.

D. Pig Races

Pig races provide fast-paced family entertainment and crowd interaction. Pig races shall follow the general policies outlined in this manual, as well as the appropriate feed for the piglets age.

E. Other Animal Exhibits (not previously listed)

- 1) It is up to the exhibitor of animal attractions including: any owner exhibiting animals doing tricks or shows; carnivals and concessionaires who exhibit regulated animals; anyone who uses regulated animals to promote or advertise goods and services; animals used to promote photographs or photography; and anyone exhibiting farm animals for nonagricultural purposes to have knowledge of and obtain in a timely manner any required



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**ANIMAL CARE
POLICY DISCIPLINE AND VIOLATION NOTICE**

- A. The Management Committee relies on staff members, volunteers, exhibitors and the public to report any situations that may be potential policy violations.
- B. The Management Committee will investigate and determine the severity of all complaints and concerns. And if deemed necessary refer such complain to a Disciplinary Committee for further investigation and action where necessary.
- C. If there is a violation of the Animal Welfare Policy, the exhibitor will receive a verbal warning and the steps needed to correct the violation.
- D. With a second violation, the exhibitor will receive a written violation notice and the Management Committee may call the veterinarian, at the exhibitor's expense, depending on the severity of the violation. The removal of animals and/or exhibitor from *Goondiwindi Pastoral & Agricultural Society* may become necessary.
- E. A record of the verbal violation warning and copies of the violation notices will become part of the exhibitor's file. The Management Committee will consider these before accepting future entries.
- F. Any other public or staff complaint filed will become part of the exhibitor's file. Exhibitor will receive copies.
- G. The Management Committee reserves the right to disqualify any competitive exhibitors in violation of the animal care policy from any awards and premiums.

Any queries relating to this document should be directed to:

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