

EL PASO COUNTY 4-H CODE OF SHOW RING ETHICS

El Paso County 4-H exhibitors are expected to conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship at all times. As these are public displays of not only husbandry and handling skills but also personal character and discipline, the behavior of exhibitors, as well as that of parents and leaders, is expected to reflect the highest standards of integrity and professionalism at all times.

Exhibitors who violate the guidelines below may forfeit premiums and/or awards and may be prohibited from participation in future 4-H activities.

The following is a list of guidelines for all exhibitors showing in competitive events:

1. All exhibitors must be prepared to present, upon request of show officials, proof of ownership, length of ownership and age of all animals entered. Misrepresentation of any facts requested by show officials is prohibited.
2. Exhibitors must be prepared to provide animal health certificates from a licensed veterinarian if requested in advance by show officials or if an exhibitor's animal is found to be in questionable health upon arrival at the show.
3. Exhibitors are expected to care for, groom and prepare their animals themselves while at 4-H events and shows. 4-H leaders and El Paso County 4-H members participating in the show may help exhibitors needing assistance, but must not do the primary work.
4. Any medications given to market animals will be administered strictly according to the label and/or by the direct instruction of a supervising licensed veterinarian. By entering an animal in an El Paso County 4-H show the owner, exhibitor, parents or leaders effectively give consent for the show management to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood or other substances from the animal to be used in testing. If the laboratory report on the analysis of saliva, urine, blood, or other sample indicates the presence of violative residues this will be regarded as sufficient evidence that such substance has been improperly or unlawfully administered to the animal.

Non-market animals shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal and state regulations label and/or by the direct instruction of a supervising veterinarian. Animals shall not be allowed to be exhibited if the drug(s) administered affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event.

At any time after an animal arrives at the show grounds no treatment involving the use of drugs and/or medications shall be administered without the prior approval of the responsible show official, designated show veterinarian, Extension Agent, or other authorized designate.

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, conformation, or appearance, is expressly prohibited. Exceptions will be made for external applications of substances to the hoofs or horns of animals

that affect appearance only and for surgical procedures performed by a duly licensed veterinarian for the sole purpose of protecting the health and well-being of the animal.

6. The use of showing and/or handling practices or devices which inflict injury or alter the animal's appearance or performance such as striking an animal to cause swelling, using electrical contrivance, letting of blood, or other similar practices are not acceptable and are prohibited.
 7. The exhibitor will be held liable for an animal's condition whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in violation of this code of ethics.
 8. All judges, show officials and staff shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening language or conduct toward any show official. Persons failing to show proper courtesy to judges or officials may be removed from the show area, and, if an exhibitor, may be immediately disqualified from the show.
 9. No exhibitor shall conspire to intentionally violate this code of ethics or knowingly cooperate with another party intending to violate this code of ethics, either by supportive action or by deliberate refusal to intervene.
 10. By entering in an El Paso County 4-H event the exhibitor verifies that he or she has read the El Paso County 4-H Code of Show Ring Ethics and understands the consequences of actions prohibited by the code. The exhibitor furthermore gives consent to have disciplinary action taken by show officials for violations of this Code of Show Ring Ethics and any other rules of competition of the show without recourse against the show, show officials, Colorado State University, CSU Cooperative Extension or the 4-H Program in El Paso County.
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EXHIBITOR STATEMENT OF AGREEMENT

I have read and understand the El Paso County 4-H Code of Show Ring Ethics, and in consideration for entering in this event I agree and consent to abide by these rules of competition. I understand that if I do not sign this form I will not be eligible to exhibit at this show.

Date: _____

Exhibitor

Date: _____

Guardian or Parent of the above member

Date: _____

Guardian or Parent of the above member

These rules and policies adapted from the International Association of Fairs and Expositions Code of Show Ring Ethics, 1998.

Revised 10/3/2019