ANIMAL CARE AND EMERGENCY PLAN

2025

Approved by Fair Association Executive Committee 8/19/2025

The Animal Care and Emergency Plan is in place to ensure the following standards are met regarding the wellness, care, and safety of animals at the Clay County Fair & Events Center (CCFEC):

- The CCFEC will not tolerate animal cruelty, abuse, or neglect.
- For many in the public, the events at the CCFEC, including the annual Clay County Fair, provide their one and only experience or exposure to animals, especially livestock.
- Educating the public about the high standard of care provided to the animals in agriculture is a key role for everyone at the CCFEC.
- The CCFEC provides an arena for youth to share their knowledge and appreciation for the highest standards of animal care and show ring ethics.

This plan covers all activities held at the CCFEC, both non-fair events and the annual Fair.

ANIMAL CARE AND MANAGEMENT

The care, custody, and control of the animals brought onto CCFEC property is the responsibility of the owner/exhibitor. The CCFEC will use diligence to ensure the safety of animals after their arrival and placement, but under no circumstances will the CCFEC be responsible for loss, injury, or damage done to, or occasioned by, or arising from any animal on exhibition.

The CCFEC expects owners/exhibitors to keep the needs of their animals as their number one priority in regards 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; animals are loaded and/or unloaded calmly.
- 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.
- Proper grooming techniques and equipment will be used when preparing animals for show.

It is the responsibility of the owner/exhibitor for each animal being brought to the CCFEC to be aware of and adhere to the most current regulations and rules regarding animal transportation, disease control, vaccinations and health documentation requirements in accordance with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship. The owner/exhibitor is also responsible for adhering to any other regulations and rules regarding animal care and animal health that might be required by event promoters (non-fair events) or the Fair.

Fair

The owner/exhibitor for each animal brought to the Fair must comply with the most up-to-date “Health Requirements For Exhibition of Livestock, Poultry and Birds at State Fair and District Shows” that are published annually by the State Veterinarian and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, as well as any additional rules and regulations regarding animal care and animal health found in the Fair’s exhibitor handbooks, on the Fair’s website, or in other correspondence between the Fair and the exhibitor. All the animals presented for exhibition at the Fair may be subjected to examination by the Fair Veterinarian and to daily inspections during the exhibition.

The owner/exhibitor for each animal brought to the Fair must also comply with the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) Code of Show Ring Ethics.

Owners/exhibitors are expected take advantage of every opportunity to enhance public awareness and education of proper livestock management and handling practices. Owners/exhibitors are also expected to present a “positive picture” of animal agriculture by seeing that their show ring handlers are neatly and appropriately dressed, and that their barn exhibit(s) are attractive and appealing (keep stall areas neat

and clean; keep spectator walkways clear of straw, feed, manure, etc.; keep radios, etc. to a low volume; follow all fire and life-safety rules; and interact with fairgoers regarding their animals).

The Fair also contracts and supervises animal attraction and educational exhibits (Grandpa's Barn, traveling exotic and domestic animal shows, etc.). Both animal attraction and educational exhibits are required to provide educational material about their animals and their care to the fairgoers. Prior to opening to the public, the Fair Veterinarian may inspect each animal exhibit. The Fair Veterinarian may also make periodic checks throughout the Fair.

COMPLIANCE AND DISCIPLINE

During non-fair events, compliance to the Animal Care and Emergency Plan is the responsibility of the Events Services Director, in coordination with other CCFEC staff, and the event promoter. During the Fair, compliance to this plan is the responsibility of the CEO/Manager who coordinates with livestock superintendents and other CCFEC staff.

Should a CCFEC staff member, volunteer, exhibitor, or member of the general public have a concern for the care or wellness of an animal on CCFEC property, the following procedure shall be used:

1) CCFEC management will investigate and document all findings on an Animal Incident Report.

2) If there is a violation of the Animal Care and Livestock Emergency Plan, the owner/exhibitor will receive a verbal warning and the steps needed to correct the violation.

3) With the second violation, the owner/exhibitor will receive a written violation notice, and Fair management will call the Fair Veterinarian or other local authorities, depending on the severity of the violation. The removal of animals and/or owner/exhibitor(s) will occur.

4) Whether or not a violation was found, the event promoter (non-fair event) or CEO/Manager (Fair) will follow up with the individual(s) who expressed concern.

ANIMAL RIGHTS INTEREST GROUPS

All inquiries from the public, news media, or representatives of animal rights interest groups regarding the care or wellness of an animal of CCFEC property shall be referred to the CEO/Manager.

If an owner/exhibitor is approached by representatives of an animal rights interest group, the owner/ exhibitor should refer the representatives to the event promoter (non-fair event) or CEO/Manager (Fair).

For those animal rights interest groups who wish to peaceably protest and demonstrate, the CCFEC has designated space outside of Gate E for that purpose. The CCFEC's procedure for protests and demonstrations as outlined the CCFEC Emergency Management and Action Plan will be followed.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

The CEO/Manager (or designee) will facilitate the release of factual information regarding any animal care or livestock emergency situation that may arise at the CCFEC.

The CEO/Manager (or designee) will be the official spokesperson for the CCFEC. Other personnel will not make statements to the media and will direct all media to the CEO/Manager (or designee). No CCFEC staff or volunteers will speculate when releasing information to the general public or media. Public safety officials (if involved), the event promoter (non-fair event), and/or Fair Veterinarian (Fair) may also make official statements in coordination with the CEO/Manager.

LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS

Animal Illness or Injury

If an animal on CCFEC property becomes sick or injured, the event promoter (non-fair event) or Fair Veterinarian (Fair) will be immediately notified to coordinate a prompt, expeditious, and appropriate response.

An animal with clinical signs of infectious, contagious, or toxicological disease should be removed from the non-fair event or Fair, or isolated on CCFEC property at the discretion of the event promoter (non-fair event) or Fair Veterinarian (Fair).

> If the animal is to be removed from CCFEC property, the owner/exhibitor must immediately make accommodations to remove the animal. This is the sole responsibility of the owner/exhibitor.
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> If the animal is to be placed in isolation, the quarantine facility is located in the race horse barn located north of the Speedway.

Animal Death

If an animal on CCFEC property dies (natural causes or euthanasia), the event promoter (non-fair event) or Fair Veterinarian (Fair), in conjunction with CCFEC staff, will assist the exhibitor and coordinate animal disposal. In order to remove the animal's body from public view, the animal will be covered with a tarp and loaded onto conveyance to a designated location.

Escaped Animals

If an animal on CCFEC property escapes its designated housing area, an attempt to contain the animal should be made by the owner/exhibitor since they have the most experience with the animal. Should the animal escape the barn or CCFEC property, CCFEC staff will work with local authorities to contain the animal.

Severe Weather

If severe weather is forecast or occurs during an animal event, the procedure for severe weather as outlined the CCFEC Emergency Management and Action Plan will be followed. For animal safety during severe weather, animals will remain in designated housing areas.

Barn Evacuation

If any portion of an animal barn or housing area becomes unsuitable for animal occupation (i.e. fire, building collapse, tornado, disease emergency), the procedure for human evacuation as outlined the CCFEC Emergency Management and Action Plan will be followed.

For animal evacuation, CCFEC staff, in conjunction with local authorities, will develop alternate animal housing, including moving animals to other animal facilities at the CCFEC, setting up temporary holding pens in parking lots or other spaces, using existing tie out facilities, or recommending that owners/exhibitors remove their animals from CCFEC property.

Human Injury

If any human is injured in an animal-related activity, the procedure for personal injury as outlined the CCFEC Emergency Management and Action Plan will be followed.

There is a zero tolerance policy by the CCFEC for animals that bite a human. The animal will be examined by the event promoter (non-fair event) or Fair Veterinarian (Fair), who will determine its disposition. Once the examination is complete, the event promoter (non-fair event) or Fair Veterinarian (Fair) will coordinate a prompt, expeditious, and appropriate response.

GENERAL RESPONSE TO LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY – FAIR:
1) Call Fair Veterinarian (712-262-7900) or Fair Security (712-580-3000 ext. 260).
2) Notify supervisor or event/building superintendent.
3) Seal off high-risk area and patrol the area until relieved by Fair Veterinarian or Fair Security.
4) Keep detailed notes of crisis event by filling out the Animal Incident Report (see next page).
5) Fair Veterinarian or Fair Security will contact CEO/Manager.

RESOURCES:

- International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) Activist Response Kit
- Indiana State Fair Animal Wellness & Care Program
- Oklahoma State Fair Animal Welfare Policy & Quality of Exhibits
- Minnesota State Fair Animal Health and Livestock Emergency Plan
- Florida State Fair Animal Care Committee Policy and Procedures
- Expo Square (Tulsa State Fair) Animal Welfare Policies
- Clay County Fair Emergency Management & Action Plan
- Dr. Mark Rees, DVM, Animal Medical Centers
- Greg Lear, Spencer Ag Center
- Iowa State University Extension Clay County

ANIMAL INCIDENT REPORT

DATE _____ **TIME** _____

PERSON(S) INVOLVED_____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

LOCATION OF INCIDENT _____

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT:

ACTION TAKEN:

WITNESS: _____

SIGNATURE OF FAIR OFFICIAL_____