



## **Animal Welfare Plan**

Adopted March 2022

## South Dakota State Fair Animal Welfare Plan

The SD State Fair (SDSF) is committed to the humane treatment of all animals exhibited. Every possible precaution is taken to ensure the animals' safety and wellbeing. The Animal Welfare Plan is in place to ensure the following standards are met regarding the wellness, care, and safety of animals at the SDSF:

- The SDSF will not tolerate animal cruelty, abuse, or neglect.
- For many in the public, the events held at the SDSF, including the annual State 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 SDSF.
- The SDSF provides an arena for all livestock exhibitors 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 SDSF, both non-fair events and the annual Fair.

### Animal Exhibits, Shows, and Competitions

It is the responsibility of the owner/exhibitor/handler/agent for each animal being brought to the fairgrounds 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 South Dakota Animal Industry Board. For the most current information, 605-773-3321 or <https://aib.sd.gov/exhibition.html>.

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 SDSF.

- 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 SDSF also provides advertisement for the breeders and owners of the animals. 4-H, FFA, and other junior organization programs teach valuable skills to youth, such as finance management, responsibility, decision making, and leadership.
- B. **Education:** The SDSF has several educational exhibits and programs designed to educate, entertain, and inform the public about livestock and agriculture. The SDSF utilizes judging commentators during the livestock shows to involve and inform the public about what is taking place in the show ring. Commentators 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 SDSF expects exhibitors to be knowledgeable about exhibit rules, their projects and be prepared to answer questions. The exhibitor's role is that of an ambassador.
    - 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 SDSF encourages educational exhibits in barns.
    - c. The SDSF expects exhibitors to cooperate with the Animal Industry Board, superintendents, assistants, barn crews, SDSF management, and any appointed volunteers. The SDSF also expects good sportsmanship, conduct, and open communication.
    - d. Notify the superintendent 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 superintendent if someone that 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 regarding 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. The SDSF prohibits any unnatural, inhumane weight control prior to weigh-in.
  - 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**

SDSF management contracts and supervises animal attractions and educational exhibits. Both animal attractions and educational exhibits should provide educational material about their animals and their care to the public. SDSF management encourages interaction with the public. This may be a criterion for issuing a contract.

Prior to opening to the public, the Animal Industry Board may inspect each animal exhibit. Periodic checks may also be made throughout the SDSF. Each animal exhibit will designate a representative to be responsible and to be available during the SDSF operating hours to answer questions, talk to the media when SDSF has lined up an interview, or respond to an emergency.

#### **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. 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. Exhibitors shall use all equipment for approved and legal uses only. The management will not tolerate any practices deemed inappropriate, unethical, or inhumane.
7. Report any sick or injured animal immediately to SDSF management, who may suggest that the exhibitor contact a veterinarian.
8. All animals are required to have a current, within 30 days, Certificate of Veterinary Inspection. Many species are required to have negative tests against certain diseases. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to contact the South Dakota Animal Industry Board at 605-773-3321 or <https://aib.sd.gov> to make sure all required testing has been performed.

#### **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.
6. All equine are required to have a current Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (within 30 days). Equine from other states must also have a current negative Equine Infectious Anemia test (within 12 months).

### **D. Other Animal Exhibits (not previously listed)**

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 licenses.

### **Compliance and Discipline**

- A. SDSF management relies on staff members, volunteers, exhibitors, and the public to report any situations that may be potential policy violations.
- B. SDSF management will investigate and determine the severity of all complaints and concerns.
- C. If there is a violation of the Animal Welfare Plan, 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 SDSF management may call the veterinarian or Animal Industry Board, at the exhibitor's expense, depending on the severity of the violation. The removal of animals and/or exhibitor from the fairgrounds may become necessary.
- E. SDSF management reserves the right to disqualify any competitive exhibitors in violation of the animal care plan from any awards and premiums.
- F. Whether or not a violation was found, the event promoter (non-fair event) or manager (SDSF) 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 on SDSF property shall be referred to the SDSF 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 manager (SDSF).

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

### **Public Relations**

The SDSF manager (or designee) will facilitate the release of factual information regarding any animal care or livestock emergency that may arise at the SDSF.

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

## **Livestock Emergency Protocols**

### **Animal Illness or Injury**

If an animal on SDSF property becomes sick or injured, the event promoter (non-fair event) or Animal Industry Board 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 SDSF, or isolated on SDSF property at the discretion of the event promoter (non-fairevent) or Animal Industry Board (SDSF).

If the animal is to be removed from SDSF property, the owner/exhibitor must immediately make accommodations to remove the animal. This is the sole responsibility of the owner/exhibitor.

If the animal is to be placed in isolation, the quarantine facility is in the racehorse barn located west of the Grandstand (SDSF) or at a place mutually agreed upon by SDSF and event promoter (non-fair)

### **Animal Death**

If an animal on SDSF property dies (natural causes or euthanasia), the event promoter (non-fair event) or Animal Industry Board (SDSF), in conjunction with SDSF staff, will assist the exhibitor and coordinate animal disposal. 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 SDSF 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 SDSF property, SDSF staff will work with local authorities to contain the animal.

### **Severe Weather**

If severe weather is forecasted or occurs during an animal event, the procedure for severe weather as outlined in the SDSF Emergency 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 in the SDSF Emergency Plan will be followed.

For animal evacuation, SDSF staff, in conjunction with local authorities, will develop alternate animal housing, including moving animals to other animal facilities at the SDSF, 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 SDSF property.

### **Human Injury**

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

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

#### **GENERAL RESPONSE TO LIVESTOCK EMERGENCY – FAIR:**

- Call Animal Industry Board (605-773-3321) or SDSF security (605-353-6644).
- Notify supervisor or event/building superintendent.
- Seal off high-risk area and patrol the area until relieved by Animal Industry Board or SDSF security.
- Keep detailed notes of crisis event by filling out the Animal Incident Report (see next page).
- Animal Industry Board or SDSF security will contact SDSF manager.

**ANIMAL INCIDENT REPORT**

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ TIME \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON(S)  
INVOLVED \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

LOCATION OF INCIDENT \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIPTION OF INCIDENT:

ACTION TAKEN:

WITNESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE OF FAIR OFFICIAL \_\_\_\_\_