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ANIMAL HEALTH STANDARDS FOR VERMONT FAIRS, FIELD DAYS AND FESTIVALS



Guidelines for Exhibitors to Minimize Animal Health Risks

Contact with animals in public settings (e.g., fairs, educational farms, petting zoos, and schools) provides opportunities for entertainment and education. However, these enjoyable experiences can occasionally result in exposures to infectious diseases such as influenza or *Salmonella*, rabies exposures, injuries, and other health problems among visitors, especially children. Additionally, considerable concern exists in our nation regarding the risks of bioterrorism or other acts of terrorism affecting agriculture. In response to these concerns about bioterrorism and exposure to infectious diseases, organizers of all livestock exhibition events are encouraged to follow these guidelines. The Agency of Agriculture (VAAF) appreciates your cooperation at your fair or field day this summer and fall to initiate these safe practices. It is the shared responsibility of everyone who participates in these events to work together to protect herd health and public health. If you have questions or comments, please contact the State Veterinarian's office at (802) 828-2421.

Recommendations:

- (1) Adopt and implement the Animal Health Standards (contained on pages 2-3 of this document) recommended for Vermont Fairs, Field Days and Festivals.
- (2) Ensure all out of state animals comply with the Vermont **Rules Governing the Importation of Domestic Animals Including Livestock and Poultry**, contained on pages 2-3 of this document. Complete import regulations can be found at the following link:
http://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal_health/animal_regulations
- (3) Ensure all Vermont origin livestock are identified with an official individual identification tag.
- (4) Contract with a local veterinarian to monitor the event for contagious diseases and provide necessary veterinary services.
 - a. All animals should be in good physical condition and be free of visual evidence of infectious, contagious, or parasitic diseases at time of arrival.



- (5) Provide the following recommendations to exhibitors on how to limit exposure of their animals to infectious diseases:
 - a. Abide by all animal health requirements established by the event organizers and make sure that your animals are vaccinated according to your veterinarian's recommendations.
 - b. While at the event, use appropriate means of limiting contact of your animals with the public and with other animals. (i.e. use of signs, ropes or other barricades).
 - c. Do not share feeding, watering, cleaning or grooming equipment used for other animals.
 - d. Supply your own feed and bedding and keep it separate from other animals.
 - e. Clean and disinfect milking units between cows.
 - f. Avoid using stalls recently occupied other animals unless the stalls have been cleaned and disinfected.
 - g. Have disinfectant available for cleaning and disinfecting equipment when necessary.
 - h. Quarantine animals returning to the farm from an event for at least two weeks before reintroducing the animals into the herd or farm population.
- (6) Post information about handwashing in areas that house livestock and poultry. Examples of handouts can be found on the VAAFAM website:
http://agriculture.vermont.gov/animal_health/disease_prevention
- (7) If fairgrounds or premises will be host to multiple livestock events over the season, livestock barns and stalls should be cleaned and disinfected between events.
- (8) Superintendents should consider practices that will limit contact among and between animals and people such as creative use of barriers, signs, space or physical separations between groups of animals and walkways.
- (9) If suspicious activity is observed or if signs of illness or disease occur in exhibition animals or fair attendees, contact the appropriate authorities and personnel.

Mandatory livestock requirements for animals attending a fair, field day, or festival

The Vermont Agency of Agriculture encourages fair personnel to ensure that the following requirements are met by all exhibitors/participants as these items will be monitored for compliance by VAAFAM inspectors who visit these events.

Vermont origin poultry must have been tested for pullorum-typhoid and found to be negative within the current calendar year. Out of state poultry have specific import requirements - call the office of the State Veterinarian at 802-828-2421.

All livestock from within VT are required to be identified with official identification prior to leaving the farm. Livestock include dairy and beef cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and camelids. Vermont origin livestock must be identified with an official individual identification tag.



All livestock and poultry imported from outside the State of Vermont must comply with the established *Rules Governing the Importation of Domestic Animals Including Livestock and Poultry*. Livestock import requirements vary by species so please call the State Veterinarian's Office at 802-828-2421 for specific information. General requirements include:

- A Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) dated within 30 days of the event,
- Identification with an official identification device (examples include official metal ear tags or RFID tags, Scrapie tags for goats and sheep, or an official registry tattoo),
- An import permit (horses are exempt from the import permit requirement but must be accompanied by an exhibition permit if the CVI is more than 30 days old,
- A valid Coggins test for horses within 12 months of importation into Vermont,
- Camelids are required to have a CVI, an import permit, a negative brucellosis test within 30 days of importation and a negative TB test within 90 days of importation.

Recommended livestock health requirements for animals attending a fair, field day, or festival

While not required, the Vermont Agency of Agriculture recommends that fairs institute the following practices to ensure the health of all participating livestock and poultry.

Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) and Animal Identification

Vermont-origin cattle, horses, sheep, goats, camelids, and swine should have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection issued by a veterinarian within 30 days of the event. As a reminder, these animals are required to be properly individually identified (examples include official metal ear tags or RFID tags, Scrapie tags for goats and sheep, an official registry tattoo, or a microchip for applicable species).

Rabies Vaccination

It is strongly recommended that all animals at the event over 3 months of age for which there is an approved rabies vaccine, including cattle, horses, sheep, dogs, cats and ferrets, have a current rabies vaccination. The vaccination should be administered at least 30 days prior to the event and be current within the previous 12 months. Vaccination less than 30 days can be accepted for younger animals not old enough to vaccinate in sufficient time prior to the event. Although an approved rabies vaccine does not exist for goats, camelids, swine, and wolf-hybrids, it is acceptable for veterinarians to administer the vaccine in an off-label manner.

Cattle Recommendations

In addition to the requirements listed in the previous section, cattle should be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: foot rot, mange, pink-eye, ringworm, warts, cow-pox, and open or draining wounds.

Cattle Shipping Fever Vaccination

Cattle should have a shipping fever vaccination within 6 months but no less than 14 days prior to the event which includes IBR, BVD, PI3, and BRSV.



Equine Recommendations

All horses, even those that originate from within Vermont, should have a negative test result for Equine Infectious Anemia dated within 12 months of the event. Equine should be free of visual evidence of the following conditions: mange, ringworm, soring, strangles, and open or draining wounds. Vaccination for Flu and Rhino (EHV1) between 14 days and 6 months prior to the event is recommended.

Swine Recommendations

In addition to the requirements listed in the previous section, swine should be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: erysipelas, atrophic rhinitis, mange, and open or draining wounds.

Poultry Recommendations

In addition to the requirements listed in the previous section, poultry should be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: infectious bronchitis, coryza, Pullorum-typhoid, fowl-pox, external parasites, and laryngotracheitis.

Sheep and Goat Recommendations

In addition to the requirements listed in the previous section, sheep and goats should be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: foot rot, mange, pink-eye, ringworm, warts, pox, and open or draining wounds.

Camelid Recommendations (alpacas, llamas, etc)

In addition to the requirements listed in the previous section, camelids should be free of visual evidence of the following diseases and conditions: foot rot, mange, pink-eye, ringworm, warts, pox, and open or draining wounds.

Use of Animals as Fund Raising Devices, Awards, or Prizes

13 VSA, Chapter 008, § 366. Prohibited use of animals

"Animal" means all living sentient creatures, not human beings.

(a) No live animal shall be used as a fund-raising device or award in a contest, lottery, game, or promotion by any person or entity other than at an event recognized by an agricultural or sporting association. An alternative cash prize shall be offered. A person or entity shall not transfer or award an animal without reasonable assurance that the person receiving the animal will provide proper transportation and adequate care.

(b) No live fowl, turtles or rabbits under eight weeks of age in lots of less than six shall be offered for sale or sold, displayed or given away.

(c) A person who violates this section shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$250.00.

