

Dunn County Fair Animal Welfare Policy

Philosophy

The Dunn County Fair ensures that all participating animals receive proper care and management for their well-being.

Policy for Care and Management of Animals

The care, custody, and control of the animals brought to the fair is the responsibility of the owner and/or exhibitor. The fair will at no time have care, custody, and/or control of any animals exhibited, which are brought onto the fairgrounds. However, in an emergency or other compelling circumstances, the fair's authorized personnel will take charge of the animal and direct a resolution of the problem. The fair is responsible for appointing an official fair veterinarian (vet) for the duration of the fair.

Fair personnel, in conjunction with the official fair vet, reserve the right to require that animals identified as unsuitable for public display and/or in distress, be removed to a location designated by the fair and/or removed from the fairgrounds.

Procedure for Care and Management of Animals

In case of an emergency, the official fair vet, working with the fair board, would be the lead individual to direct the resolution of a problem in the livestock, horse and small animal areas. If the contracted veterinarian were not available, the fair would contact the other veterinarian, preferably located in Menomonie, as a back-up.

Policy for Escaped Animals

In the event an animal escapes from its designated confinement, every effort should be made by the owner/exhibitor and fair personnel to confine it as quickly as possible.

Procedure for Escaped Animals

In the event an animal escapes, an attempt to contain the animal should be made by the owners and/or exhibitors since they have the most experience with that animal. If the animal escapes the fairgrounds area, the president should contact the grounds security, police department and sheriff's department. In the event the animal escapes after the fair closes, ground security will attempt to contain the animal and notify the police and sheriff's department if necessary. The fair board will assist with the containment while security will secure the perimeter and handle crowd control.

Policy for Handling Exotic Animal Exhibits

Regulatory authority for exotic animal exhibits falls under the auspices of the USDA and/or Wisconsin DATCP. In the event an issue arises with such an exhibit and/or display at the fair, the issue will be dealt with by one or both of the above agencies.

Procedure for Handling Exotic Animal Exhibits

The fair will require that all exotic and performing animal acts will follow the [Animal Health Rules and Regulations](#) and obtain the necessary permits. A copy of the permit must be attached to the contract before it is validated. In the event any incident arises involving an exotic or performing animal act, the fair president will contact the appropriate representatives to handle the incident.

Dunn County Fair Animal Welfare Policy

Policy for Injured/Dead Animals

If an animal on the fairgrounds is injured or dies, the designated veterinarian will be immediately notified to coordinate a prompt, expeditious, and appropriate response. If emergency measures are necessary before the veterinarian arrives, authorized fair personnel will ensure that the animal is properly moved to a designated location for evaluation as quickly as possible.

Procedure for Injured/Dead Animals

A stall/area in the old highway buildings shall be reserved for the treatment and/or evaluation of injured or sick animals. A sled/trailer will be available for moving an animal to the designated location if necessary. In the event an animal dies while on the fairgrounds, fair personnel and the veterinarian will assist the exhibitor to coordinate animal disposal. The fair maintains an Incident Report on all animal injuries and/or deaths.

Animal Disposal Procedure: The animal will be covered by a tarp/blanket and loaded onto a sled/trailer for removal from the public area to a designated location.

Policy for Evacuation of Animals

In the event an emergency is declared, and an evacuation of the livestock barns is necessary due to emergency conditions, fair staff, in conjunction with the fair security, city police and sheriff's deputies, will take the appropriate steps.

Procedure for Evacuation of Animals

In the event of severe weather conditions, it has been determined that the animals are as safe in the barns as anywhere. In the event of an emergency, the fair will work with security, police department and the sheriff's department to evaluate the situation. If the decision is made to evacuate because of an emergency, the deputies will take command of the evacuation.

In the event a mass evacuation of animals is necessary, the sheriff's department and police department should be contacted to assist with moving animals with trailers and other local resources. As a last resort, animals are to be turned loose and herded toward the infield or pit area of the grandstand. Radio contact will be made with security to close all fairgrounds gates.

Policy for Preventing and Responding to a Suspected Animal or Zoonotic Disease Outbreak

Should a communicable disease be suspected, the official fair vet appointed by the fair will be responsible for addressing the issue and notifying the appropriate individuals.

Procedures for Preventing and Responding to a Suspected Animal or Zoonotic Disease Outbreak

The fair follows Animal Health Regulations for Fairs and Shows in Wisconsin found at: [DATCP Home Animal Health Rules for Fairs, Shows, and Other Special Events](#). An Animal ID Check-in Form is required for all animals entering the fairgrounds. The superintendents and/or fair officials verify that the animals listed on the Animal ID Check-in Form match the animals as they are unloaded from vehicles and/or trailers and visually examine animals before entering the barns for visible signs of disease. The superintendents collect all necessary paperwork as required by the [Animal Health Rules and Regulations](#) and turn them into the fair office immediately after check-in is complete.

Dunn County Fair Animal Welfare Policy

The official vet makes daily observations of animals in the barn throughout the duration of the fair. If a communicable disease is suspected, the appointed veterinarian will notify the appropriate individuals.

Policy for Quality Assurance

It is the policy of the fair that all animals are certified as not having received any prohibited substances. There have been no known incidences of show animals from which any drug residues have been detected.

Procedure for Quality Assurance

The fair will cooperate closely with packers who purchase animals and with any State or Federal investigation in the event any prohibited substance is detected in any animal previously exhibited at the fair.

Policy for Handling Animal Rights Issues

For all fair personnel:

All inquiries from the public, news media, or representatives of animal interest groups regarding the care or management of animals should be referred to the fair president.

For exhibitors:

If approached by representatives of animal interest groups, exhibitors should politely refer them to the fair board. Under no circumstances should any exhibitor engage in a debate of animal rights issues or opinions. Avoidance of any confrontations should be foremost. In the event a demonstration should occur, it is the policy of the fair to allow reasonable access to its grounds and to designate free speech expression zone as allowed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. The designated free expression zone provided by the fair is provided to allow for free speech activity but at the same time protects the interest of patrons attending the events on the fairgrounds.

Any other activity or demonstration that creates a problem for fair patrons, exhibitors, or livestock is to be managed by the police. The fairgrounds are considered private property; therefore, any persons engaged in activities not in the best interest of the fair may be ejected from the grounds.

Procedure for Handling Animal Rights Issues

The fair has designated the area located in the parking area, on the hill, as the “Area of Free Speech”.

If a disruptive activity should occur:

The president should be notified. Security should call the police department (if the situation warrants) and fair security staff should keep the situation under observation and control until the police arrive.

If it is determined that they are disrupting the fair program by distributing literature outside their designated area, harassing fairgoers or exhibitors, or picketing, we legally have the right to have them removed from the grounds. This should be done by the police department.

All media questions concerning the event should be directed to the president. No one else is authorized to address the situation.

Approved: 7/19/2012; Reviewed/Updated 5/27/2013; Reviewed/Updated 7/7/2019; Reviewed/Updated 03/05/2025 & 6/19/2025