	Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Unit A-1 1200 13th St. Brandon, MB R7A 4S8	SOP #	Part of SOP 1
		Revision #	0
		Implementation Date	March 14, 2023
Page #	1 of 5	Last Reviewed/Update Date	March 3, 2023
SOP Owner	Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba	Approval GM	

Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Animal Welfare Procedure

The Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba has the highest standards of animal care practices and is committed to the wellbeing of animals in our care. Our organization strives for transparent communications of success, challenges, opportunities, and continuous development of our animal care guidelines. The guiding principles used in the development and implementation of this document include:

- Being prepared
- Being clear and concise
- Being passionate
- Being respectful
- Being honest
- Using terms that are easy to understand.
- Listening


This procedure is intended for the use of personnel (staff and volunteers), exhibitors and participants involved in any Provincial Exhibition event involving animals. The purpose is to ensure appropriate and consistent care of all animals at our events and this document acts as a reference for development of animal care programs for the organization's events. Depending on the scale and length of the event, some sections of the procedure will be more relevant than others.

The Provincial Exhibition will strive to follow the internationally recognized and commonly agreed upon principles for animal welfare:

- Freedom from hunger, malnutrition, and thirst.
- Freedom from fear and distress.
- Freedom from heat stress or physical discomfort.
- Freedom from pain, injury and disease; and
- Freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour

Background

Animal health and welfare is paramount with respect to the use of animals for entertainment or competition. At all times, risk of injury, suffering, illness, and stress must be mitigated during the care and management of animals. Animals must be treated humanely and not be subjected to situations where they may be exposed to intentional or avoidable pain, injury, and suffering. The overall welfare of the animals should always be considered first. Animals must not be forced to perform actions or tasks that result in physical or mental distress or discomfort and/or are beyond the

	Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Unit A-1 1200 13th St. Brandon, MB R7A 4S8	SOP #	Part of SOP 1
		Revision #	0
		Implementation Date	March 14, 2023
Page #	2 of 5	Last Reviewed/Update Date	March 3, 2023
SOP Owner	Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba	Approval GM	

physical, social, or behavioural capacity of the individual animal or species. All animals used for competition or entertainment should be appropriately bred, fed, raised, habituated, and trained by skilled and knowledgeable personnel. All animals used for competition or entertainment should receive veterinary oversight and timely care by suitably experienced veterinarians. In addition, animals must be cared for by skilled and knowledgeable personnel.

As society becomes increasingly urbanized, there is a steadily growing gap in understanding how animals are cared for. Public events can also be prime opportunities to learn about animals, and it is therefore essential for our organization to ensure we are fostering positive learning experiences and providing the best care possible for the animals at our events. Standard Operating Procedures are to be observed and updated as needed.

Creating an Animal Care Program

Step 1 - Situational Assessment: Assessing animal interactions.

We will review the landscape of current practices in animal care and pay attention to how they can be validated and formalized through checklists, agreements, and assessments, as is appropriate. Create a list of guiding documents, e.g., standard operating procedures (SOP), which need to be developed as needed to align with industry best practices.

Step 2 - The Framework for an Animal Care Program: Creating a culture of animal care.


Encourage all organizers, staff and volunteers to become passionate about animal care best practices. Hold training sessions and team meetings during events as reminders of the value of the animal care program to the success and reputation of the event. Communicate the animal care program to exhibitors and competitors ahead of the event.

Step 3 - Operational Excellence: Develop animal care plans.

Categorize animal interactions based on the nature of the procedures needed to ensure animal welfare. For example: biosecurity (where animals interact with each other and humans), barn safety (where animals interact with facilities) and emergency management (where interactions don't go as planned).

Step 4 - Learning and Communication: Create key messages for stakeholders.

Foster relationships with key stakeholders and ensure all staff, volunteers and exhibitors have the knowledge and competence to not only care for the animals but represent the organization as ambassadors for animal care. Where possible, integrate learning opportunities to positively engage spectators. Regardless of the size of the event, these measures can be integrated into any kind of training provided to either staff or volunteers.

	Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Unit A-1 1200 13th St. Brandon, MB R7A 4S8	SOP #	Part of SOP 1
		Revision #	0
		Implementation Date	March 14, 2023
Page #	3 of 5	Last Reviewed/Update Date	March 3, 2023
SOP Owner	Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba	Approval GM	

Roles and Responsibilities

- All exhibitors are required to sign a document which states that they have read and understood any related code of practice or other policies the Provincial Exhibition implements as part of SOP 1 our Show Prize Book Entry Form.
- Any contestant, exhibitors, competitors, or contractors who are responsible for the animals they provide during the event are aware that they must comply with any rules or regulations we have in place regarding animal care. If a minor is listed as the owner of an animal, it is important to designate a “Person Responsible” in case any issues occur which need to be dealt with by an adult.
- Treatment of animals may be grounds for disqualification, fines, or suspension, depending on the consequences.

If any incidents do occur during the course of the event, whether it be an animal falling sick or being injured (during a competition-style event or not), proper process will be followed and document any actions taken. Effective documentation and record-keeping including dates and times, shows that you did your due diligence in handling the situation. “If it isn’t written down, it didn’t happen.”


The following hold responsibility in the implementation of the animal care program:

- Management and staff: Responsible for overseeing the animal care program. May include program managers for the animal events, facility personnel, security, event officials, paid handlers, etc..
- Committees Chairs: The chairs are your key communicators back to their committee members. They will also be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the program within their committee and exhibitors.
- Volunteers: Often volunteers will be interacting with the public and helping to share information about the animal care program and the codes of care of the organization.
- Communications Team: Team members should be familiar with the program and be able to respond correctly to inquiries or develop any relevant communications plan.

Standards of Care

The following are examples of standards of care implemented by the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba:

- All animals will be inspected by a veterinarian and findings recorded upon arrival at the grounds.
- Animals in competition will be inspected before and after competition and findings recorded.
- A veterinarian will be present or accessible during all competitions.
- All animals must meet the standards for health and fitness to compete or exhibit.

	Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Unit A-1 1200 13th St. Brandon, MB R7A 4S8	SOP #	Part of SOP 1
		Revision #	0
		Implementation Date	March 14, 2023
Page #	4 of 5	Last Reviewed/Update Date	March 3, 2023
SOP Owner	Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba	Approval GM	

- Maintain all competition arenas (e.g., maintenance of footing) before each competition and potentially during the competition. This will be specific to the nature of competition.
- Competitors and exhibitors are expected to adhere to all standards of care and rules of competition, including those related to animal care.
- Animals may be subjected to random drug testing.
- The organization reserves the right to remove anyone from competition or exhibit if they are found in violation of the standards of care or rules of competition.

Code of Ethics

A code of ethics is an agreed-upon set of values that stakeholders are asked to uphold.


Exhibitors of the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba must adhere to the following code of ethics:

- Be truthful and transparent regarding all information on all aspects of the animals' details, documentation, histories, and ownership.
- Agree to provide an animal health certificate from a licensed veterinarian upon request.
- Be truthful and transparent when it comes to the use of drugs or medication and follow the organization's guidelines and regulations.
- Agree to eschew any handling processes that may lead to fear or harm such as striking animals, using inappropriate handling tools, or any other similar practices.

Provincial Exhibition Animal Care Program

Water

- All venues must provide easily accessible and potable water sources.
- Animals on exhibit should have access to water at all times. This could mean either free access or, in some cases, a handler regularly providing individual buckets or access to a communal trough.
- All pens must have enough water troughs or buckets to meet the hydration needs of all the animals in that pen.
- All water troughs and buckets should be clean and free of debris.
- Water must be provided in a manner that it is accessible to the animals (i.e., water trough not too tall for the size of the animal).
- Animals must be provided with an ice-free water source in winter months (e.g., use of a heated water trough).
- The limitation of water for competition animals leading up to their event must never jeopardize their welfare.
- Water needs will increase in hot weather and should be accounted for.
- Consideration should be given to the installation of automatic waterers and water bowls for longer term exhibits and large pens of animals.
- Water sources should be located out of reach of the public to give the animals a safe place to drink as well as to diminish the risk of the water becoming contaminated.

	Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba Unit A-1 1200 13th St. Brandon, MB R7A 4S8	SOP #	Part of SOP 1
		Revision #	0
		Implementation Date	March 14, 2023
Page #	5 of 5	Last Reviewed/Update Date	March 3, 2023
SOP Owner	Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba	Approval GM	

Signage

- Have adequate signage and services available to the public.
- Analyze the grounds to place hand washing and hand sanitizing stations in key locations that will receive visitor traffic.
- There should also be signage to discourage eating or drinking around the animals to diminish the risk of transferring pathogens to people. Make sure to record your plan.
- Signage to prevent high risk contact behaviour is also important.

Program Implementation

This procedure has been approved by the Provincial Exhibition of Manitoba at a meeting of the Board of Directors dated _____. This document is to be continually improved and amended as required. This document was prepared in consultation with Canadian Fairs and Exhibitions, Provincial Exhibition exhibitors and animal health experts including a veterinarian.