

RESOLUTION 21-2017

RESOLUTION REGARDING COUNTY ANIMAL WELFARE POLICIES

1. Purpose and Applicability.

The Madison County Commission intends this resolution to state the animal welfare policies which shall apply at the Madison County Fair, Madison County Rodeo, and any other County functions which involve the use of animals. The County's general philosophy is that every animal participating in such activities shall be provided proper care and management.

2. Policy for Care and Management of Animals.

The care, custody, and control of animals brought to the County Fair, Rodeo, or other County function is the responsibility of the animals' owner and/or exhibitor. The County will not maintain custody, care, or control over animals which are not owned by the County. However, in the event of an emergency or other compelling circumstance, personnel authorized by the County may temporarily take control of animals which are present until the emergency or other circumstance is resolved.

County personnel reserve the right to quarantine animals on County property or to remove animals from County property if they are designated by a veterinarian or other expert as being unsuitable for public display or in distress.

3. Designated Veterinarian.

Prior to the County Fair, County Rodeo, or other public County exhibition involving animals, the Fair Board, or other County agency running the event may designate a veterinarian for the event. The designated veterinarian will have the authority to inspect any animals involved in the exhibition, with or without advance notice to the animal's owner. The designated veterinarian shall be a licensed and practicing veterinarian and shall be available on short notice for the duration of the event. The Fair Board or other County Agency shall provide owners and exhibitors with the name and contact information of the Designated Veterinarian.

4. Escaped Animals.

In the event that an animal escapes from its designated confinement, every effort should be made by the owner or exhibitor and County personnel to confine the animal as promptly as is possible. Attempts to contain the animal should initially be made by the owner or exhibitor since they will in most cases be the most familiar with the animal. If an animal escapes County Property, or if an animal escaped from confinement poses a substantial risk of danger to the public, the owner or exhibitor shall notify the onsite personnel and the County Sherriff's Office immediately.

5. **Injured or Deceased Animals.**

If an animal involved in the County Fair, County Rodeo, or other County exhibition is injured or dies, County personnel will notify an available veterinarian immediately to coordinate an appropriate response. County personnel may transfer the animal to a designated location in the event that an emergency response is necessary. The County will maintain an incident report for any animal death or serious injury which occurs during a County exhibition. The County may remove animals which are deceased or which require offsite treatment from County property. The County will comply with any requirements of any County insurance policy which covers the animal.

Owners and exhibitors should be aware that rodeos and similar exhibitions involve a risk of injury to the involved animals. The owner or exhibitor shall be responsible for any treatment expenses, except in cases where an animal dies or is injured due to the County's negligence. The Fair Board or other County agency may, at their discretion, require liability waivers from owners or exhibitors in order to enter animals in County events.

6. **Evacuation of Animals.**

The Sherriff's Office and Fair Board or other County agency running the event shall plan for animal evacuation in advance of any County event which involves large animals and shall notify owners and exhibitors in advance of planned evacuation routes. However, owners and exhibitors should be aware that emergencies are by their nature not predictable and may require flexibility.

If an emergency is declared which may require evacuation of animals, or in the event of severe weather, County staff, in conjunction with the Sherriff's Office, will determine the appropriate steps, including whether and when evacuation is necessary and where any animals evacuated will go. In the event of an evacuation, owners and exhibitors shall promptly follow instructions made by Sherriff's deputies, the Designated Veterinarian, or other County Personnel.

7. **Suspected Animal Diseases.**

The Fair Board, or another County agency, may require that animals be inspected for contagious diseases by the Designated Veterinarian or another designated person with animal expertise prior to entry into a County event.

Any owner, exhibitor, or County staff member who suspects that an animal present has a contagious or life-threatening disease shall immediately report the observed symptoms to County personnel. The Designated Veterinarian or, if they are unavailable, another person designated by the County agency managing the event, shall promptly inspect the animal and

take any appropriate measures. The Designated Veterinarian may quarantine or remove any animals which are suspected of having a contagious disease.

In cases where a contagious disease is suspected, the owner or exhibitor shall take reasonable steps to limit the transmission of any suspected contagious diseases. County staff may assist the owner or exhibitor in doing so.

8. Cooperation With Authorities.

The Fair Board or managing County agency will cooperate fully with any request by local, State, or Federal authorities to inspect animals participating in County events.

9. Consequences for Noncompliance.

The Fair Board or managing County agency is authorized to eject any person who interferes with, or refuses to comply with, the procedures outlined in this resolution from County Property. Ejection from a County event does not entitle the ejected person to a refund of any entry or other fee paid, unless the County agency managing the event determines that a refund is warranted. Intentional or recurring noncompliance with this resolution may be a basis to ban individuals from County events for a period of time set by the Fair Board or managing County agency.

10. Availability of Resolution.

The Fair Board or managing County agency shall make copies of this resolution available to any owners, exhibitors, or staff who will be working with animals at County events.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 2017, passed and approved by the Madison County Commissioners.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

James P. Hart, Chairman

Attest: _____

Kathleen Mumme, Clerk and Recorder

Ronald E. Nye, Commissioner

Dan W. Allhands, Commissioner