

WHFF ANIMAL AND SHOWING TEMPLATE

Introduction.

The requirement of providing food to an ever-increasing global population has placed demands on all sectors of the food supply chain, particularly when associated with the challenges of ensuring production methods conform to reducing environmental impact and greenhouse gas emissions as well as meeting societal expectations around animal welfare.

The Holstein has established itself as the world's primary milk producing breed and as such is capable of producing high yields of milk, however this willingness to produce must be properly managed and it is essential that production requirements be balanced with welfare standards that allow both the animal and environment to thrive.

The consumer demands quality food at reasonable prices but also requires high standards of animal welfare in the production of human foods. It is incumbent on producers to meet these aspirations by employing environmentally and animal welfare friendly systems. It is an ever-challenging scenario to which WHFF is fully committed.

WHFF, as the World organisation representing Holstein Associations, is acutely aware of the need to support its global membership through individual Holstein Associations with advice that meets the requirements of balancing production with environmental and welfare targets. To achieve the required level of sustainability WHFF has already instigated the introduction and maintains a universal linear type inspection program that identifies and monitors functional type traits on milk producing animals, which are ultimately used in genetic evaluations to strengthen the functional traits required for robust milk production in many differing production environments. This information is used as a vital part of every day dairy herd management in breeding robust and functional animals

Building on the success WHFF has prepared a universal template to be used at events where Holstein animals are to be exhibited. The ethos of the document is that it is vital that the highest standards of welfare and showing ethics are employed in the exhibition of animals in all showing circumstances. The document recognises the variation in individual countries regulations and as such has the necessary flexibility to be used as a template in different circumstances.

Main goals of this template

The main goals of the Showing Template are:

- To ensure high standards of animal welfare during cattle shows;
- To ensure a fair competition between the cows and their owners.

Rules & Regulations for Showing Cattle

The objective of this document is to create maximum uniformity and transparency for each (inter-) national show, its participants, audience and other society stakeholders.

It is fully acknowledged that internationally countries have different individual health and veterinary requirements and regulations: this document is intended as an international template to assist show organisations adhere to the principle of 'best practice' in relation to high standards of animal welfare.

Besides that, it positions animal welfare as an important issue and restricts the use of bovine medicine to the individual country level that is strictly necessary. The most important principals are:

- ***Healthy animals should not be treated and sick animals should not be showed.***
- ***Animals should be shown 'as naturally as possible' (see article 9)***

A transparent and uniform set of rules and regulations is an important basis for a fair and safe competition for both the participant and animal.

Optional:

Adopt or explain

WHFF would like its members to adopt the WHFF-standard of Rules and Regulations for Showing Cattle, with the principle of 'adopt or explain'

- Adopt, means that the country has fully implemented the WHFF standard
- Explain, means that the country has adopted most of the standard and explains where and why they differ from the WHFF standard

All participants at shows (like any citizen) must be aware of the (inter) national laws on animal welfare.

General

1. By participating in the show the participant agrees to abide by these rules and regulations, the associated regulations of the disciplinary committee and agrees to take part in any inspections if so requested.
2. The participant shall comply with any pre-selection of the animals for the event concerned if so requested.
3. The participant agrees to follow the instructions of the organisers (including the ringmaster and/or jury [disciplinary committee?]) at all times on the show grounds and in the show ring in particular.
4. The decision of the jury is binding and each participant must accept and respect this decision.
5. After the animals have arrived in the stalls from the wash area, they are not permitted to leave the stalling area until the time indicated to leave for the ring or grand show ring, or after the event has ended.
6. The participant shall cooperate with the requests/instructions of the organisers and allow the animal(s) to be photographed [and tested?].

7. Instructions concerning the veterinary requirements, arrival and departure times, transport of the animals and other specific matters will be provided separately at each event by the organisers.

Preparing/ grooming show cattle

8. When animals are prepared/groomed to compete in individual judging, or group presentations or judging, the rules and regulations of the organisers shall apply.
9. In order to present the animal as naturally as possible all procedures and/or practices, both cosmetic and technical, are prohibited, with the exception of:

- a. Washing/clipping the animal;
- b. Straightening the topline with hair that is naturally attached to its own hair follicle and does not exceed (2-4) cm in length;
- c. The use of a false tail or switch;
- d. Treating the animal, excluding the udder, with a non-irritating substance, in order to enhance the colour or shine of the coat;
- e. Treating the teats in order to avoid milk leaking.

Appendix A contains some examples of procedures and/or practices, which are considered unacceptable.

Use of veterinary medicines

The starting point for the use of bovine medicine during the show is that only the veterinarian on duty has admission to determine whether an animal should be treated or not; and if so, what the appropriate medicine is. The veterinarian on duty is the only person allowed to treat the animal. (Depends on Country regulations).

The use and/or being in the possession of (veterinary) drugs or medicines during the entire event or show is prohibited for all participants, cow-fitters, visitors or anyone else at the showground with the exception of the official Veterinary Surgeon or his representative.

Compliance/sanctions

10. By participating in the show the participant agrees to abide by these rules and regulations and agrees to take part in any inspections/testing? if so requested. Refusal to take part in an inspection will result in the immediate disqualification of the participant and all his/her animals. A report will be sent to the show/disciplinary committee.

11. Persons authorised for this purpose by the organisers will perform inspections/tests?. Violations of the rules and regulations will be reported orally and in writing to the organisers and then submitted as a written complaint.

12. If a violation of the rules and regulations is deemed to have taken place, the animal and/or the participant can be immediately disqualified from competing by the organisers. OPTIONAL It is highly recommended that disqualification can also take place up to a maximum of five months after the show, whereby the animal in question will be removed from the list of results, and the prizes and any titles awarded will be forfeited.

13. Any further penalties and consequences for the participation of the participant concerned at shows organised in the future shall be determined at the discretion of the show/disciplinary committee.

14. These rules and regulations apply to the conduct of the participant as well as to how the animal is prepared/groomed. Any misconduct by the participant in the form of intimidation or insulting members of the organisation and fellow participants will be sanctioned by the organisation. A report will be sent to the show committee for consideration.

Appendix B contains some examples of possible inspections.

Appendices to the Rules & Regulations for Showing Cattle

Appendix A: The following are examples of procedures and practices that are unacceptable.

These examples are given as clarification, the acceptable procedures and practices are stated in the rules and regulations.

The following practices are prohibited:

- Balancing the udder by any other means than leaving naturally produced milk in any or all quarters;
- Treating the teats either internally or externally with any substance so as to alter the natural position;
- Introducing any foreign materials/substances under the skin with the aim of changing the natural contours or appearance of the animal's body or hair,
- Inserting a nose-ring, rope, cable binder, wire or other material through the nasal septum of female animals.
- Roping udders with a fine rope or other material to physically improve the definition of the suspensory central ligament;
- Drenching is generally not allowed at the showing day and leads to exclusion from the show.
- Treating the udders and/or teats with Final Mist or any other substance;
- Using devices designed to stimulate the blood circulation in the udder;
- Administering any substances (orally, or via the rectum or vagina) to alter the natural contours of the animal.

Appendix B: The following are examples of possible inspections:

- An ultrasound examination of the udder;
- Taking blood samples, manure samples, urine samples and milk samples;
- Physical inspection of aspects including the natural position of the teats and the topline;

- Inspections to determine whether the participant has any veterinary medicine in his/her possession.
- The natural filling of an cows' udder with the animals own milk production for as long as it does not negatively influenced it's welfare. The teats may be sealed externally in order to avoid milk leaking. The necessary milking intervals must be complied. Animal welfare and milking intervals are checked by the show organizer and the veterinarian on duty. In case of excessive udder wealth milking can be ruled. All animals are checked in the morning of the showing day and in regular intervals until they enter the ring.
- Rules and Regulations of the Disciplinary Committee

The rules and regulations for a Disciplinary Committee will depend on national law as well as national (show-) culture and habits. The following set-up is an example of how it could be arranged.

WHFF would like its members to adopt this set-up where possible, but should feel free to modify where needed.

I. Definitions

Article 1: Definitions

In these showing rules:

- a. Organisation means the person(s) with final responsibility for organising one of the cattle shows stated under a to c above;
- b. Rules & Regulations for Showing Cattle means the rules and regulations regarding the showing of cattle;
- c. Participant means the owner or exhibitor who takes part in one of the cattle shows.
- d. Written complaint means a report of findings by means of which the organisers lodge a disciplinary complaint with the disciplinary/show committee regarding a participant who is suspected of having possibly violated the rules and regulations regarding the showing of cattle.
- e. Other party means the participant against whom a disciplinary complaint has been lodged with the disciplinary/show committee.
- f. Committee means the Disciplinary/Show Committee appointed on the grounds of these regulations;

II. Disciplinary Committee

Article 2: Tasks and Scope

2.1

The Committee is authorised to impose disciplinary measures on participants who violate the rules and regulations for showing cattle.

2.2

The Committee can impose one or more of the following measures:

- 1) Warning
- 2) The participant is (conditionally) disqualified
- 3) The animal will be removed from the list of results and the prizes and any titles awarded will be forfeited.

2.3

The other party will be notified in writing of the motivation behind the decision to impose a measure – referred to further as “the decision”.

Article 3: Members of the Committee

3.1

The organising show will determine the requirement and number on the committee

Article 4: Appointment

4.1

The members of the Committee are appointed and discharged by an organisation. Terms of office are at the discretion of the organisers.

Article 5: Withdrawal, Disqualification, Recusal

5.1

In the event that a dispute relates in any way whatsoever to the personal interests of a member of the Committee, the member in question must withdraw from the Committee for such time as the written complaint is being considered.

5.2

A member of the Committee can disqualify himself/herself by reason of facts or circumstances that may influence the member's impartiality while a dispute is being considered.

III. The Procedure

Article 6: Written Complaint

6.1

A procedure is lodged with the Committee by submitting a written complaint signed by the show organisation; an authorised person may assist the other party.

6.2

The written complaint must at least contain the following details: name, address and place of residence or place of establishment of the participant, the name(s) of the inspectors(s) involved, a description of the conduct in question, and the names of any witnesses.

Article 7: Notice of Objection

7.1

The Committee grants the other party the opportunity to lodge a notice of objection within 14 days after the date on which the written complaint was sent.

7.2.

The notice of objection must state the grounds of the objection and shall be accompanied by all the evidence, which is considered of importance in support of the objection.

Article 8: Oral Proceedings

8.1

Within 30 days after receipt of the notice of objection, the Committee will establish a date for the oral proceedings and inform the Complainant and any other party. Oral proceedings will not take place if the case against the other party is manifestly unfounded, or if both parties have declared in writing that they do not see the necessity for an oral procedure to be held.

8.2

During the oral proceedings witnesses and experts may be called to testify, both on the initiative of the Committee as well as on the initiative of the Complainant and the other party. If the Complainant and the other party intend to call witnesses and/or experts, the Complainant and the other party of this fact must inform the Committee in writing no later than seven days before the oral proceedings.

Article 9: Decision of the Committee

9.1

The Complainant will receive a decision within a period of maximum four weeks after the oral proceedings. This term may be extended by the same period. The Complainant will be informed in time of this in writing.

9.2

The decision will be announced in writing and supported by grounds and will be sent to the parties and implemented.