



*Calgary Stampede*

AGRICULTURE &  
WESTERN EVENT  
ANIMAL CARE  
CODE OF PRACTICE

Updated as of March 10, 2026

Premise ID: AA02VQXC3 – Calgary Stampede Park NE-10-24-1-W5

## **SECTION 1.**

### **1.1. GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- 1.1.1 The wellbeing of animals participating in events at the Calgary Stampede must be safeguarded. It is essential that there is clear understanding and acceptance of responsibilities by all Calgary Stampede personnel, volunteers, competitors, exhibitors, and stock providers.
- 1.1.2 The care of animals for competition, exhibition, or education at the Calgary Stampede requires both experience and the observation of accountable standards. Unless that work is done well, the wellbeing of the animals cannot be adequately protected. Our guiding principles and practices are intended to ensure all those responsible for their implementation accept responsibility for the husbandry, care, and handling outlined in the Animal Care Code of Practice.
- 1.1.3 The Calgary Stampede will keep current on regulatory policy and guidelines by meeting with various organizations and associations as needed and monitoring industry information related to animal care.
- 1.1.4 The Calgary Stampede will ensure the ongoing maintenance of its Codes of Practice to create an environment that results in the respect and humane care of all animals on Stampede Park.
- 1.1.5 The Calgary Stampede is competent to handle and care for all the species of animals on Stampede Park and will only employ stock handlers who are competent to handle and care for those animals.
- 1.1.6 The Calgary Stampede will ensure that people who have responsibilities in the organization to produce events have appropriate training or experience to ensure that animal wellbeing needs are met.

### **1.2. GUIDANCE AND REGULATORY**

- 1.2.1 Responsible management of our animals and their care at the Calgary Stampede is assured with guidance from organizations such as: Alberta Livestock Identification Services (ALIS), Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Alberta Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA), International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE), Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (CAFE), as well as several specie specific organizations that sanction various Calgary Stampede competitions.

- 1.2.2 The Calgary Stampede ensure that it is compliant with regulatory standards such as the Alberta Animal Protection Act, Health of Animals Part XII, and the Criminal Code of Canada.

### 1.3. AUTHORITY

- 1.3.1 The Calgary Stampede, the Official Stampede Veterinarians (OSV), and Judges will be empowered to discipline any person, including personnel, contestants, contractors, and exhibitors who compromise the wellbeing of an animal.
- 1.3.2 The Calgary Stampede retains the right to dismiss, fine, and/or suspend anyone not conforming to the Calgary Stampede's rules, conditions, and codes of practice. The Calgary Stampede has the ultimate and final authority on all matters of disciplinary action.
- 1.3.3 The Calgary Stampede rules, regulations, and codes of practice will take precedence over all other rules, regulations, and codes of practice.

### 1.4. DEFINITIONS

- 1.4.1 ***Animals Under Calgary Stampede Care*** – Any animal contracted through a third party or person that is required for exhibit or competition. Calgary Stampede personnel will provide care during their stay on Stampede Park or other offsite venues being used by the Calgary Stampede.
- 1.4.2 ***Competitor*** – A person participating in a competition which is a contest between individuals, groups, and animals.
- 1.4.3 ***Contractor*** – A person or company that agrees to provide livestock and/or services to the Calgary Stampede.
- 1.4.4 ***Exhibitor*** – A person who displays items of interest at an exhibition and/or participates in presentations.
- 1.4.5 ***Calgary Stampede Personnel (volunteer and staff)*** – Any person working for or volunteering with the Calgary Stampede.

### 1.5. Official Stampede Veterinarian (OSV)

- 1.5.1 The OSV reports to Calgary Stampede management and is responsible for providing expert advice on the health, injury, or disease status of an animal and its suitability for competition.

- 1.5.2 The OSV will be experienced in treating all species of animals participating in events on Stampede Park.
- 1.5.3 The OSV will be the sole arbiter on issues of animal wellbeing.
- 1.5.4 The OSV will be responsible for the accreditation approval of “licensed veterinarians” to practice on Stampede Park.
- 1.5.5 All accredited veterinarians must be in good standing with the Alberta Veterinary Medical Association (AbVMA).
- 1.5.6 Animal Care Treatment Logs:

- a. The Agriculture Official Stampede Veterinarians (AOSV) operates under the direction and guidance of the OSV. The AOSV oversee all animal care and incidents visited animals on display or competing with Agriculture.

The OSV, AOSV, and/or Calgary Stampede approved Accredited Veterinarians (AV) will complete a record of injuries and other defects, including treatment and medication in the Animal Care Treatment Log. All licensed veterinarians who have been approved by the OSV and accredited by the Calgary Stampede must record all veterinary treatment provided by the veterinarian or by the person acting under the veterinarian’s supervision and control, on forms supplied by the Calgary Stampede.

- b. The Treatment Log must include:
  - (1) The name of the licensed veterinarian and any person acting under the veterinarian’s supervision and control
  - (2) The name and identification of the animal to which veterinary treatment is provided by tattoo number, brand or description, including name, markings, colour, age, sex, and microchip
  - (3) Name of the owner
  - (4) Party responsible for billing and billing information
  - (5) The location, date, time, and the nature of the treatment, prescription, or administration
  - (6) The identification of the drug or medication by generic name and dosage prescribed or administered

(7) Circumstances, if applicable, that may have contributed to the reported condition including if it was a pre-existing condition

(8) The health/condition of the animals should be followed up on when applicable and animals only allowed back into competition when approved by the OSV.

c. All Animal Care Treatment Logs will be submitted digitally daily to a place specified by the Calgary Stampede.

1.5.7 During Calgary Stampede time, the AOSV will make daily rounds in all barns, warm-up areas, outdoor exhibits, Race Barns C, D, E, and F, and competition facilities to ensure wellbeing of animals.

1.5.8 ASOV are scheduled accordingly to monitor and service the barns, view newly arriving livestock, warm up area activities, and assigned to specific event attendance.

1.5.9 The ASOV within Agriculture and Western Events will perform daily on park animal inventory inspections upon arrival for the day shift. All animals on exhibit will be inspected at a minimum once a day by ASOV.

1.5.10 All animals on exhibit and contract animals on Stampede Park for competitions must be treated in collaboration with the AOSV.

#### **1.6. Alberta SPCA/Calgary Humane Society**

1.6.1 The Calgary Stampede will provide complete and unrestricted access to peace officers of the ASPCA and/or Calgary Humane Society during all events held on Stampede Park.

1.6.2 The Calgary Stampede and the OSV will enforce the Calgary Stampede Code of Practice for the wellbeing of all animals and will work in unity with the ASPCA and/or Calgary Human Society to ensure animal care is accountable.

#### **1.7 Contestant/Exhibitor/Competitor Protocol**

1.7.1 The Calgary Stampede, its personnel, contractors, contestants, competitors, and exhibitors will clearly understand and accept their responsibilities. All people involved with and participating in Calgary Stampede events will be familiar with the Calgary Stampede Animal Care Code of Practice, where applicable.

- 1.7.2 All contestants/exhibitors/competitors will comply, where applicable, with the requirements of the Calgary Stampede Animal Care Code of Practice by acknowledging and signing the required agreement-consent forms.
- 1.7.3 Each contestant/exhibitor/competitor or contractor is responsible for the animals he or she uses or provides during any Calgary Stampede event and must comply with all applicable sections of the Calgary Stampede Animal Care Code of Practice.
- 1.7.4 Contestants/exhibitors/contractors must not intentionally treat animals in a way that compromises their wellbeing. Violation of the Calgary Stampede Animal Care Code of Practice could result in disqualification, fines, or suspension.

## **1.8 Participation of Animals**

- 1.8.1 Any animal that is deemed unfit by the OSV or AOSV will not be permitted to participate in competitions or exhibitions.
- 1.8.2 All animals used in competition will be inspected by the AOSV upon arrival at Stampede Park, before, and after competition.
- 1.8.3 All animals on exhibit must be healthy and sound. They must be free of lesions, abrasions, and open wounds. They must have no signs of lameness or pre-existing conditions such as arthritis that can become inflamed while on display. Their overall body condition should be a 3 or above per their species guidelines.
- 1.8.4 Only quiet animals with good temperaments can be exhibited or placed in agriculture programming and competition.
- 1.8.5 Each animal or animal unit (ie., cow/calf pair, sow and litter) on exhibit must have an "Animals on Exhibit Health and Fitness Checklist" submitted before arrival on Stampede Park for approval. Once the animal(s) arrive on Stampede Park, they will be inspected by the AOSV before being placed on exhibit. Any animal deemed unfit for exhibit by AOSV or OSV will not be allowed on exhibit.
- 1.8.6 All sheep on exhibit or used in competition must meet the minimal caudal fold tail length as per the Canadian Codes of Practice for sheep.
- 1.8.7 If an animal becomes sick or injured at the Calgary Stampede, that animal will not be used in competition or removed from exhibit and will be immediately treated by AOSV.

## **1.9 Care and Treatment of Animals at Calgary Stampede Events**

- 1.9.1 Livestock for event purposes are scheduled with the intent of having their stay on Stampede Park being as short as possible.
- 1.9.2 Provision of water and feed: Livestock participating in Calgary Stampede events will receive fresh water according to their competition schedule, and unrestricted access to water after competing. Daily good-quality feed is provided as needed. Exhibitors must ensure suitable water and feed are available per their management plans. Animals on exhibit must have constant access to water and receive quality feed based on their individual feeding programs.
- 1.9.3 Animal Handling:
- a. Only qualified and experienced stock handlers will undertake the preparation of animals for events.
  - b. Handlers that do not adhere to the Calgary Stampede Code of Practices will be removed from their duties.
  - c. Only Calgary Stampede approved handling tools (rattle paddles, flags) are allowed during animal handling.
  - d. Electric prods are not permitted for use on any animal, at any time.
  - e. Equipment for the purpose of showing or competing must not cause harm to animals.
  - f. Western Performance Horse cattle:
    - (1) Cutting horse herds will only be used once.
    - (2) Working Cow Horse cattle will only be used once.
    - (3) Team Cattle Penning cattle will be used once in the Nutrien Western Event Centre.
    - (4) Team Cattle Penning cattle will not be used more than five times at the offsite qualifier.
  - g. Stock Dog sheet will not be engaged more than twice per day in the Nutrien Western Event Centre arena. A portion may be used for a third time in the Finals.
  - h. Livestock must be removed from the arena immediately after completion of an event.

- i. Any animal that becomes excessively excited or attempts to jump out of the arena area in a manner that may cause it to injure itself must be released immediately.
- 1.9.4 Housing and Arenas: Access to well-maintained and clean stalling areas, daily manure management procedures, proper ground preparation, designed competition rings, proper air flow, and well-planned specie stalling will be provided by the Calgary Stampede in all venues.
- 1.9.5 Stalling and Penning:
- a. Exterior livestock holding pens must have shavings or post peelings in place for appropriate bedding for traction and comfort. There must be at least six to eight feet of **rodeo footing** leading into the pens.
  - b. All stalls and housing areas will be free of sharp edges and protrusions that may injure the animals. All penning material will be appropriate for the animal being housed to prevent the animals from getting their heads or other body parts trapped or enabling them to escape from the pens. All enclosed pens will be equipped with gates that safely secure shut.
  - c. Tie stalls will be equipped with appropriate rings for animals to be securely tied to a height and width appropriate to the species to ensure they can be tied securely and comfortably.
  - d. All animals that are tied up must be done in a secure manner, but with a quick release style knot allowing for easy removal in the event of an emergency.
  - e. Safety chains must be in place for all main gates of the arena and main loading alleys.
- 1.9.6 Stalling Space Requirements:
- a. Stalling space for cattle
    - (1) Show cattle are assigned to the tie space equivalent to five feet of front stall space.
    - (2) Penned cattle on display will be assigned a minimum 10' x 10' space. This space must allow for movement around and access to waterers and feeders by all animals in the pen and may need adjusted if it is a cow/calf

pair on display. In some cases, the exhibitor may prefer tie space, and it must meet the five feet of front stall space.

(3) Cattle displayed in a group of two or more must have a minimum of 40 sq. ft. per animal, not including the space occupied by waterers and feeders. Animals must have enough space to get back from the front of the display out of reach of the public.

(4) Exterior livestock penning must ensure that a minimum of 40 sq. ft. of space per animal is assigned for animals that are contracted for Western Performance Horse events.

b. Stalling for sheep

(1) Showcase sheep and Stock Dog sheep are assigned a minimum space of 16 sq. ft. per animal.

(2) Shearing lambs are assigned 10 sq. ft. per animal during housing.

(3) Temporary holding pens for competition are assigned a minimum space of five sq. ft. per animal.

(4) When housing lambs and smaller sheep, there must be snow fence present on the perimeter penning to prevent the sheep from passing through penning.

c. Stalling for horses

(1) All heavy and light horses will be assigned a minimum of a 10' x 10' box stall.

(2) Mares with foals at foot will be assigned a double box stall (minimum 10' x 20').

(3) Miniature horses and donkeys are assigned a stall at a minimum of 25 sq. ft.

(4) All stalls housing horses must have halters and emergency contact information present at stall doors while occupied.

d. Penning for pigs

(1) Sows and piglets in farrowing crate. The length of a farrowing crate must allow the sow enough room to move forward and backward, and to lie

down unhindered by a raised trough or rear gate. When standing in a normal position in a farrowing crate, the sow must not touch both sides of the crate (not including anti-crush rails) simultaneously, and her back must not touch any bars along the top. The farrowing system must provide an area to which the piglets can retreat when the sow moves.

(2) Weaner/Feeder pigs. Minimum of 25 sq. ft. per animal.

e. Housing for poultry. All housing must be in alignment with the Canadian Code of Practice for Poultry.

f. Housing for other species

(1) Spacing for other species, not listed above, will be assigned a space that is suitable for their size and disposition. National codes will be consulted.

(2) All animals will have access to water and feed suitable to their specific species.

#### 1.9.7 Arenas

a. The standard arena should have a suitable, soil-based surface, rotary or harrowed to a depth that allows for secure footing and traction for the variety of events of the day. Management and appointed event committee expertise will be responsible for ensuring the arena base is appropriate for the event.

b. The construction height and appearance of arena fencing will be designed to discourage livestock from attempting to push through the fence or jump over it.

c. Arenas must be of a size suitable for the events to take place and to minimize the likelihood of injurious contact with the perimeter fence. In some cases, size of arena may be predetermined by sanctioning associations.

d. There must be no protrusions, jagged edges, or gaps in fences, gateways, or chutes that will cause injury to stock.

e. The arena must be free of holes, rocks, obstacles, and any other hazards that may injure stock.

f. All arenas must be designed to ensure safe containment of any animal that may get loose during a competition.

### 1.9.8 Security

- a. To further enhance safety, around the clock security watch is in effect, provided by barn bosses, staff, and qualified volunteers.
- b. Halters must be always kept with each animal for easy access in case of an emergency. This includes the Nutrien Western Event Centre, Agriculture Barn, and Race Barns.
- c. Emergency contact information will be posted at each stall for horses stalled out in Race Barns.
- d. All show cattle must have neck ropes on while unsupervised in stalls and during overnight hours.
- e. All lights are to be turned off in the Race Barns from 10:00 p.m. to sunrise.
- f. All evening security and the designated barn boss will be in place for the fireworks, and the night watch plan is in effect.
- g. Access to the Race Barns will be limited to owners and caregivers.

## **SECTION 2**

### **Specific to Agriculture and Western Events**

#### **2.1 Exhibitor/Competitor Protocol**

Exhibitors/Competitors agree by signature on the Exhibitor Agreement form that they have reviewed and will adhere to the following regulations:

- a. Exhibitor Agreement Form
- b. Calgary Stampede Animal Care Code of Practice
- c. Calgary Stampede Agriculture General Rules
- d. IAFE Show Ring Code of Ethics
- e. Calgary Stampede Specific Show Rules
- f. Calgary Stampede Regulations and appropriate CFIA regulations
- g. Sanctioning body rules and codes of conduct

## **SECTION 3**

### **3.1 Transportation – Agriculture and Western Events Livestock**

- 3.1.1 In Canada, the transportation of livestock is regulated by the Health of Animals Regulations (HAR) Part XII. It defines the conditions that must be met in order for the transport of animals to be considered humane, including animals being transported to and from the Calgary Stampede.
- 3.1.2 Examples of the provisions contained in Part XII include the prohibition of overcrowding of animals during transport, prohibition of transportation of animals that are unfit to travel, carriers cannot load, transport, or unload animals in a way that would cause injury or undue suffering, requirements for provision of food, water, and rest at specific intervals, protection from adverse weather and adequate ventilation, use of proper containers and transport vehicles, and segregation of incompatible animals.
- 3.1.3 Full disclosure of these regulations can be found at: <https://laws-lois.justic.gc.ca/eng/regulations/C.R.C. c. 296/page-10.html#h-548075>. Per the HAR Part XII and the Calgary Stampede Animal Care Codes of Practice for contract animals being transported to or from the Calgary Stampede.

### **3.2 Vehicles**

- 3.2.1 All vehicles used to transport animals must provide a safe environment for animals.
- 3.2.2 All transport vehicles must have:
  - a. Proper flooring (stable and non-slip)
  - b. Proper ventilation allowing for appropriate airflow
  - c. Adequate space for the species being transported is required for all modes
  - d. Have enough clearance to ensure animals do not come in contact with the roof or deck while having a full range of head movement
  - e. Allow for easy and safe loading and unloading of animals
  - f. All gates must swing freely and secure firmly shut
  - g. Have no sharp or protruding objects that can injure the animal

- h. Protection from severe weather conditions
- i. Be cleaned and sanitized regularly

### **3.3 Facilities**

- 3.3.1 All facilities used to load and/or unload animals will
  - a. Be free of sharp or protruding objects that can injure an animal
  - b. Have non-slip flooring
  - c. Have no areas where animals can get their head or legs trapped
  - d. If ramps are used, they should not exceed 30 degrees and have cleats securely in place eight inches at center

### **3.4 Loading Animals**

- 3.4.1 The trailer must be backed up, level, and flush with the loading dock/ramp.
- 3.4.2 All animals must be fit for the journey. No injured or ill animals should be tendered for transport.
- 3.4.3 All animals must be allowed access to water before being loaded out from the Calgary Stampede.
- 3.4.4 Acceptable handling tools for loading include rattle paddles, flags, and sorting sticks. Electric prods should only be utilized when all other acceptable methods have been utilized. Prods can only be used on cattle.
- 3.4.5 Animals must be loaded in a way that will not cause undue stress or injury.
- 3.4.6 Incompatible animals cannot be transported in the same compartment. They must be segregated. This includes animals of significantly different sizes, different species, and ones that are incompatible by nature. Examples of this include Miniature Horses will full-size horses, cows and calves/mares and foals, other than one cow with her calf/one mare with her foal alone in a compartment, or bulls with calves.
- 3.4.7 All gates must be secure.
- 3.4.8 Doors or gates must not be shut or slammed on the heads or legs of animals.

### **3.5 Transport**

- 3.5.1 During hot weather, it is best to strictly limit the time that the trailer is stationary with animals loaded. Animals can overheat quite quickly.
- 3.5.2 If the trailer must be stopped, it should be parked in the shade or in an area where a cross breeze is present.
- 3.5.3 Animals should be unloaded as soon as possible.

### **3.6 Unloading**

- 3.6.1 The trailer must be backed up, level, and flush with the loading dock/ramp.
- 3.6.2 Non-slip footing should be present at the bottom of the ramp and unloading area.
- 3.6.3 Acceptable handling tools for unloading include rattle paddles, flags, and sorting stocks. Electric prods should be unnecessary for unloading.
- 3.6.4 Animals should not be rushed during unloading to avoid unnecessary slips and falls.
- 3.6.5 Any animals that become injured during the trip must be attended to immediately.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix A – Emergency Agriculture Evacuation Procedure – Public and Livestock
- Appendix B – Emergency Agriculture Evacuation Announcement
- Appendix C – Emergency Agriculture Injured Animal Procedure
- Appendix D – Emergency Agriculture Animal Care Trailer – Operating Instructions
- Appendix E – Emergency Contact Information
- Appendix F – Exhibitor Agreement
- Appendix G – Night Watch Plan
- Appendix H – Agriculture Contract Livestock Transportation
- Appendix I – CFIA Transporter Requirements
- Appendix J – Emergency Agriculture Evacuation Map