Provide Proper Animal Handling and Care

Good Production Practice #9

Assuring Quality Care for Animals
Food Animal Quality Assurance

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Adapted from National Pork Board, *Youth Pork Quality Assurance Plus Handbook*
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Proper Animal Care and Well-Being

• Every caretaker (youth exhibitor, parent, guardian, producer, etc.) has ethical responsibility to protect and promote well-being of animals in his/her care by
  – Providing feed, water, and shelter (environment)
  – Providing proper care, handling and transportation
  – Protecting animal health and providing appropriate treatment, including veterinary care
  – Using approved practices to euthanize in timely manner and properly dispose of carcass
Three Basic Needs

• Water
• Food
• Shelter
  – Environment
Water

• Provide clean, fresh, cool water DAILY
• Sufficient water for all animals
• Clean waterers on regular basis
• Know water requirements for your animals
• Water requirements change based on
  – Weather/environment
  – Maturity of animal
  – Feed consumption
  – Species
  – Stage of production
Feed

- Know nutrient needs of the animals
- Feed proper amount of feed
- Avoid restricting feed to maintain a weight or lose weight for show
- GPP #5 covers proper feed processing protocols
Shelter – Animal’s Environment

• Needed to provide animals escape from harsh environments
• Animals at different ages require different amounts of space
• Animals at different stages of production require different amounts of space
• Provide sufficient space for animal based on animal’s weight at end of project or to a mature weight
Sanitation

• Provide clean bedding
• Remove waste in timely manner
  – Prevents spread of disease
  – Reduces fly problems and odors
• Clean and disinfect facilities before new animals arrive
Pens, Floors, Alleyways

• Sharp or protruding objects may cause skin lesions
• Broken slats or uneven flooring may cause lameness or leg injuries
• Floors should be rough enough to minimize slips and falls, but not so much as to injure pad or sole of hoof
• Need non-slip flooring where animals are handled
Body Space

• Animals must have enough space to
  – Spread wings comfortably within coop or pen
  – Move around and get away from each other if needed

• Refer to species Resource Handbooks for space requirements

• Refer to Ohio Livestock Care Standards
Animal Evaluation

• Helps verify that other aspects of well-being program have positive effects on animals

• Production Performance
  – Indicator of animal’s well-being
  – May be compromised if animal’s well-being is compromised
  – Production performance measures to track include
    • Average Daily Gain
    • Feed Efficiency
    • Mortality Rates
Safe Animal Handling

• Use best animal handling and movement practices for the good well-being of animal and safety of handler

• Improperly handled animals become distressed which can lead to
  – Physical injury to animal
  – Physical injury to handler
  – Increase in incidence of non-ambulatory animals
  – Increase in time to load and unload animals
  – Reduced growth rates and performance
  – Significantly contributing to carcass shrink, trim loss and poor meat quality
Following/Herding Instinct

• Not using or incorrect use of following/herding concepts can cause injury to animal if trying to escape

• Visual gaps between pens, alleys, ramps, gates, chutes, etc. can be seen as escape route for animal and can result in injuries

• Not using or incorrect use puts handler and other people at risk for injury