

Animal Welfare Policy VFinal – 6/7/15



The Royal
Agricultural
Society of
Tasmania
(since 1821)

Relevant Tasmanian legislation: Animal Welfare Act 1993

Tasmanian animal welfare resources available from DPIPWE at:-
<http://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/biosecurity/animal-biosecurity/animal-welfare>

General Regulation:

“An Exhibitor or Attendant of an animate Exhibit must use all reasonable steps to ensure that the Exhibit is housed and cared for in accordance with the Animal Welfare Policy.”

Animal Welfare is a responsibility that encompasses all aspects of animal well being. This includes, but is not limited to:

- proper housing,
- management,
- nutrition,
- humane handling, and
- Veterinary treatment.

The Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania (‘RAST’) recognises that animals are used for human purposes, such as food, fibre, companionship, recreation, and research conducted for the benefit of both humans and animals.

Welfare Statement

- All animals must be afforded basic comforts of feed, water and shelter.
- No animal should be worked to exhaustion.
- No animal should be treated abusively.
- Relief from suffering must be promptly administered.
- No animal should compete under the influence of a drug or drugs modifying its performance or masking a harmful disorder.
- All animals should be afforded clean and hygienic conditions at all times including regular removal of contaminated matter including faeces, soiled bedding etc.

Exhibitor Obligations

Exhibitors and persons in charge of an animal must ensure their animal is in good health. They are responsible for monitoring their animal for the duration of their time on the Showground.

Nutrition and Hygiene

Each animal should be provided with appropriate amounts of feed and water by their owners (except in the case of Poultry in which the RAST will provide feed and water) including:

- Fresh, uncontaminated water
- Presentation of food and water in suitably clean utensils and equipment.
- Waste feed material disposed of appropriately.





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Transport

The Exhibitor is responsible for transporting the animal to and from the Showground. Transport includes the period immediately before loading including any waiting periods, loading, transit, rest periods and unloading at the point of destination. No animal should be transported unnecessarily and transport that is required should be carried out in a way that minimises stress, pain and suffering.

Australian Animal Welfare and Guidelines - Transport

<http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/land-transport/>

Veterinary Welfare

The Mission of the RAST Honorary Vet is to:

1. Promote the health, wellbeing and welfare of all animals competing and residing on the Showground.
2. Assist animal committees in the conduct of fair and even competition by reporting on matters of health and fitness, and by executing a drug testing program.
3. Regular veterinary inspection of suspect animals on the Showground.
4. Provide a veterinary treatment or referral service for injuries and illnesses occurring during the show and advising on fitness to compete.
5. Advise and act on infectious disease control.
6. Advise on accident prevention.

To this end, the RAST will provide:

1. Facilities for the inspection, restraint, treatment (where appropriate), of any animal.
2. Isolation facilities for suspect infectious or contagious diseases.
3. Appropriately qualified Veterinarians to euthanize animals and to assist in the disposal of carcasses.
4. Contact details for specialist vets relevant to each section.

Reporting Cases of Animal Cruelty

Any suspected cases of Animal Cruelty should be reported directly to any or all of the following:-

1. RAST CEO via administration staff 0417 322 460 / 0362 726812
2. Section Chair of the particular section involved
3. RSPCA if on-site or animal cruelty hotline on **1300 139 947** or on-line at <http://www.rspcatas.org.au/report-a-cruelty>
4. Tas Police on-site

Useful Links

Australian Animal Welfare and Guidelines

<http://www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au/>

<https://www.horsecouncil.org.au/resources>

