

GUIDELINES FOR 4-H ANIMAL EXHIBITORS

Exhibitors are allowed to exhibit animals only in projects in which they are enrolled, and if they have owned or leased and cared for the animal as stated in the Washington State 4-H Program Policy, EM0758.

4-H animal entries are open to grade/mixed breed and registered/purebred animals.

No adult may show 4-H animals in competition.

Cloverbud members are not allowed to show large animals. 4-H members showing large animals at the Fair must have reached their 8th birthday by October 1st of the current 4-H year.

Exhibitors who has not shown before or has never won a blue ribbon in Fitting and Showmanship MAY show as a novice in SOME divisions. Novices are not eligible to show at the 4-H State Fair, nor are they eligible for high-point awards.

All animal exhibitors shall register their entries and submit entry fee payments online. Entries must be submitted by the second Friday of July. Information should be filled out completely identifying the breed, age, birth date, gender and name of each animal.

If a borrowed or leased animal is exhibited, premiums and awards go to the exhibitor unless a written agreement between the owner and exhibitor has been provided to the superintendent at the time of entry (July).

A supervising parent, 4-H leader or responsible adult over 18 years of age must be present every day of the fair to supervise the exhibitor.

Show schedules will be posted by Superintendents.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:

See the Skagit County Fair Veterinary Regulations and Recommendations. All animals must be vet checked. Several divisions require immunization certificates to pass Vet Check. A veterinary pass must be given to the superintendent prior to admission to the barn.

FITTING AND SHOWMANSHIP:

4-H animal exhibitors MUST participate in fitting and showmanship classes. The purpose of this contest is to create more interest in and demonstrate better knowledge of proper fitting, grooming, training, and showing, as well as general information about their animal.

The animal entered by the 4-H member must have been fitted and be shown by the 4-H member. No professional groomers allowed. Violation of these rules creates a loss of learning experience to the exhibitor and unfair competition to other members. It is recommended that the animal shown be size appropriate for the exhibitor. The exhibitor must be able to handle the animal without assistance. In cases where 4-H exhibitors are too young, and/or physically incapable of doing some of the preparation, older 4-H members may provide the needed assistance only if authorized by the superintendent.

The appearance and conduct of the exhibitor while in the show ring is always a part of the overall scoring for Fitting and Showing.

Judging will be based on the appropriate scorecard for each division.

HOUSING:

Each Department Superintendent will assign stall/pen/cage space. Upon completion of vet check, see your superintendent to verify entry and housing assignment.

Skagit County Fair will furnish bedding, shavings or straw.

Superintendents have the right to limit the number of animals to the capacity of their barn. In the case of limiting entries, priority will be given to Skagit County residents.

There is to be no eating in the barns by members, leaders, or parents. This is a safety issue.

Skagit County Fair does not provide sleeping quarters for exhibitors. Exhibitors may not sleep overnight in any barn.

Sheep not entering "Open Class" must be removed from the grounds by 9:00 pm Thursday. "Open Class" animals must remain until 9:00 pm Saturday. Pens, stalls or cages must be cleaned prior to leaving. Superintendents will designate times when 4-H animals may begin to leave the grounds. Animals staying for the Skagit Junior Livestock Sale will be moved to new pens. Exhibitors must stay to clean pens their animals were in and move animals to new pens for the remainder of the fair.

HERDSMANSHIP:

All 4-H animal exhibitors are required to participate in herdsmanship in all animal project areas in which they are exhibiting.

Exhibitors should see the Superintendent of EACH department in which an animal is being shown to determine herdsmanship requirements and times.

Check with the Department Superintendent for dates, times and locations of mandatory exhibitor meetings.

All pens, stalls, cages and barns must be cleaned prior to leaving the fair.

Failure of the exhibitor to fulfill his or her herdsmanship duties may constitute forfeiture of all premiums and awards.

The duties are to:

Maintain good public relations (provide information about the program by talking with the public, answering questions, and encouraging them to wash their hands after handling animals).

Provide housekeeping (barn aisles and surrounding areas must be kept clean, clear and open; all equipment must be stored neatly and safely; animals watered, etc.).

Behave properly (avoid loud, boisterous, improper language; no running in the barn).

Adults are not allowed to assist with herdsmanship.

Herdsmanship is in effect 10:00 am to 9:00 pm daily.

Changes in herdsmanship schedules must be approved by the Superintendent of that department.

Grooming of all 4-H project animals, including washing and clipping/trimming, must be done by the 4-H member. Younger members may be assisted by older 4-H members, if authorized by the superintendent.

ROUND ROBIN CONTESTS:

GENERAL RULES

Contact Candi Thomas in 4-H Beef Division for Large Animal questions and Emma Adams in 4-H Dog Division for Small Animal questions.

Winners of Senior and Intermediate Showmanship contests, who are Skagit County 4-H members in that project, in each animal division will compete in a Round Robin Contest to determine the best Senior and the best Intermediate 4-H Showmen. The separate classes are held to secure no cross-age competition.

- There is a large and a small animal Round Robin contest. No entry form is required.
- The Intermediate Round Robin Contest will be first. The Senior contest will begin immediately following the Intermediate contest.
- Exhibitors winning the right to compete in the Round Robin should get specific instructions from the Round Robin Superintendent with the details of the contest.
- If a single exhibitor qualifies in more than one division, he or she may choose a species in the Round Robin Contest. The Reserve Showmanship champion will be allowed to exhibit the other species. Contestants must show the same animal with which they won their showmanship class when competing in Round Robin.
- A list of those who are to participate in the Round Robin will be posted at the announcers stand in the specified arenas.
- Any showman not in the designated area at the announced starting time will be disqualified.
- All necessary safety precautions will be taken to maximize the well-being of all participants. If a Round Robin judge or superintendent considers any animal a threat to the safety of the showmen and/or the spectators, the Round Robin Official is to be notified and the following rules will prevail:
 - If any animal is considered a threat prior to the time of showing, a substitute animal, selected by that division superintendent, will be brought in for the contest.
 - If any animal becomes stressed during the time of showing, the competition will be stopped and a substitute animal, selected by that division superintendent, will be brought in for the remainder of the contest.
- Judging will be accomplished by using appropriate score cards for each animal shown. Total points will determine the final placing of each exhibitor.
- The contestants will be judged on their skill as a show person, their appearance, and their knowledge about each species. Contestants are required to dress appropriately for the species they are showing.
- All Round Robin exhibitors will receive Awards of Merit. The Senior Grand Champions will receive a special award of a belt buckle or a trophy. The Intermediate Grand Champions will receive special awards. Winners will not be eligible to compete in future Round Robin events, except that
- Intermediates may compete again when they are at the senior level.
- Coaching during judging will not be permitted.
- This is a non-premium event. Check with your department superintendent for date and time.

SPECIFIC RULES

Large Animal Division:

The show will consist of champion showmen as picked from each of the six livestock departments: Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Dairy Goats, Meat Goats, Horses, Sheep, Swine.

Showmen will be allowed three minutes per animal.

Small Animal Division:

The show will consist of champion showmen as picked from each of the following five departments:

Rabbit, Cavy, Cat, Poultry, Dog.

The five showmen will report to the dog arena. The rabbit, cavy, and poultry entries will be presented on tables. The cat will be at a separate table. The dog will be shown on the ground, although a table may be used for presentation if the dog is very small. Showmen will present their own animal first, and then proceed around the ring, showing each animal. There will be three minutes allowed per animal.

AWARDS AND PREMIUMS:

Any exhibitor fighting, abusing animals or being unruly will be sent home and will forfeit awards and premiums.

Type class ribbons will be awarded on individual merit of the animal. Animals can be awarded championship ribbons only if the quality merits the recognition.

Judges' decisions are final. Protests may result in loss of premiums. Parents are not to coach exhibitors while they are in the show ring. Parents may not approach the judge without superintendent's permission.

All rules and guidelines, both general and project-specific, must be followed or premiums and/or awards may be forfeited.