

# 4-H HUMANE ANIMAL CARE GUIDELINES

COLORADO STATE PUBLICATIONS LIBRARY  
UCSU20/6.8/AN5/1993 c.2 local  
4-H humane animal care guidelines



3 1799 00022 7942



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Appreciation is given to the following Colorado State University faculty in framing the Colorado 4-H Humane Animal Care Policy and Ethical Care guidelines for 4-H animal projects: Dennis Lamm, assistant director, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension; William L. Peterson, former assistant director, 4-H Youth Development Program, Colorado State University Cooperative Extension; Cleon Kimberling, Extension veterinarian and professor, Veterinary Teaching Hospital; Lynne Kesel, instructor, and Wayne Cunningham, postdoctoral fellow, Veterinary Teaching Hospital; David R. Ames, head, department of animal sciences; Thomas G. Field and Temple Grandin, assistant professors, department of animal sciences; Ann Swinker, Extension horse specialist; Steve LeValley, Extension sheep specialist; Sara Kettle, graduate student, Beef Industry Leadership Program, department of animal sciences; Bernard E. Rollin, professor, department of philosophy; Albert O. Meier, Extension youth-development specialist, 4-H Youth Development Program; Eugene Inloes, Extension livestock agent, Weld County; Nathan Moreng, Extension director, Tri-River Area; Lois Seltzer, program coordinator for 4-H youth and agriculture, Adams County; Wendy Douglass, Extension marketing specialist; Katherine Timm, manager, Outreach Relations, Public Relations Department; Jack Dallas, broadcast coordinator, and Debby Weitzel, public relations specialist, Outreach Relations, Public Relations Department.

We extend thanks to Donna Mastbergen, senior secretary, Cooperative Extension, for typing the manuscript; Karen Cagle, 4-H publications liaison, 4-H Youth Development Program, for layout and design; Fae Hicks, Colorado 4-H Youth Fund, for illustration; and Susan Hoskinson, public relations specialist, Outreach Relations, Public Relations Department, for editing and coordination.

## PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE PUBLICATION

Requests for permission to reproduce any parts or all of this Colorado 4-H Youth Development publication should be directed to

4-H Publications Liaison  
State 4-H Office  
Colorado State University Cooperative Extension  
140 Aylesworth, N.W.  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-4050



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Milan A. Rewerts, Director of Cooperative Extension, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Cooperative Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. To simplify technical terminology, trade names of products and equipment occasionally will be used. No endorsement of products named is intended nor is criticism implied of products not mentioned.



## COLORADO 4-H ETHICAL CARE OF BEEF CATTLE

---

An understanding of good husbandry is a key component for raising beef-cattle in order to ensure their welfare. The following summary offers some important guidelines for the proper care and handling of your 4-H beef-cattle.

Proper care and handling is critical for all beef animals. Manage project animals in a safe, humane manner. It is important to understand the biological needs and behavioral differences of beef-cattle in order to provide appropriate facilities, training and nutritional management.

### **Housing**

The most important component of adequate housing is a dry resting place. Provide shelter, whether man-made or natural, such as a windbreak. Typical man-made housing includes sheds that provide protection from extreme climate changes. Buildings should be free of sharp edges, wires, nails and so forth. Direct all water runoff away from the housing facility. For the small number of animals tied in an enclosed barn, ventilation should provide fresh air exchange into the facility.

### **Bedding**

Access to clean, dry resting places should be available to cattle. The size of each pen area needs to be large enough for the animal to stand, turn around easily, lie comfortably and have ample room to walk the circumference of the pen with freedom and ease. Provide a minimum of 200 square feet per animal when loose. The minimum space when tying is 8'X8'.

Bedding should be absorbent and free of toxic chemical residues. When animals are tied, clean stalls of urine and feces at least once a day. Replenish bedding or replace frequently. Keep dust levels to a minimum.

Fans and water spray mists keep animals comfortable and at desirable body temperatures. Secure all feeding, cleaning and grooming equipment safely away from livestock.



## **Feeding and Water**

Place cattle on a new diet gradually. Make any increases in total volume of concentrates being fed in small, incremental steps.

When selecting a calf, a 4-H member should consult experienced individuals, such as your Colorado State University Cooperative Extension livestock agent or veterinarian. They can provide guidance in selecting calves that will reach desirable weights by show time.

When penned together, all animals will establish an order of dominance, i.e., "pecking order." It is important to space the feed or separate over-aggressive animals from less-aggressive animals. This ensures each receives an adequate amount of feed.

When hand-feeding twice daily, make sure bunks are long enough to distribute the feed evenly for proper consumption. Each animal should have at least 2 feet of bunk space. All feeders should be free of sharp edges. Feeders should be made of solid materials that can be cleaned easily, such as plastic, rubber, concrete, or smooth wood.

Feed ruminant animals concentrates as the primary component of their diet. The safest nutritional plan for ruminants is a diet that includes sufficient roughage. It is critical to manage the rations to ensure the animals reach the desired end-weight by show date. Your local Cooperative Extension livestock agent can provide information to determine the dietary requirements of beef-cattle.

Locate feed and water so that it does not come in contact with urine, feces and so forth. Store feed in weatherproof buildings and containers to minimize molding or nutrient loss. Do not feed moldy hay or grain to livestock.

Check water supply daily. Scrub buckets or pans clean regularly with water.

Beef-cattle differ in frame-sizes and desired end-weights. You must manage the feed intake for each calf. The following table shows the relationship of frame-size to live-weight for 8-month-old calves. Use the chart to determine the desired weight of a calf at show time. Steer measurements are Beef Improvement Federation guidelines for bulls.

## Determining the Relationship of Frame-Size to Live-Weight

*Frame Score	Steers		Heifers	
	Inches	Weight approximate	Inches	Weight
1	37.2	750	36.0	600
2	29.2	850	38.0	700
3	41.2	950	40.1	800
4	43.2	1050	42.1	900
5	45.2	1150	44.1	1000
6	47.2	1250	46.2	1100
7	49.3	1350	48.2	1200

\*From: American Simmental Association "Focus 2000" and Beef Improvement Federation Guidelines for Uniform Beef Improvement program.

### Handling

Initial human contact with calves can be stressful. It is important for handlers to understand bovine behavior and begin training by using patience. Remember, calves do not understand what handlers expect. For approximately the first month, handlers should spend time with their calves with little or no pressure (physical contact). This gives the animals a chance to accept their new environment and allows handlers an opportunity to learn and understand animal behavior.

Halter cattle low enough on their noses to keep the nosebands out of their eyes but high enough to ensure breathing is not obstructed. A common practice is to leave the halters on calves when they are turned loose. The calf will become accustomed to having pressure from the halter on its head. This will allow the handler an opportunity to catch the calf with little or no stress to the animal. When you use this practice, it is important to check the halter daily to ensure it has not tightened on the calf's nose or become entangled with other animals, fences and so forth. Never tie the leadrope to any part of your body or wrap the lead around your hand or arm. This is extremely dangerous, because calves spook and bolt easily and may drag the handler.

A young 4-H member should not attempt to halter a calf without assistance. Ask for help from an experienced individual who is familiar with cattle behavior. When haltering a calf, it is critical to have a confined area in which it can be restrained and easily haltered with little stress. Halter-breaking should begin at least 3 to 6 months prior to the show date.

When training a calf to lead, it is desirable to prevent it from getting away from its handler. Use many different methods to train a calf to lead without being abusive. Patience is the foundation of training. It is especially important to gain the calf's trust prior to leading. Hot-shots or whips are not acceptable training devices. Most animals do not respond to training, because they are scared and do not understand what the trainer wants to accomplish. Another person behind the calf encourages forward motion.

Spend time combing and brushing your calf to establish trust. This also starts the foundation for a quality haircoat. During the spring and summer months, handlers should incorporate a strict cleaning and grooming schedule.

At least two months prior to show date, tie steers most of the day to allow them to get used to being tied at the show. Use fans to encourage air circulation in the barn. Turn cattle loose at night. It is the responsibility of the handler to walk or turn the steer or heifer loose daily when increasing the amount of time the calf is tied.

### **Veterinary Care**

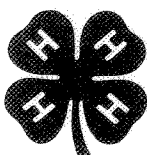
Sick animals show depressed behavior, lack of appetite for feed or water, are gaunt or bloated, or maintain isolation from other animals. Sick animals should be separated from any contact with other livestock. Any medication should be administered according to a veterinarian's recommendation with complete compliance for withdrawal times. (Refer to General Policy For All 4-H Livestock Handlers Concerning Extra-Label Drug Use.)

### **Transportation**

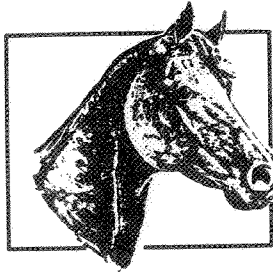
Treat beef-cattle humanely during loading and unloading. Protect animals from unnecessary stress or injury due to transportation. Vehicles used to transport livestock should have non-slip floor surfaces and ramps.

### **Showing**

Any animal in the show ring that exhibits unsafe behavior and poses a safety hazard to the handler and other exhibitors should be excused from the ring or given adult assistance to quiet the animal. Excessive kicking, running or unruly nervousness warrants such consideration.



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Milan A. Rewerts, Director of Cooperative Extension, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Cooperative Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. To simplify technical terminology, trade names of products and equipment occasionally will be used. No endorsement of products named is intended nor is criticism implied of products not mentioned.



## COLORADO 4-H ETHICAL CARE OF HORSES

---

Horse ownership is a tremendous responsibility and expense. Before buying a horse, you should talk with people who know and understand horses — 4-H leaders, veterinarians and so forth. They will help you determine if you will have problems.

The best way to prevent abuse of your horse is through education. A new owner wants the pleasure of owning a horse, but he or she does not know how to care for and treat a horse. People do not understand their own limitations. Often a horse suffers undue abuse because of a new owner's carelessness and ignorance. A new owner or 4-H member should read *4-H Horse Project* (MA 1500B) available through your local Colorado State University Cooperative Extension office. Also, read books such as *Feeding and Care of the Horse* by Lon D. Lewis and *The Horse* by Warren Evans, A. Borton, Harold Hintz and Dale Van Vleck.

### Housing

Shelter varies from open sheds in pastures to box stalls in barns. In either case, the shelter should be safe and clean. Shelter should protect the horse from sun, insects, cold, wind and storms.

The space requirement for a box stall is 10'X10' to 14'X14' with tie stalls 5'X12'. Ceiling height should be no lower than 8 feet with a 4'X8' door. Buckets and feeders should be 38 to 42 inches from floor to top edge. If you have a pony, adjust to its size. Hang a bucket high enough so the horse can't get its hoof into the bucket.

Construct fence of poles, pipe, boards or wire. Wire should be smooth (barbed wire injures horses). Keep an electric fence free of weeds and check it with fence checkers to be sure it works. Train horses to fence rows and electric fencing. Fencing should be strong and visible enough to keep a horse confined. Be sure there are no dangerous objects in the stall or pasture such as protruding nails, broken boards, sharp objects or junk.

### Bedding

Use wood chips; sawdust; rye, oak or wheat straw; shredded newspaper; peanut hulls; or peat moss for stall bedding. Select bedding for comfort, absorbency, price and potential as fertilizer. Avoid black walnut shavings or sawdust; both can be toxic.



Colorado  
State  
University  
Cooperative  
Extension

## Hygiene

Cleanliness is important; clean feeders and water containers often. Bedding should be dry and clean. Remove manure regularly. Stables need proper ventilation, but do not allow a direct draft on the horse. Keep stalls and sheds clean.

Compost or spread manure away from direct contact with the horse. A horse does not need to be kept in a heated barn. Clean tack, saddle blanket and stable blanket regularly.

## Feed and Water

(See Chapter 5 "Feeding Horses," pages 19-34 in the *4-H Horse Project* MA1500B).

The nutrient requirements for a horse vary with age, weight and amount of work it performs. Hay is sufficient feed for a mature horse you ride infrequently. With increased work, add grain to the diet.

### Daily Feed Required by the Average 1,000-pound Horse

1,000-pound horse	Approximate Amounts	
	Hay	Grain
No work	20-25 lbs.	---
Light (1-2 hrs./day)	15-20 lbs. (1-1.5 lbs. grain/hr. of work)	1-3 lbs.
Medium (2-4 hrs./day)	15-20 lbs. (1.5-2 lbs. grain/hr. of work)	3-8 lbs.
Heavy (4 or more hrs/day)	15-20 lbs. (1.5-2.5 lbs. grain/hr. of work)	5-10 lbs.

Only when you work your horse extremely hard should it ever receive half of its ration in grain. A race horse in heavy training is one example of a horse that receives half of its ration in grain.

The chart shown above is a good rule of thumb, however, to be exact you will need to balance your horse's ration (See Tables 1, 2 and 3 on pages 29-32 in the *4-H Horse Project* MA1500B).



## Feeding Tips

- Feed good quality hay.
- Never feed moldy or dusty hay.
- Change diet slowly over 5 to 7 days.
- Feed two or three times a day.
- Have your horse's teeth checked regularly by a veterinarian for problems.
- Provide at least 10 gallons of fresh, clean water at all times, except when the horse is hot. Then water out slowly.
- Have a salt block available at all times.

## Veterinary Care

A healthy horse is alert, its hair coat shines and it is in good flesh. Its appetite is good. If a horse is sick, it is listless, it loses its appetite and something looks wrong (See Chapter 7 "Your Horse's Health," pages 37-52 in the *4-H Horse Project MA1500B*).

If your horse shows signs of pain, restlessness, paws the ground or frequently lays down, the horse is said to have "colic." When a horse shows signs of colic, it is an emergency situation. Call the veterinarian immediately.

### *Vaccination*

Vaccinate horses against the following diseases: tetanus, influenza, encephalomyelitis and rhinopneumonitis. Contact your veterinarian to establish an immunization program for your horse (See Table 6 on page 46, *4-H Horse Project MA1500B*).

### *Parasites*

Because the horse is a continuous grazing animal, internal parasites can reinfest the horse. Horses need to be dewormed regularly. Contact your veterinarian for a schedule and medications that fit your management program.

## Hoof Care

Inspect hooves regularly. Pick up each hoof, clean out, and examine for wounds or infections. Trim hooves every six weeks. An experienced farrier should shoe and trim your horse's hooves.

## Grooming

Groom your horse on a regular basis to ensure a shining hair coat. During grooming, your horse will learn to enjoy being handled. Examine your horse for wounds and other problems. Groom thoroughly before and after riding.

Exercise is necessary to build muscles and maintain health. A healthy horse will exercise itself if it is in a large pasture or pen. If you keep your horse in a stall or pen, take it out and exercise it daily. Exercise includes riding, lunging or walking.

## Handling

A horse is an animal of flight. Its normal reaction to fear is to run. If a horse can't run, it strikes or kicks. Learn to properly work around your horse to prevent it from being afraid of you and possibly injuring you.

## Transportation

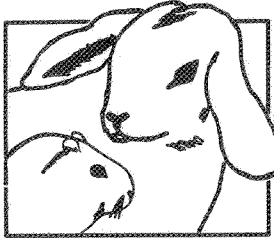
Try to reduce physical and mental stress on your horse when you transport by trailer. Practice loading and unloading before the trip. To reduce stress, check all mechanical equipment and have it in good operating condition; provide good footing; use stabilizer bars; and follow good driving techniques such as slow starts and stops, and take corners easy. Travel early in the morning or later in the day in hot weather to reduce stress. In excessively cold weather, blanket your horse. Also, provide adequate ventilation and avoid heavy traffic when possible.

## Showing

Do not exhibit or take a lame or diseased horses to a horse show. Horses that receive any drugs and medication, i.e., forbidden substances such as those listed in 1993 edition of the *Colorado 4-H Horse Rule Book* (LA 1500E) may not be shown. Horses trained by using inhumane methods can be expelled by the show committee under rule number 21 in the *Colorado 4-H Horse Rule Book* (LA 1500E), 1993 edition.



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Milan A. Rewerts, Director of Cooperative Extension, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Cooperative Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. To simplify technical terminology, trade names of products and equipment occasionally will be used. No endorsement of products named is intended nor is criticism implied of products not mentioned.



## COLORADO 4-H ETHICAL CARE OF RABBITS AND GUINEA PIGS

---

Rabbits and guinea pigs are fun to watch. They rely on you for their food, water, housing and health care, because they live in small cages or containers. Pay careful attention to the special needs of rabbits and guinea pigs.

### Housing

Cages for animals must be large enough to provide for normal postural adjustments. In general, this means the top is above the head when the animal stands normally, and floor space must be at least 1½ to 2 times the body length for cage width and length for each animal enclosed.

Cages and furnishings must be free of sharp edges or potentially damaging features. Floor grates must be smooth and comfortable.

Ambient temperatures should not exceed 90 degrees Fahrenheit to avoid heat stress. Acclimate animals gradually to cold. Do not subject them to drafts. If housed outdoors, animals must have protection against sun, wind and precipitation.

Maintain a normal, regular light cycle. Do not keep animals in complete darkness or light for longer than 16 hours.

### *Rabbits*

Provide nest boxes for does about to kindle. Maintain them until the young are well-furred and moving about freely.

If cages are not in a building, they must provide shelter from precipitation, wind, cold and heat. One way to provide this protection is to place the cages in shade with the roofs and solid sides to the north. Removable panels can cover open wire sides as needed.

### Hygiene

Thoroughly sanitize all cage surfaces and furnishings. At least once a month, clean with detergent and water and then rinse. Sanitize floor grates more often if visibly soiled.

Sanitize water bottles and feed containers at least every two weeks or more often if they become visibly dirty. Disinfect cages and furnishings between animals.



**Colorado  
State**  
University  
Cooperative  
Extension

### ***Rabbits***

For bacterial disinfection, soak or wipe down cages with 10-percent household bleach after removing all dirt and debris. Effective contact is three minutes. Rinse thoroughly. Sanitizing will partially remove coccidial oocysts, but flame or treat the cages with 10-percent household ammonia to kill all. Rinse thoroughly.

### ***Guinea Pigs***

Change contact bedding at least once a week or as it becomes soiled, damp or when it smells of ammonia.

Disinfect surfaces by soaking in or wiping down with a 10-percent solution of household chlorine bleach. Effective contact time is three minutes. Rinse thoroughly.

## **Feed and Water**

Check animals for feed available at least daily. Remove powdery fines from the feeder. Rabbits or guinea pigs cannot eat them effectively. Discard any food or water contaminated by the animals' urine or feces.

### ***Rabbits***

Feed rabbits a diet of complete-diet rabbit pellets or clean alfalfa-hay with salt available. Clean supplementary vegetables thoroughly.

Rabbits must have access to clean, fresh water at all times. Change water at least every other day.

Do not offer dirty or dusty feed to animals. If rabbits are housed outdoors and water freezes, offer fresh water at least once a day.

### ***Guinea Pigs***

Feed a basic guinea pig feed. It should be fresh to guarantee adequate vitamin C level. If you supplement vitamin C in the water, change water daily. If you feed greens or vegetables as treats or for vitamin C, they must not accumulate in the cage to wilt or mold. Clean thoroughly before feeding.

Animals must have access to clean, fresh water at all times. Change water at least every other day. Water should be accessible to all animals without standing on hind legs. If animals are housed outdoors and water freezes, offer fresh water at least twice a day.

## Handling

### *Rabbits*

Never lift a rabbit by the ears. Support a mature rabbit and hold to prevent uncontrolled kicking with its hind legs.

### *Guinea Pigs*

Pick up and handle animals so that you provide support to the entire torso.

## Veterinary Care

Isolate sick animals from well animals and provide with veterinary care.

### *Rabbits*

A veterinarian should recommend any medications given. Withdraw for the recommended time before slaughter.

### *Guinea Pigs*

Any medications administered to guinea pigs should be given only on the advice of a veterinarian.

## Transportation

Provide animals water if transport time exceeds six hours, especially if temperatures are high. Transport containers or cages may be smaller than normal cages.

### *Rabbits*

Remember rabbits generate a great deal of body heat. Closed containers may cause heat stress even at "safe" temperatures. Heat stress may be fatal to rabbits. It is imperative to avoid temperature extremes.

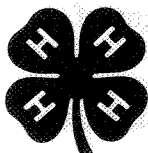
### *Guinea Pigs*

Cages must allow animals to stand or lie down normally. Avoid extremes of temperature during transport. Heat stress may be fatal to guinea pigs. Change bedding if wet or excessively soiled.

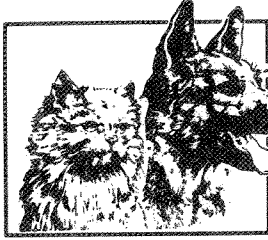
## Showing

Rabbits and guinea pigs will be rejected for exhibit for the following health reasons: discharges from the eyes, nose or mouth; signs of diarrhea; signs of excessive itchiness or self-inflicted scratches or other wounds; depression or lack of responsiveness; skin lesions such as flaking, thickening or cracking; or widespread broken hair shafts or loss of hair.

Animals also will be rejected for exhibit for any alteration or enhancement of natural coat color. Provide feed, water and other considerations as outlined in the section about housing. Clean exhibit boxes and cages, disinfect between animals, and as needed throughout the exhibit period.



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Milan A. Rewerts, Director of Cooperative Extension, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Cooperative Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. To simplify technical terminology, trade names of products and equipment occasionally will be used. No endorsement of products named is intended nor is criticism implied of products not mentioned.



## COLORADO 4-H ETHICAL CARE OF DOGS AND CATS

---

It is a big responsibility to properly care for your cat or dog. They depend on you. The 4-H Youth Development Program can help you learn what your cat or dog needs to keep them healthy and safe.

### Housing

Animals not kept in the house must have adequate shelter from sun or inclement weather. Their primary enclosures must be large enough for them to lie down comfortably. Provide bedding in outside housing. Bedding ranges from straw to padding. Provide house pets with some type of bed. Large dogs, especially, develop callouses or sores from sleeping directly on the floor.

Outside enclosures should be large enough to provide running room for dogs. Fencing must be safe and secure. Do not tether dogs as their only source of exercise. Walking or running on leash or supervised but free (if the situation allows) are desirable forms of exercise.

Protect cats and dogs from being harmed by their own or other species. Do not allow them to cause harm to other animals, people or property. Follow all animal control and licensing laws.

Provide privacy for bitches or queens when they give birth or care for young. This may be as simple as providing a box with bedding for the female.

Cats and dogs thrive in temperatures similar to humans, but they may suffer from the heat if they have a heavy coat or from the cold during extremely cold weather without an auxiliary heat source. Gradually acclimate animals housed outdoors to the cold.

### Hygiene

Control of bodily wastes is the largest husbandry challenge to dog and cat owners. Not only is the odor objectionable, but urine and feces may be a public health danger. Pick up feces in the yard at least weekly or in accordance with local codes. Cat litter trays when allowed to get too dirty will be unpleasant in the house and may cause cats to eliminate outside trays. Always wash hands after cleaning litter boxes or feces in the yard.

Wash food and water dishes at least every two weeks or more often if they appear dirty.



**Colorado  
State**  
University  
Cooperative  
Extension

Clean bedding or replace when soiled. If fleas are a problem, bedding may need more frequent turnover. Bedding is also a reservoir of body odor for dogs. Clean if odor is a problem.

Keep dog houses clean. Dirty conditions can lead to skin problems. Food or prey left in a dog house can cause insect infestations. Clean the dog house thoroughly at least twice a year.

### **Feed and Water**

Feed and water animals daily. Check feed on a daily basis for consumption and condition if a self-feeding system is used. Discard any spoiled, urine- or feces-contaminated, or unpalatable feed. Discard insect- or vermin-contaminated feed.

Feed a good quality balanced feed that conforms to the pet's nutritional needs. In general, avoid "generic" or very low-priced foods. Also avoid "human" foods. They cause an imbalance in the diet and obesity in the pet.

### **Handling**

Do not use physical abuse as a training technique. Communicate displeasure with a dog's behavior by using natural signs, such as the scruff shake. Train dogs to at least minimal leash control.

One destructive cat behavior in the home is scratching furniture. Pursue all possible corrective methods before considering declaw surgery to correct the behavior.

Avoid rough games that encourage the young pet to fight, because it can develop into undesirable biting and scratching behaviors later.

### **Veterinary Care**

All cats and dogs must be current on all recommended vaccines. Maintain a pet at healthy body weight and condition. Incidences of illness or injury should receive immediate attention; seek professional care when conditions are serious.



## Vaccination Schedule

### Puppies and Kittens up to 1 year old

1. Distemper\* combo — minimum of two vaccinations 3 to 4 weeks apart with last vaccine on or after 16 weeks. Normal schedule is 8, 12 and 16 weeks.
2. Rabies — vaccinate once at 16 weeks or later.

### At 1 year old

- 1) Distemper booster (repeated annually).
- 2) Rabies booster (every three years).

### Adult

- 1) Distemper booster annually.
- 2) Rabies booster every three years in most counties in Colorado.

### Optional

Cats: Feline leukemia (FeLV) — initially two vaccines 3 to 4 weeks apart with annual boosters.

Dogs: Bordetella vaccine for kennel cough annually.

\*NOTE: Canine and feline "distemper" are different diseases. Distemper combo for dogs (DA<sub>2</sub>PP) contains canine distemper, parvovirus, liver and respiratory viruses. Distemper combo for cats is feline parvovirus and two respiratory viruses.

## Transportation

Transport cats in airline-type carriers for their protection and security.

Transport dogs in a crate or free in the car or on a leash. Do not leave a pet in a car, either in a crate or free, in warm or hot weather. Never carry dogs free or tethered in the back of a pickup. They might hang themselves if they jump or are thrown out.

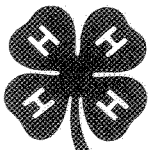
## Showing

Animals will be rejected for exhibit if they show any signs of contagious disease, i.e., discharge from the eyes, nose or mouth; signs of diarrhea; signs of excessive itchiness or self-inflicted scratch or other wounds; depression or lack of responsiveness; and skin lesions such as broken hair shafts or loss of hair. Lameness may result in loss of judging points.

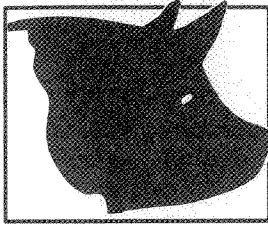
Animals also will be rejected for exhibit for surgical or cosmetic enhancements of appearance, i.e., color coat. Fitting for show should consist of normal grooming and bathing. Trimming or clipping the hair is acceptable.

Animals will be removed from the show grounds for aggressive, disruptive or damaging behavior.

Provide food, water and other considerations according to the previous section on "Feed and Water."



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Milan A. Rewerts, Director of Cooperative Extension, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Cooperative Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. To simplify technical terminology, trade names of products and equipment occasionally will be used. No endorsement of products named is intended nor is criticism implied of products not mentioned.



## COLORADO 4-H ETHICAL CARE OF SWINE

---

The following general guidelines offer suggestions for care of swine as part of small-scale 4-H and other projects. These recommendations do not fit commercial production situations.

### Feed and Water

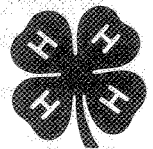
Provide feed so growing pigs will consume all they can eat of nutritionally balanced, palatable rations. Daily consumption levels vary depending on factors such as animal weight, temperature, feed palatability and individual growth characteristics. Pigs between 44 and 125 pounds will consume about 4 to 5 pounds daily. Pigs between 125 and 240 pounds will consume about 7 to 8 pounds daily. Pigs will eat more as they gain weight, so remember this when feeding. Caretakers should provide free-choice feed in self-feeders or give the animal unlimited feed access several times a day.

Since many animal exhibits have maximum weight limits, it may be necessary to restrict weight gain toward the end of the feeding period. **In no case should you starve the animal to achieve this objective.** By providing frequent exercise for the animal and by feeding lower energy feeds, such as alfalfa hay in place of nutritionally balanced rations, you can control the pig's weight without starvation. Take care to ensure animals are not exercised in the heat of the day or to the point of exhaustion.

Provide clean, fresh, cool water at all times. Do not remove water from pens to correct a messy pen. Instead, correct waterer design. Water is the most essential nutrient, and caretakers should make every effort to ensure animals have water whenever they choose to drink. Water consumption varies depending on factors such as temperature and feed consumption. On average, a 100-pound pig will drink 1 gallon of water a day. A 250-pound hog needs about 2 gallons daily.

### Handling

Pigs have a strong tendency to take charge of their own situation in the show ring. Because they are unrestrained during shows, it is essential for them to be accustomed to people prior to entering the ring. The key to well-behaved swine is plenty of human contact prior to show time. Pigs will react positively to repeated human touch, scratching or talking. Do not beat pigs for any reason, even if they are not doing what we think they should do. Training a pig requires a trust relationship between you and the animal. This takes time, but it is an investment that will pay off. A brush and cane are appropriate training tools provided you do not use the cane to hit or poke the animal.



**Colorado  
State**  
University  
Cooperative  
Extension

## **Housing**

Provide pigs approximately 10 square feet per animal. Provide a sow about 18 square feet. Approximately one-half of this space requirement should be in shade. Provide adequate shade, and clean straw or wood shaving bedding.

Mud holes are unsightly. They can be a link to fly infestations or disease transmission. Take care to adequately cool pigs without mud holes. Accomplish this by having well-insulated ceilings and walls, drip lines over concrete flooring, fans, bedding, and free-choice water. Panels, feeders, waterers and other facilities should be free of sharp objects that can cut, scratch or injure the animal.

Group animals by weight so larger pigs do not harm smaller pigs. Do not mix animals unfamiliar with each other, although at show time this can not be avoided. Pig-boards should be readily available to place between fighting animals to prevent injury to both animals and people.

## **Veterinary Care**

Vaccinate pigs for local diseases which may include Atrophic rhinitis and Erysipelas. This is not meant to be the final word on vaccinations. Local veterinarians may suggest other diseases depending on local circumstances.

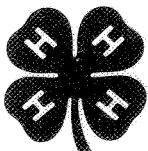
It is appropriate to clip needle-teeth, castrate, notch ears, dock tails and follow practices appropriate to prevent injury to other animals, aid identification and meet market requirements. In no case, should these practices be done by someone unfamiliar with the practice. With the exception of castration, these practices should be done within 24 hours of birth. Castrate between one and two weeks of age. Tools for accomplishing these husbandry practices should be designed for the task, maintained in proper repair and kept in sanitary condition. Disinfect instruments between animals to decrease opportunities for infections.

Farrowing crates are appropriate, because they can prevent injury or death to young.

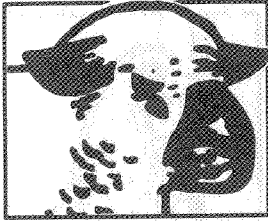
Antibiotics to control disease are appropriate for pigs. Under no circumstances should mood-altering drugs be given to animals. Withdraw antibiotics from animals in time to comply with regulations to provide safe food assurances to the public.

## Showing

Preparing the animal for show purposes is a common practice. Fortunately, pigs need little more than a good washing prior to entering the ring. Some people choose to use a light coat of non-caustic oil (cooking oil or baby oil) on the hair of dark-colored pigs prior to showing. This is an appropriate practice. On white-colored pigs, some exhibitors use baby powder to provide a cleaner appearance. Take care in all cases to avoid eye, nose or mouth contact with the oil or powder. Trimming hair on ears or tails is a practice in some show situations. This is appropriate provided you take care to not injure the animal during the process.



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Milan A. Rewerts, Director of Cooperative Extension, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Cooperative Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. To simplify technical terminology, trade names of products and equipment occasionally will be used. No endorsement of products named is intended nor is criticism implied of products not mentioned.



## COLORADO 4-H ETHICAL CARE OF SHEEP

---

Before you begin your 4-H sheep project, ask yourself if you are willing to spend time every day caring for your sheep. Sheep need attention, feeding and general care on a daily basis. The successful sheep producer makes a commitment and plans a sheep husbandry schedule for production or care. Be prepared to spend time getting to know your sheep. Make sure your parents support your interest. You will need to work with your adult-volunteer leader, a veterinarian, your local Cooperative Extension livestock agent and a feed supplier.

### Housing

Design pens and housing for sheep to prevent injury to the occupants and provide protection from the environment, i.e., sun, precipitation and wind. Provide a minimum of 20 square feet of space per lamb. Pens should be free of sharp edges, nails and protruding wire.

### Bedding

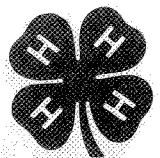
Keep the pen or housing facility clean and sanitary at all times. Provide clean, dry bedding. Clean pens as often as necessary depending upon the weather conditions.

### Feed and Water

A proper diet for the appropriate production phases of gestation, lactation or growing and finishing, should be available at all times and in proper amounts. Fresh, clean water always should be present in adequate amounts for all animals. Feeders and waterers should be free of manure and other debris. Water and feed should be withheld only during medical treatment and diagnosis or shipping for no more than 24 hours.

### Handling

Handling and training are stressful for sheep. Perform these procedures in such a way to minimize stress. Never use electric shock to train a lamb to "brace." Do not beat or use other forms of physical abuse. Do not use excessive, forced exercise through mechanical means.



**Colorado**  
**State**  
University  
Cooperative  
Extension

## Veterinary Care

Administer health medications only according to instructions on the label or under the direction of a veterinarian. Use only drugs approved for sheep. Never exceed the recommended dose unless a veterinarian makes a diagnosis and prescribes a drug at a given dosage for a defined period of time in a valid veterinarian/client/patient relationship.

Routes of administration, whether intramuscular or subcutaneous, should be used according to the label and only with a sterile needle and syringe. Adhere strictly to all drug withdrawal periods. Use of drugs to enhance muscling beyond genetic capability, such as clenbuterol, anabolic steroids and cortisone products, is forbidden.

Remember, use of contraband drugs could result in a Federal Drug Administration investigation and possible prosecution. Each animal should have a unique identification to which you refer when drugs are administered to avoid errors. Keep records for all drugs administered. Include date, animal identification, drug, amount and route of administration. Include the veterinarian's name in the record when a veterinarian attends an animal. Practice good preventive measures, such as vaccinations and parasite control.

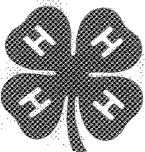
## Transportation

Trucks and trailers should be of sufficient size to accommodate all occupants safely, provide secure footing, be in good repair and provide protection against the elements. A 12-hour fast before shipping is recommended for easier handling of the animals and better sanitation on the truck.

## Showing

Lambs will be rejected from shows if they have the following diseases or for the following reasons:

- skin—any fungal lesions,
- eyes—any symptoms of pink eye,
- mouth—sore mouth (orf) lesions,
- feet—footrot,
- injuries (traumatic lesions), i.e., dog bites, broken bones and so forth,
- withholding feed and water any time when the animal is physically on the show or fair grounds,
- dirty or unkept stalls or pens, and
- any observed use of drugs other than those authorized for use by a veterinarian or show official.



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Milan A. Rewerts, Director of Cooperative Extension, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Cooperative Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. To simplify technical terminology, trade names of products and equipment occasionally will be used. No endorsement of products named is intended nor is criticism implied of products not mentioned.



## COLORADO 4-H ETHICAL CARE OF POULTRY

(Includes chickens, turkeys and waterfowl.)

Raising poultry can be interesting and profitable. Your 4-H poultry project will acquaint you with the value of following a program that stresses good practices.

### Feed and Water

Give poultry nutritionally balanced, palatable rations. Feed should be available on a free-choice basis. A common oversight with many poultry projects is to blend the nutritionally balanced diet with lower protein grains, such as corn or barley. This reduces the overall quality of the diet and often can result in birds which do not have a healthy appearance or do not grow to their potential. One should always feed the proper diet and not attempt to cut corners by mixing balanced rations with other feeds.

Water should be clean, fresh and cool. Because water is the most essential nutrient, it should be available to the bird at all times. Take care to reduce spillage which can result in undesirable and possibly uncomfortable conditions.

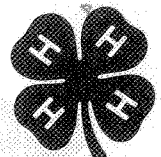
### Handling

Handle poultry sufficiently prior to being exhibited so they are used to people and less likely to become overly excited. Refer to 4-H poultry manuals for detailed handling information. Poultry familiar with human touch and voices will be calm when handled by judges. Poultry do not like sudden movements or loud noises. Avoid placing your birds in situations that cause them to be frightened.

When holding poultry, take care to reduce stressful conditions that could excite the bird. Birds are more comfortable if held securely against the side of your waist, with your arm placed over the back of the bird to restrict wing movement. Place your hand under the bird to provide support. Do not allow the bird to flap its wings while being held. This could result in injury to both you and the bird.

### Housing

House birds in either cages or buildings prior to exhibiting. Housing is essential to the proper welfare of the bird. Protect birds from predators and neighborhood dogs and cats.



Colorado  
State  
University  
Cooperative  
Extension



In situations where poultry will not be housed in cages until they are transported to a show, place birds in cages periodically so the cage is not unfamiliar.

Cages should provide adequate space for birds to stand and lay down freely. They should be able to move about the cage, turn around if desired and access both feed and water comfortably. Construct cages of either wood or wire. Take care to assure no sharp objects are present that will cut, scratch or otherwise injure the bird.

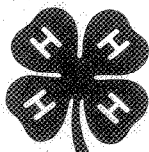
### **Veterinary Care**

Vaccinations are an afterthought for most species of poultry in project situations. Newcastle and bronchitis vaccines are available through poultry supply catalogs. Sanitary practices, such as providing clean housing, feeding and watering equipment, is a must to minimize disease risk and promote bird comfort.

Antibiotics are appropriate in poultry for disease situations. In no case should mood altering drugs be used.

### **Showing**

Preparing birds for shows requires little more than cleaning the feathers, feet and heads. A damp cloth or sponge removes dirt or feces. Frayed feathers often are the result of poor husbandry. Do not pull frayed feathers from the bird in order to improve appearance. Provide appropriate care throughout the project so the bird exhibits a smooth feather cover.



Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Milan A. Rewerts, Director of Cooperative Extension, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado. Cooperative Extension programs are available to all without discrimination. To simplify technical terminology, trade names of products and equipment occasionally will be used. No endorsement of products named is intended nor is criticism implied of products not mentioned.