



Iowa 4-H Animal Welfare Policy

Animal welfare and animal rights issues span an entire spectrum of opinions. Beliefs are founded in religious teachings, personal experiences, societal customs and economical evaluations. There is also much diversity of emotions, along with actions and reactions to animal rights and animal welfare issues.

The Iowa 4-H program believes that the role of animals is a source of food, fiber and nutrition, as well as a tool used by young people to develop life skills. 4-H believes that providing young people with hands-on opportunities to study and work with livestock creates a greater understanding of the animal's health and well being. 4-H does not condone or tolerate abuse or mistreatment of animals in any form during activities programs or competitions.

The ISU Extension Animal Welfare policy, developed in the fall of 1990, still applies today. The policy reads as follows:

THE PRACTICE OF ENABLING YOUTH TO RANDOMLY CAPTURE ANIMALS FROM A GROUP IN A CONTEST OR PRIZE-WINNING SITUATION SHOULD BE ELIMINATED FROM ALL IOWA EXTENSION PROGRAMS. EXTENSION STAFF SHALL NOT PLAN, PROMOTE OR SUPPORT SUCH ACTIVITIES.

Such activities include but are not limited to greased pigs contests, catch the chicken, cal scrambles or other similar uses of animals for entertainment.

There are many resources available to help both staff and young people deal with animal welfare issues. Publications that can be referenced include Guidelines for Caring of Animals in a Public Setting, 4-H 205, Suggested Housing Considerations for Animals at County Exhibitions, AE-3071, as well as the new Food Safety and Quality Assurance manuals, 4-H 230A.

...

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

... and justice for all

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call 202-720-5964.

Issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jack Payne, director, Cooperative Extension Service, Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Ames, Iowa.