

## **AGRICULTURAL SHOWS – A BRIEF GUIDE**

This document is designed to provide initial guidance in relation to agricultural shows. It is by no means fully comprehensive and is focused on those activities which Regulatory Services are responsible for i.e. animal health, environmental health, trading standards and licensing standards. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

**It is recommended that you provide details of the activities to be undertaken at the show and a list of trade stands, entertainments etc. to your local Regulatory Services office at least 2 weeks prior to the show so that we can advise as to whether any specific requirements will apply.**

### **ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE**

The show season is one which should be enjoyable for the exhibitors as well as the public.

While we recognise that most exhibitors are familiar with all the legal requirements of transporting and tending livestock, there are occasions when individuals have (usually without any criminal intentions) contravened the law while involved in showing and preparing of livestock.

To ensure compliance with the law, we would like to highlight some issues which have come up in relation to showing livestock.

Exhibitors should be aware of the **impact of weather**. Cold winds can cause real problems, particularly with small animals e.g. dogs, poultry, but heat can also be an issue. The most likely problem associated with hot weather is dehydration. Do not underestimate the volume of water an animal can drink when under heat stress. Stewards should be aware of the need to ensure that dogs are not left unattended in vehicles in hot weather. If animals are found in this situation and the owners cannot be identified, contact the Police or Animal Health and Welfare officers using the details provided below.

**Identification of livestock** (particularly cattle, sheep and goats) must be undertaken. The need to tag all categories of stock prior to movement should be considered. Exhibitors should ensure that tags are ordered in good time and are appropriate to the size and age of the animals concerned. Commercial sheep and

Sheep and goats must have at least one ear tag (2 if being kept to be more than 1 year old) and movements should be recorded on a farm register.

Pigs must be appropriately identified and accompanied by the relevant movement form if required.

Horses must be accompanied by their Horse Passport.

**Record movement off and back onto the farm.** Every year we find large numbers of cattle which have (as far as BCMS are concerned) spent the intervening time at the Ingliston Show Ground, Salen Show field or similar locations. Exhibitors should remember to record all movements, including back to the farm.

Please also be aware of the **separation needs** of different health status animals. This (unlike the above items) is not enforced by the Local Authority but it is important to enhance and maintain the health status of animals in Argyll and Bute.

Where **in-milk dairy stock** is exhibited, be aware of the need to ensure that the udders are not over-stocked.

**No live animals (including goldfish) as prizes!** This problem arose in 2012 and 2013. It is against the law to give away live animals as prizes (and selling live animals requires a pet shop licence). The requirement is non-negotiable and any breach will initiate an enforcement intervention.

Any **novel displays using animals** should be considered against the legal requirements. If in doubt, please contact the Animal Health and Welfare Service for advice.

### **Additional Information**

Scottish Government Guidance on Movement Restrictions in relation to Shows and Exhibitions

Anybody selling food should en

**Cleanliness** there should be facilities for hands to be washed and equipment to be cleaned;

**Cooking** food should be adequately cooked and eaten as soon as it is ready;

**Chilling** facilities should be available to keep food chilled or frozen until ready to be used or sold;

**Cross-contamination** raw foods should be stored and prepared away from cooked and ready to eat foods to avoid contamination from bacteria such as *E. coli*.

To minimise risk to show visitors

Consumption of food should not be allowed in animal judging and pets corner areas of the showground (example display notices are attached at the end of this document).

Adequate hand washing facilities should be available including warm water, soap and paper towels to dry hands.

Further guidance can be provided by your local environmental health office.

## Health and Safety

Specific guidance on health and safety issues for agricultural shows can be found in The Purple Guide which is available from [www.thepurpleguide.co.uk/index.php/chapters-1-to-8/3-venue-site-design/chapters-17-to-24/22-agricultural-show-safety](http://www.thepurpleguide.co.uk/index.php/chapters-1-to-8/3-venue-site-design/chapters-17-to-24/22-agricultural-show-safety). The webpage includes links to templates for a health and safety management plan and risk assessment.

More detailed information regarding specific health and safety issues such as transport management, working at height and fire safety is also included within the guide. You can access the whole guide at [www.thepurpleguide.co.uk](http://www.thepurpleguide.co.uk).

## Reducing risks of disease

One of the key issues when people are in contact with animals is the spread of bacteria such as *E. coli*, Salmonella and Cryptosporidium. Much of the risk can be minimised as long as precautionary measures and good hygiene facilities are in place. You are strongly recommended to circulate the guidance contained within

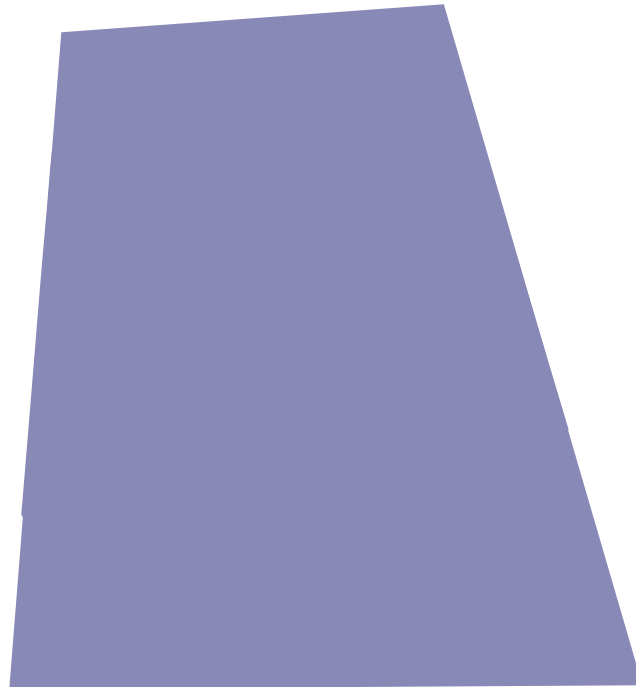
Simple precautions for reducing the risk of *E. coli* O157 infection in rural families and visitors which can be downloaded from [www.documents.hps.scot.nhs.uk/giz/ecoli/simple-precautions-O157.pdf](http://www.documents.hps.scot.nhs.uk/giz/ecoli/simple-precautions-O157.pdf). To minimise risk of *E. coli* you should

Clear the show field of all livestock at least three weeks before the show, remove any animal faeces and cut the grass prior to the show.

Provide adequate hand washing facilities (running warm water and soap, gels are not sufficient) especially close to food vendors and near animals.







**FOOD AND  
DRINK SHOULD  
NOT BE  
CONSUMED IN  
THIS AREA**

# **ANIMALS CARRY GERMS**

**ALWAYS WASH  
YOUR HANDS  
WITH WARM  
WATER AND  
SOAP AFTER  
CONTACT**