

Iowa Holstein Association Show Ring Policy

The Iowa Holstein Association endorses the National Show Ring Policy and is the basis on which the Iowa Holstein Association Show Ring Policy and its rules and regulations are formed.

from the Holstein Association USA, Inc. Show Ring Policy

The showing of Registered Holstein cattle is an important part of the promotion, merchandising and breeding program of many breeders. Additionally, it is an important part of Holstein Association USA to stimulate and sustain interest in breeding Registered Holstein cattle. This relates to both spectators and exhibitors. In this connection, the board of directors of Holstein Association USA believes it is in the best interest of the breeders of Registered Holstein cattle to maintain a reputation of integrity and to present a wholesome and progressive image of their cattle in the show ring.

The Show Ring Policy provides for absolute responsibility for an animal's condition by an owner, exhibitor, fitter or participant whether or not he or she was actually instrumental in or had actual knowledge of the treatment of the animal in violation of this Show Ring Policy. Dairy cattle exhibitors shall at all times deport themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship.

It is recognized that there are certain practices in the proper care and management of dairy cattle which are necessary in the course of moving dairy cattle to and between shows that are advisable to keep them in a sound, healthy condition so they might be presented in the show ring in a natural, normal appearance and condition.

At all times, Registered Holsteins shall be treated in a humane manner and in accordance with dairy quality assurance practices so as to protect the health, safety and welfare of the livestock and the consuming public. No person shall present for exhibition or exhibit an animal which he or she knows, or has reason to suspect, is affected with or has been exposed to a dangerously contagious or infectious disease, illness, or illegal or non-approved use of drugs, medication and/or prohibited substance, or residue.

The position of Holstein Association USA, Inc. is that all animals presented for exhibition shall be in their natural conformation and structure, free of any alteration or modification by injection or internal or external administration of any substance or by involvement in unethical fitting.

It is recognized that certain practices in the cataloging, handling and presentation of cattle in the show ring are unacceptable.

The following practices are a violation of Iowa Holstein Association Show Ring Policy:

1. Misrepresenting the age and/or milking status of the animal for the class in which it is shown.
2. Treating the animal, particularly the udder, internally or externally:
 - a. with and irritant or counter-irritant,
 - b. using a device to artificially create or enhance the udder crease, i.e. "roping"
 - c. using other substances that cause changes in the udder to artificially improve the conformation (allowable practices/substances include sealing and setting teats, icing of an udder will be allowed if ice is placed in a plastic bag)
3. Surgical or unethical insertion of any matter under the skin or into body cavities, performed to change the natural contour or appearance of the animal's body, though not to preclude practices required or involved in normal management. Examples of violations are, but not limited to:

- a. administration of fluid via a stomach tube or other similar apparatus to fill the rumen
 - b. insertion of CIDRs or other devices or matter into a body cavity for the sole purpose of straightening an animal's topline.
4. Balancing the udder by any means other than leaving naturally produced milk in any or all quarters
 5. Administering epidural anesthesia (blocking tails)
 6. Excessive manipulation of hair or use of false hair/substitutes on an animal's topline. Hair length is not to exceed 1.5 inches
 7. Animals should remain in public view while at a show. Animals taken off to a secluded area or to a cattle trailer will be deemed in violation of show ring ethics.
 8. Physical or verbal abuse of show management or those assisting show management will be deemed a violation.

Monitoring and Enforcement Procedures for Iowa Holstein Association (IHA) Show Ring Policy

District Shows

1. For district shows, the Iowa Holstein Association encourages the adoption of the IHA Show Ring Policy by show management. The show management should monitor any violations. The district board will receive any reports of violations and recommendations from the show management and determine if any penalties are warranted.

State Show held with the Iowa State Fair

1. The district that is to host the State Show should have the following responsibilities. When held at the Iowa State Fair, they should provide 5-6 people to work with the State Fair Superintendent to aid her/him in checking in cattle, working the show ring, clerking the show and enforcing the show ring code of ethics. The district is to provide the State Fair Superintendent with a list of names of the people aiding her/him.
2. When our State Show is held with the Iowa State Fair, any suspected violations should be reported in a timely matter to the State Fair Superintendent. The Iowa Holstein Association will follow the final decisions made by the Superintendent and follow the penalties laid out in the State Fairbook and by the State Fair Board. However the Iowa Holstein Association also reserves the right to impose any additional penalties on violators as they see necessary.

State Show not held with the Iowa State Fair

1. When hosting the State Show not held with the Iowa State Fair, the district is responsible for all management of the show including working with the Ethics Committee to enforce the IHA Show Ring Policy.
2. An Ethics Committee will be formed for the State Show. It shall consist of three people. One person will be from the IHA Show Committee and the other two will be from the host district.
3. The Ethics Committee will observe activities prior to and during the show and along with show management, receive complaints of alleged violations.
4. Any complaints of suspected violations must be made before the conclusion of the show.
5. The Ethics Committee or its designates has the authority to perform and review results of the following:
 - a. An ultrasound examination of the udder prior to milk out
 - b. Milk out of any individual cow
 - c. Collection and testing of any of the animal's body fluids
 - d. Use of any other non lethal technology that may be useful in determining violations
 - e. Delivery for the purpose of inspection or laboratory analysis, at any time, of any hypodermic needles, syringes, swabs, cloths, other devices, dispensers, samples of

medicines, or other preparations in any form, in possession or control of the exhibitor, fitter, agents or persons acting on behalf of the exhibitor.

f. Animals may be checked for false hair on toplines and for length over 1.5 inches.

6. If it is suspected that a violation will occur if an animal is shown, the exhibitor will be informed by the Show Chairman or Ethics Committee, that showing of that animal will result in violation of Iowa Holstein Association Show Ring Policy. If the exhibitor decides not to show that animal, no violation will have occurred.
7. The owner is responsible for the representation of his/her animals, regardless of who is caring for or fitting his/her animals.
8. Within seven days of the conclusion of the show, the Ethics Committee must report to the IHA Show Committee Chairman. If any violations or suspected violations have occurred, they must be reported in writing to the IHA Show Committee. All findings and determinations of the Ethics Committee will be turned over to the IHA Show Committee.
9. The IHA Show Committee will have 21 days to review the Ethics Committee's report and make a decision on any violations with a recommendation for disciplinary action against the accused exhibitor/individual. The IHA Show Committee will then make their recommendation to the IHA Executive Committee for final determination.
10. Upon receiving the Show Committee report of violations, the State President will notify the alleged violator of said report and share all supporting evidence with them.
11. The IHA Executive Committee after receiving the report of violations will have 30 days to meet and issue any penalties. The accused violator will be able to be present and speak at this meeting, as long as they notify the IHA Executive Committee of this intention 3 days prior to the meeting.
12. If the alleged violator is found in violation of the IHA Show Ring Policy, the Iowa Holstein Association Board of Directors may pass along the costs associated with the violations, enforcement and review of these violations. These costs must be paid in full by the violator or they will be considered "not in good standing" with the IHA and therefore be denied membership privileges.
13. The Iowa Holstein Association may consider previous violations of an exhibitor when making their decision on penalties.
14. An animal found in violation of the IHA Show Ring Policy will receive no premium monies, awards or placing.
15. During the monitoring and enforcement of the IHA Show Ring Policy, the Ethics Committee, Show Committee, and the Iowa Holstein Association will make all reasonable effort to maintain confidentiality, but no obligation of confidentiality shall exist for directors, staff or committees of the IHA.
16. Under the Rules of the Show, the exhibitor agrees as final and to abide by any decisions of IHA in regards to violations of the IHA Show Ring Policy and resulting penalties.

Penalties for Violations of IHA Show Ring Policy

1. 1st Offense-minimum of receiving a letter of reprimand to a maximum of one year suspension for the animal(s), owner(s), fitter(s), and/or other representatives, either individually or combination thereof from all IHA state sponsored shows.
2. Subsequent offenses-minimum of one year suspension to maximum of barred for life for the animal(s), owner(s), fitter(s), and/or other representatives, either individually or combination thereof from all IHA state sponsored shows.

Adopted by the Iowa Holstein Association Board of Directors on November 17, 2007