

## 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 cattle producers are usually very good about this but small hobby producers (especially goat breeders) are less likely to be in the Scottish Government information loop.

- Cattle – must be tagged on both ears and movements should be recorded in the accompanying passport.

- 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 - [www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/MovementRestrictions/ShowsExhibitions](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/Diseases/MovementRestrictions/ShowsExhibitions)
- The Purple Guide – Chapter 24 Animal Welfare - [www.thepurpleguide.co.uk/index.php/chapters-1-to-8/3-venue-site-design/chapters-17-to-24/24-animal-welfare](http://www.thepurpleguide.co.uk/index.php/chapters-1-to-8/3-venue-site-design/chapters-17-to-24/24-animal-welfare)

## ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

### Food Safety

Food sold at the event must be safe to eat. Established food businesses should be registered with Environmental Health and aware of the requirements in relation to food safety and hygiene. If further guidance is require contact Environmental Health prior to the show.



Anybody selling food should ensure that they have considered the four C's:

- **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.

If you have a pets corner where visitors are encouraged to handle or stroke animals you are advised to either provide hand washing facilities in this area (mobile units are available) or locate such areas adjacent to toilets so that people can easily clean their hands.

## **Other Issues**

Environmental Health can also provide guidance on a number of other issues including public health and environmental protection.

If you are providing tankered water, this may be treated as a private water supply. Contact your local environmental health office to discuss any requirements.

Additionally if exhibitors or those operating trade stands are likely to be staying overnight onsite this may have implications in terms of the facilities required. Please contact environmental health for further details.

## **Additional information**

- Food Safety Guide For Farmers Markets In Scotland - [www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/scotfarmersmarket.pdf](http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/scotfarmersmarket.pdf)
- Food Hygiene: A Guide for Businesses - <http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/publication/hygienebooklet.pdf>
- Preventing or controlling ill health from animal contact at visitor attractions - Industry Code of Practice - [www.face-online.org.uk/resources/preventing-or-controlling-ill-health-from-animal-contact-at-visitor-attractions-industry-code-of-practice](http://www.face-online.org.uk/resources/preventing-or-controlling-ill-health-from-animal-contact-at-visitor-attractions-industry-code-of-practice)

## **TRADING STANDARDS**

Trading Standards covers a wide range of trading issues, some of which may be relevant to your show.

Local Trading Standards staff can advise on fair trading, weights and measures, product safety and age related sales which will be particularly relevant where trade stands or market stalls are included as part of the event.

You are advised to contact Trading Standards before the event to discuss your plans, the expected sellers and any activities being undertaken by the committee (such as running a bar) which may fall within the scope of Trading Standards.

It is recommended that you carry out your own checks on any traders to ensure that only reputable traders are allowed.

Whilst any breach in legislation is likely to be taken up with a stallholder, the committee as the organiser may also be liable.

**\* It is illegal to knowingly sell goods which you suspect are fake \***

**\* Counterfeit goods have been offered for sale at some local shows \***

Trading Standards also provides advice in relation to fertilisers and feed.

## LICENSING STANDARDS

### Will you be providing a bar or selling alcohol at the event?

#### Occasional Licence

This is a brief summary of the law in relation to the sale of alcohol in premises that are not ordinarily licensed. The Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 defines a “premises” as “*any place and includes a vehicle, vessel or moveable structure*” and a “licensed premises” as “*any premises in respect of which a premises licence or occasional licence has effect.*”

If you are providing a bar, or intend selling alcohol from stalls or elsewhere within the area of your event, you will need to apply to the licensing board for the grant of an occasional licence. Full details on how to go about applying can be found on the Argyll and Bute Council at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/licences/occasional-licence](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/licences/occasional-licence)



Those eligible to apply for an occasional licence are:

- a) A premises licence holder;
- b) A personal licence holder; or
- c) A representative of a voluntary organisation

There is no limit to the number of licences or types of event granted to a premises licence holder or personal licence holder.

A voluntary organisation may only be issued with an occasional licence where the event to be licensed is connected to the activities of the voluntary organisation. There is also a limit to the number of occasional licences that may be granted to a voluntary organisation in any period of 12 months.

Applications for occasional licences must be made to the licensing board at least 35 days prior to the date of the proposed event.

Further information on occasional licences can be obtained from the Council’s Licensing Standards Officers, see contact details below.

#### USEFUL CONTACTS

- Animal Health, Environmental Health, Trading Standards and Licensing Standards can be contacted by telephoning 01546 605519 or by emailing
  - [animalhealth@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:animalhealth@argyll-bute.gov.uk)
  - [envhealth@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:envhealth@argyll-bute.gov.uk)
  - [tradingstandards@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@argyll-bute.gov.uk)
  - [licensingstandards@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:licensingstandards@argyll-bute.gov.uk)
- Licensing – telephone 01546 604338 or email [licensing@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@argyll-bute.gov.uk)
- Roads and Waste - 01546 605514
- Police Scotland – 101 in non-emergency situations



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



# **ANIMALS CARRY GERMS**



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