



# Activity Involving Animals Checklist

**Involving Animals** refers to activities in which members are working directly with animals or in a location with animals.

Examples include, but are not limited to: livestock members' training, fitting and showing, clubs hosting livestock shows or petting farms, groups visiting fairs, farm tours.

## **Risk Management Strategies**

- Safety information and recommendations contained in this safety checklist are believed to reflect best practices to reduce risk. The suggested risk management strategies are considered minimum standards for livestock handling.

## **Preparation**

- All youth members and their parents/guardians are informed of potential risks involved in the activity, as well as the safety rules and procedures.
- Instruction on safety precautions is received from a trained leader or an experienced instructor who is capable of demonstrating the skills and safety precautions.
- Animal behaviour and handling techniques are reviewed by a trained leader or an experienced instructor who is capable of explaining animal behaviour and handling techniques.
- All sessions are conducted in a safe environment.
- Safety rules and procedures are learned prior to participation.
- Skills/movements are learned in proper progression.

## **Supervision**

- Adheres to Youth Safety Supervision Policy, Rule of Two, and Supervision Ratios.
- Safety rules and procedures are enforced throughout the activity.

## **Facility**

- Respect biosecurity protocols of the facility.
- Ensure activity area is free of hazards/debris.
- Proper lighting and ventilation, when applicable.
- Safety rules/regulations are posted/reviewed prior to the activity.
- Indoor facility has a clearly marked emergency exit.
- Animals should be handled in an enclosed space with proper safety exits, such as an arena or pen, to prevent animals from getting loose.
- When in a public venue, use gates and signage to separate the public traffic flow from animal movement.
- When in a public venue, post signage regarding handwashing and touching animals.
- Animals should be safely and securely tied or enclosed when not being handled, according to animal welfare standards to keep animals and people safe.
- Animals should have access to food and water according to animal welfare standards.
- Handwashing stations to be available for members and the public after handling animals.

## **Animals**



# Activity Involving Animals Checklist

- Ensure animals are healthy and suitable for use in the activity.
- Where applicable, follow all animal transportation regulations.
- Where applicable, ensure animals are tagged properly.
- Where applicable, follow quarantine recommendations after an event.
- Ensure animal owners are aware of their responsibility to have insurance coverage for their animals. 4-H Canada holds no insurance coverage for animals.

## **Equipment**

- Equipment to be used is suitable and in good condition.
- Equipment should be cleaned and sanitized following best practices.
- Equipment is checked by a qualified person before every session.
- Halters and collars to be properly fitted to ensure good control and animal comfort.
- Instructions are given regarding the proper use and maintenance of equipment.
- Leaders check to ensure that each youth has the required materials prior to participation.
- Leaders ensure that a first aid kit and a designated emergency phone are available.

## **Clothing/Footwear**

- Appropriate and properly fitted footwear is worn. For example, steel-toed boots are recommended for large livestock.
- Appropriate clothing is worn. For example: Helmets are required for horseback riding.