



The Royal Agricultural Society of NSW Young Farmer Challenge – Guidelines for use of live animals in challenges

The RAS recognizes that animals are used for human purposes, such as food, fibre, companionship, recreation and research conducted for the benefit of both humans and animals. In designing and running agricultural competitions involving animals, it is the responsibility of the organisers, entrants, exhibitors and suppliers of animals to consider the welfare of animals in such use, which encompasses:

- Appropriate housing
- Management
- Nutrition
- Humane handling
- Veterinary treatment.

1. Housing

1.1 Provide your animals with adequate shelter when they are to remain in one position for more than 10-15 minutes within a challenge, as necessary, depending on the weather. This may mean providing shade or shelter from wind or rain. If conditions are mild, shelter may not be necessary. Animals should be provided with appropriate shelter when not directly involved in a challenge.

2. Nutrition

2.1 Provide your animals with adequate food and fresh water when not directly involved in a challenge task. Dispose of waste feed appropriately.

3. Challenge design and animal handling

3.1 Challenges should not cause physical pain to animals.

3.2 Use appropriate animal handling techniques to reduce stress on your animals. Animals that are not trained to lead should be held in secure yards during challenges. For any challenge involving animal restraint, the use of halters is only appropriate for animals that are halter trained.



4. Transport

4.1 Transport animals to and from the event site in a utility, trailer, van or truck with a fixed crate, or on a lead with the aid of a secure halter. If animals are to be moved within a challenge they are to be quietly drafted (for example sheep) or lead with the aid of a secure halter. Animals should not be picked up and carried, unless this is a part of normal husbandry practices for that species, for example poultry.

5. Animal selection

5.1 Fit and healthy animals should only be selected for use in challenges.

5.2 Adult or mature animals should only be selected for use in challenges, however gestating or geriatric animals should not be selected. This is to avoid unnecessary stress to immature animals that are not used to handling and husbandry procedures.

6. Veterinary supervision

6.1 It is recommended that a Veterinarian is available to provide Veterinary treatment if required as a result of the use of animals in challenges.

The RAS of NSW promotes high standards of animal care and also promotes the safety of people involved with animal handling. If you would like further information or advice regarding challenge design and the use of animals you can contact the RAS Youth Group ayfc@rasnsw.com.au.

Written by Dr B Sharpe, Dr M Westwood & Dr A Wright-Hands for the RAS Youth Group February 2014