



University of Maryland Extension (UME) 4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics

4-H members enrolled in animal science projects (e.g., beef, camelids, cat, cavy, dairy, dog, goat, horse, poultry, rabbit, sheep, small pet, and swine) shall, at all times, conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship, including while with their projects and at all 4-H animal science activities and events. Their conduct should always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of 4-H and its animal science program. 4-H members, as well as parents, UME volunteers and others working with them, are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts; and their conduct and values must serve as a positive influence on others.

This Code of Ethics applies to all 4-H members who are enrolled in animal science projects, and to others (4-Hers, parents, volunteers, owners, etc.) who participate in the animal science program; and it covers daily animal care, as well as participation in 4-H competitions and other 4-H animal activities and events, and other animal activities and events where the youth participates as a 4-H member.

4-H members and others who violate this Code of Ethics demean the integrity of 4-H and its animal science program. 4-H members who violate the code of animal science ethics are subject to sanctions including, but not limited to, forfeiture of premiums, awards, and/or auction proceeds and may be prohibited from participation in 4-H or 4-H/UME events or activities; other violators may also be subject to sanction, as appropriate. Infractions may be reviewed by 4-H and/or UME (on the local or state level, as appropriate to the infraction and to the event and/or activity in question), and/or may be subject to a fair oversight committee or other entity that oversees an activity or event. In addition, some acts may also be subject to review based upon the Maryland 4-H Youth Code of Conduct and/or other UME policies.

The following is a list of standards and requirements for all 4-H animal science projects, at all times, whether at home, at animal exhibitions or events, or any other 4-H event or activity.

1. The care of all 4-H project animals is the responsibility of the 4-H member. 4-H members must properly care for and groom their animals for the duration of their project. 4-H members are encouraged to establish/maintain a veterinarian-client-patient relationship.
2. All project animals must be housed at the 4-H member's residence unless a different location is submitted to and approved in writing by the local 4-H staff. Any change in location must be approved in writing by the local 4-H staff; however, it is not necessary to report direct transport to and from shows or other events.
3. Upon request of 4-H, UME, or other program, fair, event or animal officials, 4-H members must present proof of ownership, length of ownership, identity and/or age of all 4-H project animals owned or leased. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or identity of animals, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited. If a 4-H project animal is sold in a livestock sale, it is no longer eligible to be shown in a 4-H event in Maryland in that year.
4. 4-H members must provide appropriate animal health certificates (Certificate of Veterinary Inspection) upon request of 4-H, UME, or other program, fair, event or animal officials. All exhibitors/parents or guardians must inspect their animal(s) for signs of contagious or infectious disease before coming to a show in the state of Maryland. The Maryland Department of Agriculture "Self-Certification of Animal Health" must be completed prior to loading animals for exhibition.
5. 4-H project animals must be presented to competition, activities and/or events, where they will enter the food chain, free of volatile drug residues.
6. Animals which are presented to competition, events and/or activities that do not culminate with the animal entering the food chain, shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and rules.
7. 4-H project animals shall not be exhibited if drugs administered in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and rules may affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event.
8. At any time after an animal arrives on a fair or other 4-H activity or event premises, a licensed veterinarian must administer or, in consultation with fair, event, UME, or 4-H officials, direct the administration of any treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications. Drenching at any time after an animal arrives on a fair or other 4-H activity or event premises is prohibited, except when performed or directed by a licensed veterinarian in consultation with fair, event, UME, or 4-H officials for the sole purpose of protecting the health of the animal.

