

# ANIMAL HEALTH at RI 4-H Fairs

This document is an unofficial guidance document that is intended to assist with compliance at all 4-H fairs and exhibits. The authors made a good faith effort to ensure it is consistent with state regulations. However, if it is determined that this guidance is in conflict with state regulations, or additional regulations need to be added due to current RI animal health outbreaks, the state regulations will take precedence over this document.

## All Animals

All animals at fairs, shows, or exhibitions must be in proper physical condition and are subject to examination by federal or state animal health officials, prior to unloading and during the exhibition, for visual evidence of infectious or contagious diseases or any condition that would render it unfit for exhibition. Any animal exhibiting signs, including but not limited to the following, may be refused entry: diarrhea, vomiting, nasal discharge, ocular discharge, cough, lameness, skin lesions, loss of hair or feathers, external parasites, neurological signs, fever, lethargy, depression, difficult breathing, abscesses or growths, emaciation, or known exposure to animals with infectious or contagious diseases.

It is required that sheep and goats are individually identified in accordance with the USDA National Scrapies Eradication Program, see details below. It is recommended that all other animals originating in Rhode Island are individually identified, preferably with valid registration tattoos accompanied by registration papers, official tags, notches or RFID tags when possible or descriptions (equine only).

**Out-of-state animals must conform to ALL RI DEM rules for importation including having official ID Tags or breed registration tattoos with registration papers in some cases. Horses may be identified by physical description, digital photo or microchip: <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/250-40-05-1>**

## In-state Animals

### **All species**

- Animal veterinary science is an important part of the 4-H program. As such we recommend that all animal owners consult with a licensed veterinarian and vaccinate for contagious diseases especially those animals that will be shown. Veterinarian visits can be important learning experiences for 4-Hers and may help to protect your animals and family from disease!

### **Rabies Required for Cattle, Sheep, Horses, Dogs**

- All animals over 6 months must be vaccinated for rabies at least 30 days prior to showing and the vaccination must still be valid. Typically Rabies vaccination is good for 1 year and for some sheep and dogs rabies vaccines, may be valid for up to 3 years. The rabies certificate will indicate the expiration. Animals 3-6 months must have been vaccinated for rabies prior to showing (animal is considered vaccinated at time of inoculation). Vaccination certificate must be presented at the fair.

### **Horse**

- All horses competing in RI 4-H Horse Shows must follow USEF Equine Drugs and Medications Rules <https://www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/rules-regulations/drugs-medications>

### **Poultry & Rabbits.**

- All birds and rabbits must be free from obvious signs of infectious disease, etc. as above and will be individually

inspected before being unloaded.

- RI-origin birds exhibited at RI 4-H shows do not need testing for Pullorum-typhoid or Avian Influenza

### **Goat**

- Animal Identification: Goats must be identified by at least one official USDA identification. Goats tattooed and registered through APHIS approved Registries, accompanied by their matching registration papers, will be accepted in RI as officially identified and it will serve as their APHIS Scrapie Identification. Crossbred goats can be registered with ADGA as Recorded Grades. Non-registered goats must have a USDA ear-tag, tattoo, or qualifying microchip. Identification questions visit: <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/250-40-05-7>
- Small Ruminants Biosecurity Panel (includes CAE, CL, Johne's) test once a year or biannually is recommended.

### **Sheep**

- Animal Identification: All sheep must be identified by at least one official USDA identification ear-tag or tattoo that is aligned with the APHIS Scrapies Program. In addition, it is recommended sheep have a farm tag, tattoo or an association/registry ear-tag. Official Identification must match the registration papers for each registered animal. For complete information on identification go to: <https://rules.sos.ri.gov/regulations/part/250-40-05-7>