

Animal Welfare Plan

This plan has been written in accordance with the guiding principles of The Animal Welfare Act 2006 Section 9 (2).

THE FIVE FREEDOMS

- 1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst** - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
- 2. Freedom from Discomfort** - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- 3. Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease** - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- 4. Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour** - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
- 5. Freedom from Fear and Distress** - by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

TITLE OF SHOW	Royal Cornwall Show
Show Secretary	Mark Stoddart
Attending Veterinary Surgeons	Members of the Towan Veterinary Practice group based in Cornwall
Date(s) of Show	4 – 6 June 2026
Date(s) Vet available	2 – 6 June 2026

LICENSING & REGULATIONS	
APHA contact number	03000 200 301
Local Authority Trading Standards contact number	0300 1234 100

ANIMAL ACCOMMODATION Comprises exhibition halls for cattle and marquees / stables for other species.

SPECIES ENTERED Complete appropriate sections with approximate numbers
 Cattle 650 Sheep 1500 Pigs 250 Goats 150 Horses 800 Other 5
 Poultry, Cage Birds, Small mammals etc. see separate Fur & Feather section

WELFARE CONSIDERATIONS	ACTIONS
Contact number for Veterinary information Further details will be issued at the time of the show for	01208 814489

emergency contacts.	
Isolation facilities for sick or injured animal	Isolation boxes at rear of Cattle Halls
Provision of animal ambulance with necessary screens etc.	Horse Care Transportation
Provision for removal of casualty animals	Peake (GB) Ltd

CATTLE	
Stewards and officials:- Experience and training	All stewards have significant experience. New stewards paired with experience ones. Welfare plan explained at pre Show meeting.
Requirements for handling and control of cattle / livestock Competence of handlers	Under Bye-Laws & Regulations heading: Judging, Stewarding & Parading
Transport:- Facilities for unloading and loading to prevent accident or injury	All animals are unloaded into the Cattle Halls. Showground has a secure fence to comply with AGO
Contingency plan for unruly and distressed animals	Seek immediate Veterinary advice, repatriate if necessary
Accommodation:- Suitability of penning with regard to size and construction, and prevention of injury and disease. Control of ventilation to prevent overheating and respiratory disease Provision of food and water at all times	Custom built cattle buildings Air movement system installed Stand pipes at end of all buildings Food supply owner's responsibility
Malpractices:- Tampering with udders to improve appearance or to prevent milk flow, by using gas, liquids and teat sealants. Overstocking of udders of dairy cattle by delaying milking Or by poor timetabling of classes	Under Bye-Laws & Regulations heading: Veterinary Regulations & Treatment Show timetable reviewed at Prize Schedule Committee meetings to minimise waiting times
Arrangements for surveillance to discourage malpractices Review Show rules to ensure they are sufficiently robust to deal with any transgressions	Stewards regularly patrol lines, and take heed of information passed on from exhibitors Rules reviewed after every show

SHEEP & GOATS	
Unloading and loading facilities to prevent injury or escape	Animals unloaded into pens. Showground has a secure fence to comply with AGO
Accommodation:- Penning of suitable size and construction, provision for free air flow to prevent respiratory disease and overheating Outdoor pens, provision for protection from elements for animals shown in full fleece Provision of food and water available at all times	Marquee with removable side walls N/A. Stand pipes provided for each marquee. Food:- provision, owner's responsibility Stewards monitor availability
Ensure sheep tail docking regulation is observed	Under Sheep Section Heading: Veterinary Regulations Liaise with Trading Standards Inspectors
Shearing competitions:- Ensure competence of competitors Review rules to discourage causing injury	English Sheep Shearing Circuit rules apply

PIGS	
Unloading and loading facilities to prevent injury or escape	Animals unloaded into pens. Showground has a secure fence to comply with AGO
Accommodation:- Penning of suitable size and construction, provision for free air flow to prevent respiratory disease and overheating Outdoor pens, provision for protection from elements e.g. strong sunlight Provision for water available at all times	Specialist penning provided. Canvas style roofing provided. Stand pipes installed

FUR, FEATHER & DOG SHOWS	
Poultry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 300 Pigeons <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 200 Cage Birds <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 100 Rabbits <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 150 Dogs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 800 Other e.g. Tarantulas. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20	
Penning of suitable size and construction to prevent overcrowding	Custom built pens of varying sizes to suit occupants, on tables
Provision for free air flow to prevent respiratory disease and overheating	Marquees with removable side walls
Provision of food and water	All animals have both supplied at all times

HORSES	
Accommodation of suitable size and construction	Temporary custom built boxes available
Provision of separate boxes for Stallions	Separate Stallion boxes are provided
Abuse by misuse of sticks, whips and spurs	Affiliated Society and Show rules apply Horse Welfare Stewarding Team present throughout show days
Misuse of stimulants and tranquilizers	Under Bye-Laws & Regulations Heading: Veterinary Regulations & Treatment and then Tampering and Malpractice

ANIMALS/ BIRDS FOR EXHIBITION OR DEMONSTRATION	
Ensure that exhibitors are competent and have relevant experience	Show organisers have to be notified of the intention to exhibit such animals/birds
Ensure that the welfare needs of the animals/birds on display are met, and codes of practice e.g. separation distances of birds of prey are observed	All animals/birds kept under observation by vets and only competent falconers etc employed

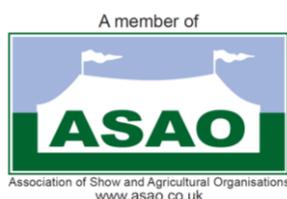
GENERAL PUBLIC	
Warning of dangers of leaving dogs in cars	Notices posted at entrances to car parks Liaison with Cornwall Council Dog Wardens
Show policy of allowing dogs onto the Showground	Dogs (assistance dogs excepted) are not allowed into the livestock areas All dogs are required to be on non-retractable leads

Procedure for reporting and recording welfare incidents	Incidents to be reported to the Secretary for further action
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The welfare requirements of animals attending this show, have been assessed, and, having considered the conditions above, this plan has been agreed with:-

Mark Stoddart, Show Secretary, and

Show Veterinary Surgeons



Extracts from Show Prize Schedule regulations 2026 to demonstrate relevance of "Actions" listed above.

Animal Welfare

The Royal Cornwall Agricultural Association supports the Five Freedoms which are outlined in our Animal Welfare Plan available on our website and by contacting the Show Office.

Conditions of Admittance and Car Parking

Persons are admitted to the car parks and Showground at their own risk and whilst every endeavour is taken to ensure their safety, the Association will not (save for death or personal injury caused by the negligence of the Association, its staff or agents) be responsible for personal injury (whether fatal or otherwise) loss of or damage to property and any other loss, damage, costs and expenses howsoever caused. Vehicles and their accessories and contents are admitted to and left in the show car parks at the owner's risk.

Exhibitors and their Assistants

- No exhibitor or their assistants must in any way inappropriately interfere with exhibits other than their own.
- During the time the show is open to the public no rug or cloth shall be hung so as to conceal any animal except with the special permission of the steward of the department.
- Exhibitors/assistants must be in attendance each day during the show at least a quarter of an hour before the time appointed for exhibiting the animals under their charge in the show rings.
- Exhibitors/assistants in charge of animals must ensure that stables, stalls and pens are kept clean.
- No cooking stove or barbecue of any description may be lighted in the stalling within and adjacent to the Cattle Halls.
- The Cattle Halls and Sheep Marquee are **NO SMOKING** areas, anyone found in breach of this rule will be reported to the relevant stewarding team who will investigate the matter further together with the R.C.A.A. Council.
- With respect to all exhibitors and their animals the playing of music in the Cattle Halls, Sheep Marquee, Pig lines and all Horse areas is not to be excessively loud and all music must be turned off by 10.30pm.
- Owners of the animals exhibited will be held responsible for the behaviour of their assistants and for the consequences of any misconduct of such assistants.
- Well behaved dogs are allowed but must be kept on a non-retractable lead at all times.

All exhibitors and their assistants shall be subject to the Orders and Rules of the Council or Officials appointed by the Council.

The Council reserves the right to ban from exhibiting, either in person or through a nominee or agent, any exhibitor (or their assistants), who, in the opinion of the Council have breached or infringed any of the Association's Bye-Laws and/or Regulations.

Any exhibitor (or their assistants) who behaves noisily or offensively to the judges or officials is liable to be disqualified, and any award cancelled and, furthermore all awards made to such an exhibitor or competitor in any class may be removed, the exhibitor could be subject to being excluded from exhibiting within this Association.

The above will be dealt with as detailed under the Protest section.

The Council reserves the right to inform other Agricultural Associations, breed or other societies of any decision it may come to with respect to any exhibitor.

Penalties

As the non-exhibition of animals entered for the show causes unnecessary preparation and expense and disarranges the showground, any person entering stock and failing to exhibit shall pay a penalty of £5.00 for each entry unless a certificate under the hand of the exhibitor or their authorised agent be lodged with the Secretary of the Association before the day of the exhibition certifying that non-exhibition is caused by:

- (1) the death of the animal or animals
- (2) contagious or infectious diseases (confirmed by the explanatory certificate of a Vet) or
- (3) it's becoming ineligible for the class in which it has been entered.

Every exhibitor shall indemnify the Association against all actions, claims, proceedings and demands by any person, company or other representative body of whatsoever nature in respect of any matter, directly or indirectly connected with the bringing onto the Association's showground of any animal which may have been suffering from any contagious or infectious disease or which develops such a disease whilst on the showground and in addition the exhibitor shall pay all costs and expenses incurred by the Association in connection with any such claim. The Association's Vets are authorised to refuse permission for any animal to be admitted to, or to have removed from, the showground any animals affected with contagious or infectious disease or with disease which, in their opinion, was likely to prove dangerous to other animals. The owner or assistant in charge of such animal may obtain, if desired, a certificate in writing from the Association's Vets, stating the nature of such disease or infection. Concealment of disease will render the exhibitor liable to disqualification.

The stewards, on the recommendation of the Association's Vets shall have the power to remove from the showground any unruly, vicious, deformed or diseased animals, and also the stock, implements or miscellaneous articles belonging to any exhibitor who refuses to comply with the instructions given to them by the stewards without any responsibility attaching to them or to the Association in consequence of such removal.

Veterinary Regulations & Treatment

Animal Welfare

The Royal Cornwall Agricultural Association supports the Five Freedoms which are outlined in our Animal Welfare Plan available on our website and by contacting the Show Office.

The administration of any pharmaceutical substance is prohibited by any Exhibitor and can only be carried out by one of the Association's Vets.

It is a condition of entry that the Association's Vets may, on their own authority, give such emergency treatment as they may consider appropriate in the event that the owner or their representative cannot be found. Exhibitors will be liable to pay for all drugs/treatment used by the Association's Vets in the treatment of their animals.

Animals with infectious diseases and lesions: To avoid any disappointment and reduce the risk of animals being sent home all exhibitors are asked to adhere to the following:

Please check all animals carefully prior to arriving at the show for any signs of disease. If concerned seek veterinary advice prior to the show.

If animals have visible lesions or clinical signs of an infectious disease on arrival exhibitors will not be allowed to unload animals onto the showground or may be asked to remove the affected animal to protect the other animals at the show.

If the animal has had an infection or other clinical concern that is now resolved but has left a visible lesion, exhibitor's should get them checked and signed off by a vet prior to the show and have any relevant testing to confirm they are no longer infectious.

If an exhibitor has any doubt reference the above and whether an animal can attend the show due to a visible lesion or history of recent infection, they should contact the Showground Main Office as soon as possible where they can be passed to the Show Vet Team for advice. It can then be confirmed if an exhibitor should attend with the animal, get any pre-show testing done to confirm if they are free from disease/infection or advise the exhibitor that they should not bring that animal to the show.

Tampering and Malpractice

Any artificial contrivance or device of any description found on or proved to have been used on an animal at any time whilst that animal is in the showground, either for preventing the flow of milk or for any other improper purpose, will disqualify that animal from being awarded a prize, and any prize awarded prior to discovery will be forfeited. The instigator or the owner of the said animal may be prohibited from again entering stock for any of the Association's shows, for such period as the Association may see fit. For the purpose of this regulation, the term 'improper practice' shall be held to include setting of teats, and generally any other practice including tampering of their own or any other animal by the exhibitor or any other person which results in the animals being shown other than in a natural state, and the Association reserves the right to have all animals inspected by the Association's Vets, either prior to, during, or after judging.

The overstocking of udders is to be strongly discouraged and exhibitors are liable to inspection by the Association's Vets.

The Association will not tolerate the administration to show exhibits (entered either for competition or sale/demonstration) of tranquillisers or other drugs which may in any way affect the performance of the animal in question to have the effect of making it behave in the show ring in a manner which is not natural. The Association reserves the right to take any necessary samples. Any person or exhibitor (or their representative) who is found to have administered or permitted the administration of any such tranquilliser or drugs to any show exhibit will be reported to the Association, and dealt with at their discretion. In addition the matter will be referred to the appropriate breed society or organisation.

The following practices and/or procedures are prohibited when showing any animal, with many of the following relating specifically to dairy cattle:

- Filling an animal's rumen unnaturally with liquid (tubing).
- Balancing the udder by any means other than by leaving naturally produced milk in any or all quarters.
- Treating the udder internally with an irritant, counter-irritant, or any other substance to temporarily improve conformation or produce unnatural animation.
- Treating the udder externally with an irritant, counter-irritant, or any other substance to temporarily improve conformation or produce unnatural animation. (Allowable practices / substances include the use of external anti-inflammatory substances for the well-being of the animal).
- Causing any unlicensed substance to be entered inside the teat orifice.
- The setting or sealing of teats with any substance.
- Roping udders and the use of objects to physically improve definition of the suspensory central ligament.

- Administering epidural anaesthesia (blocking tails) and/or applying any irritant either externally or internally to the perineal (rectum and vagina) area.
- Inserting foreign material/articles under the skin, into the topline (including hair not attached to its own hair follicle) or on the feet (administration of prescribed medications, and false switches and tails is permitted).
- Performing surgery of any kind to change the natural contour of appearance of the animal's body, hide or hair. (the removal of warts, teats and horns, clipping and dressing of hair and trimming of hooves is allowed).
- Wrapping hocks or draining fluid from hocks unless authorised by a vet at the show.
- Attaching an appliance to an animal other than for milking.
- Criticising or interfering with any or all of the individuals involved in the organisation and judging of the show (including the judge, show management or other exhibitors) or any other conduct detrimental to the breed or show.
- The wearing of shackles.
- Any other practices which in the reasonable opinion of the Association causes unnecessary suffering to an animal, unfairly improves its performance in a show, or otherwise undermines or interferes with the integrity of the show, or brings the show or the Association into disrepute.

Please note: Scanning of the mammary system for all prize winning dairy cattle competing in the Inter-Breed Championships, will take place immediately after the completion of each Inter-Breed judging class. Such exhibitors will be directed by Association stewards to the relevant area for this to be carried out by the Association's Vet Team.

If any exhibitor observes any concerning activity as outlined above, please contact the Vet Team immediately to report your observations, so that the Association Vet Team can investigate the activity in question at the time it is taking place.

Any exhibitor wishing to lodge an objection, having reference to livestock exhibited at this show, must make the same in accordance with the objection requirements of the Association. If, on investigation, the objection is not sustained to the satisfaction of the Association, the sum thus deposited shall, at the discretion of the Association, be forfeited to the funds of the Association. All objections must be lodged on the same day as the alleged incident occurred in accordance with the objection regulations, and no objection will be SUBSEQUENTLY received, unless a reason, satisfactory to the Association be assigned for the delay.

IMPORTANT NOTICES AND REGULATIONS FOR HORSE EXHIBITORS

Equine Influenza:

Equine Influenza vaccinations are a compulsory requirement for all equines (horses and ponies) attending the Royal Cornwall Show and random spot checks of passports are likely to be undertaken. The requirement for the first 3 vaccinations is as follows: the first 2 vaccinations 21 - 92 days apart, a third booster between 150-215 days, and an annual booster vaccination within 365 days thereafter. No horse should enter competitions within 7 days of an EI vaccination. Foals should commence vaccinations at 6 months old.

To confirm all horses/ponies must have had their first two vaccinations to compete, and then if applicable be up-to-date with their annual booster thereafter.

General Conduct:

No horse may be exercised other than in a collecting ring.

No horse should be tied to the railings or left unattended at any time other than when securely contained within a horse vehicle or stable.

No exhibitor or their groom may ride one horse and lead another or if on foot lead more than one horse.

The bringing of companion horses/ponies is strongly discouraged but if such animals are present their behaviour and all matters relating to safety are the sole responsibility of the exhibitor bringing such animals to the show.

Anyone exhibiting a stallion must take adequate precautions to ensure the safety of other people and animals.

IMPORTANT NOTICES AND REGULATIONS FOR CATTLE EXHIBITORS

Veterinary Regulations

- **TB Regulations:** exhibitors are required to comply with current TB regulations. For those cattle coming from six monthly and one and two year testing parishes please note it is a requirement that the animals at the show are tested within 60 days before this show. Compliance with pre-movement testing requirements is the responsibility of the owner/cattle keeper moving the animal(s). Full details can be found on the following website: gov.uk/guidance/bovine-tb-testing-intervals
- **Brucellosis Regulations:** all cattle must be from herds which are officially Brucellosis free. (NB from 1 October 1985 all herds were re-designated to be OBF Status).
- At the date of entry cattle must be from herds which are free from restrictions imposed under (a) The Tuberculosis Order 1984; and (b) The Brucellosis Orders. In addition the entered animals must not themselves be under individual restrictions. An animal accepted for entry must not be consigned to the Royal Cornwall Show if, after entry, either it or the herd to which it belongs becomes subject to movement restrictions.
- **Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Regulations:** all cattle attending the Royal Cornwall Show MUST reside in a herd which has been tested as part of a recognised BVD eradication programme or to have been individually tested for BVD antigen with a negative result. Individual BVD antigen results may be obtained via blood sampling or tissue tagging. Proof of testing and negative status must be sent to the office together with your entry form. For those cattle keepers using herd status to demonstrate BVD freedom, antibody results must not be older than 12 months before the date of arrival at the show.
- **Ringworm:** any animal which shows evidence of ringworm should not be sent to the Show. Any animal found to be affected will, on the certificate of the Association's vet team, be disqualified from competition and must be removed from the showground. The exhibitor of such animals will be subject to a fine not exceeding £25 per affected animal.
- **Warble Fly:** the Warble Fly (England and Wales) Order 1982, as amended. Any cattle which are affected with warble fly larvae are subject to movement restrictions. Such affected cattle may only be lawfully moved if accompanied by a declaration of treatment (Form C - Yellow). Affected animals, not accompanied by a declaration of treatment (Form C) detected in the Showground will be licensed home.
- **Calving:** animals which calve or show evidence of calving whilst at the showground must be placed in the isolation accommodation pending their possible early removal from the Showground.

Where an animal calves at full term, and the owner arranges for a blood sample and vaginal swab to be taken and examined at an approved laboratory, and Rose Bengal Plate Test (RBPT) and a

microscopical examination of a smear made from the vaginal swab are negative, the animal may return to the show lines at the discretion of the show secretary.

Where an animal calves prematurely or aborts, the DVO must be informed immediately. The animal must be returned home TOGETHER WITH ALL OTHER SHOW ANIMALS FROM THE SAME REGISTERED PREMISES after a full range of samples has been taken. The suspect animal must be isolated during transit.

If, whilst in the showground a cow calves either at full term or prematurely or aborts or show signs of aborting and the exhibitor or their stockpersons fails to inform the Association's vet team, that exhibitor, if proved to have infringed this regulation will be liable, at the discretion of the council of the Association to a LIFE-TIME BAN from exhibiting at any future shows held by the Royal Cornwall Agricultural Association.

- **Blood Samples:** the Association reserves the right to take blood samples from any animal exhibited.
- **Tampering and Malpractice:** please refer to the Bye-Laws and Regulations at the back of the prize schedule for full details.

Showing

- All cattle must be properly secured to the satisfaction of the officials of the Association on being brought to the entrance of the Showground or they may not be admitted. Whilst stalled at the show it is suggested that all cattle are double tied.
- Pressure Hoses: only low pressure hoses can be used for washing of cattle. Pressure above 30psi will not be permitted. The use of power hoses producing water above 30psi is banned.
- Livestock must be under the control of a competent handler at all times and they must use approved restraints which are safe and fit for purpose. Movements on the showground include areas used by the public and also when going from the Exhibition Halls to the judging rings and handlers must ensure adequate safeguards are in place to prevent an animal from escaping.
- The exercising of cattle within the cattle judging rings prior to the start of judging on the first day is prohibited.
- All exhibitors to wear official breed uniform or white coats when showing and parading cattle.
- All exhibitors **MUST** display the correct showing number for each class.
- **All bulls over 12 months of age must be accompanied by 2 people.** All bulls over 10 months old must have a permanent ring attached to the nose and must be provided with a strong chain or rope and to be led. Use of the bulldog can be used for younger cattle, if felt appropriate.
- All cows shall have had a fully developed calf within six months of the exhibition or shall be in-calf at the time of the exhibition and in the case of both cows and heifers exhibited as being in-calf, the prizes will not be paid to the exhibitor of any in-calf cow or heifer not in-milk, until such time as the animal has been certified to have produced a fully developed calf.
- All trophies will be presented at the time of the judging of the relevant class or special prize, except the Supreme Beef, Supreme Dairy and President's trophies which will be presented in the Main Ring during the second day Grand Parade.

IMPORTANT NOTICES AND REGULATIONS FOR SHEEP EXHIBITORS

Veterinary Regulations

- **Arrangements for Maedi-Visna Accredited and Scrapie Monitored sheep**

Maedi-Visna accredited and **Scrapie Monitored** accommodation will only be provided for sheep which have been signified as being of such status on the entry form. In order to be admitted to the accredited accommodation, all **Maedi-Visna** accredited sheep must be accompanied by the appropriate **SAC Form (green)** - **within expiry date**. **Scrapie Monitored** sheep will be accommodated and shown in **unsegregated** conditions.

All female sheep, whether scrapie monitored or not, of all breeds except Dorset Horn, Polled Dorset and Finnsheep must, at the time of the show be:

- a) non-pregnant (empty),
- b) have not lambed within 30 days prior to arrival at the show and
- c) not be subject to procedures which change the seasonal breeding pattern.

All females of the Dorset Horn, Polled Dorset and Finnsheep breeds and animals subject to procedures which change the seasonal breeding pattern must be accompanied to the show by a declaration for each animal confirming that the sheep are:

- a) non-pregnant (empty) and
- b) have not lambed in the previous 30 days.

- All sheep brought into the showground must have been dipped and moved in accordance with any ministry regulations in force at that time.
- Exhibitors are specially cautioned not to send to the show animals which are suffering from Orf in any stage. Any animal found to be affected, will, on the advice of the show vet team, be disqualified from competition and removed from the show.
- Current legislation (the Mutilation (Permitted Procedures) (England) Regulations 2007 Schedule 5.5) requires that sheep must have sufficient tail retained to cover the vulva of the female sheep and the anus of the male sheep. Sheep entered for the 2026 Royal Cornwall Show are liable to be inspected in the lines by the Association's vet team or other appropriate official bodies. Any sheep which do not comply with the aforementioned regulation will not be eligible to be shown.
- The spraying of sheep with any substances is forbidden within the Sheep Marquee.

IMPORTANT NOTICES AND REGULATIONS FOR PIG EXHIBITORS

Showing

- The classes will be run in accordance with the Bye-Laws and Regulations of the Royal Cornwall Agricultural Association (as listed above and at the back of the prize schedule) and all pigs must be shown in accordance with BPA General and Special Conditions.
- Boars aged twelve months or more at the time of the exhibition, must have their tusks cut prior to the show.
- The use of artificial colouring, whitening and/or powder on pigs as well as the removal or addition of spots by artificial means is prohibited (white woodflour is permitted).
- All boars must be shown by two competent adult handlers who are equipped with protective boards.

Fodder

The Association will provide pens/stalling and straw for all livestock exhibits. The provision of feeding stuffs, drinking utensils etc., will be the responsibility of the exhibitor.

Straw will be made available throughout the week and, if possible, green food will be served out in suitable quantities to the exhibitors/assistants of animals free of expense however, exhibitors are advised to bring as much green fodder as possible.