

Prepared by the Farm professional interest group of:



LIVESTOCK CARE IN MUSEUMS

This document is intended to assist individual museums in developing livestock management policies and plans. Livestock policies should be approved by a museum's governing body. Policies and procedures (management plan) should be developed with guidance from individuals who currently oversee livestock programs in museum settings and administered with the assistance of experienced livestock health professionals. The approval and input of the governing body and museum and livestock health professionals will lend credibility to, and increase public confidence in, a museum's livestock program.

The information below is intended to be an outline and is not comprehensive. Livestock policies and plans should be unique to each museum and its mission and resources. It is hoped that this document will serve as a starting point.

If more specific information is desired, contact the chair(s) of the ALHFAM Farm professional interest group found on the ALHFAM website: ALHFAM.org

Considerations before Beginning or Reviewing a Museum Livestock Program

- ***Institutional Commitment***—Does the institution have a clear picture of the resources needed to support the program (financial, physical—barns, fences, pasture, etc--and staffing)? Are these resources currently allocated appropriately? Is there a plan to ensure the needed resources will continue to be available?
- ***Mission Statement***—Does the livestock program support the mission of the museum? How?
- ***Goals and objective***-- What does the site wish to accomplish by implementing a livestock program? What programming needs will it fill? How will success in achieving the goals and objectives be measured? Will the livestock serve an active or passive interpretive role? Do you intend to use the livestock as part of the site's interpretation in a "working" manner? [Examples: shear the sheep with historically appropriate methods; work the horses and oxen in fields].

Livestock Policy (this should be easily available to the public—on the museum’s website is ideal)

A Livestock Policy defines the role of livestock in the character and function of a museum and clarifies the guiding principles relating to acquisition, management, use, and disposition. The policy should be compliant with the museum’s broader formative documents (mission statement, by-laws or other enabling documents, code of ethics, etc) and should serve as a basis for specific livestock management plans and procedures.

- I. Statement of Institutional Commitment—*include how resources needed have been determined and how they will be allocated over the lifetime of the program*
- II. Overview of livestock programs at museum (historically and currently)—**optional**
- III. Interpretive Goals and Objectives of Livestock Program—*include connection to larger institutional mission*
- IV. Animal Care and Welfare statement—*general statement on the museum’s commitment to providing the highest levels of care for livestock and adherence to best practices (reference any documents that help guide practices and note that specific care and handling procedures are maintained in the Livestock Management Plan)*
- V. Acquisitions
 - A. Methods
 1. Purchase, unrestricted gift, loan, sponsorships, abandonment and drop-off—*Include Explicit statements about conditions under which livestock will be accepted, what sponsorships entail, and how abandoned animals will be treated to avoid disruption of livestock on site*
 2. Authority—*who can acquire livestock; who can authorize treatment*
 3. Documentation—*what is legally required & how it will be maintained*
 4. Labeling—*will animals be labeled &, if so, general statement on methods (specific methods should be in the Livestock Management Plan)*
 - B. Livestock selection criteria
 1. Phenotypic and genotypic
 2. Breed choice
 3. Rare breed conservation
 4. Breed or individual temperament requirements
 5. Training requirements- horses and oxen
- VI. Loans (Incoming/outgoing)
 - A. When allowed
 - B. Who can approve
 - C. Medical care—*who approves treatment and who is responsible for costs*
 - D. Fees
 - E. Documentation—*what is legally required & how it will be maintained*

VII. De-acquisition/Disposal

- A. Conditions
- B. Approval
- C. Methods
- D. Documentation—*what is legally required & how will it be maintained*

VIII. Responsibilities—*outline levels of responsibility for the livestock program from the governing body to all staff. Include training requirements for staff who undertake direct livestock care/handling tasks. Define who (individual/team) will be responsible for the development and maintenance of the Livestock Management Plan. Define who will answer questions about animal welfare/rights and how (there needs to be guidance for staff and volunteers at all levels).*

IX. Review & approval

- A. Who
- B. How often

X. Transparency and Accountability—*statement that the museum works in the public trust and that this policy and other documents, and all practices regarding the livestock program, are available for public review (most museums would need to comply with public records requests anyway)*

The Livestock Management Plan

A Livestock Management Plan is a working document that outlines specific conditions, requirements, and job duties associated with a museum livestock program. It should be crafted to suit the needs of an individual institution and support its policies. Plans need to be reviewed and updated at least yearly. Guidelines and standards approved by national or international organizations should be consulted (two places to start: [USDA, National Agriculture Library, Standards and Guidelines](#) and the [Federation of Animal Science Societies, Guide for the Care and Use of Agricultural Animals in Research and Training](#))

I. Environmental Conditions

- A. Space requirements specific to species/indoor and outdoor
- B. Relations between species
- C. Temperature tolerances of species/breed
- D. Sanitation/manure disposal
- E. Pest Management
 - 1. Exterior parasites on livestock
 - 2. Internal parasites in livestock
- F. Physical Site
 - 1. Buildings and grounds
 - 2. Shelter requirements
 - 3. Ventilation/Odors to surrounding areas
 - 4. Feeding and watering arrangements (troughs, mangers, etc.)

- 5. Predator control methods
- 6. On- and off-site facilities
- G. Fencing
 - 1. Types (historic or modern)
 - 2. Safety (humans & livestock)
 - 3. Cost considerations
 - 4. Maintenance requirements
 - 5. Concealment (within view or concealed)
- H. Nutrition (Consult a nutritionist veterinarian and cite)
 - 1. Specific needs for specific species
 - 2. Specific needs for individuals within species
 - 3. Work load for species (general) and individuals (specific)
 - 4.
 - 5. Water Supply
 - a. Source
 - 1. Fresh (identify source)
 - 2. Container (historic or modern)
 - b. Amount needed for species or individuals
 - c. Availability
 - d. Allowances for public perception
 - 6. Storage of feed
 - a. Freshness/rotation
 - b. Containers (historic or modern; visible?)
 - c. Rodent/pest control
 - d. Security from livestock/visitors
 - e. Feeding schedule
 - 1. Who will feed/when
 - 2. Recording
 - 3. Where to post for easy access
 - 4. Identify specific amounts and guidelines for individual livestock
 - f. Quantity
 - g. Quality/Brand

II. Health Programs and Biosecurity (Consult a local veterinarian and check for any national or regional standards or legislation)

- A. New Acquisitions
 - 1. Vaccinations before arrival
 - 2. Parasite control before arrival
 - 3. Practices unique to species before arrival
 - 4. Quarantine upon arrival
- B. Vaccinations (preventive/general/reproductive)
 - 1. Schedule
 - a. Times per year (identify seasonal/initial/booster)
 - b. Ages (newborn, yearling, mature)

c. Types of medications/dosages/boosters

d. Documentation—*what is legally required & how will it be maintained*

C. Breeding

1. Staff responsible
2. Locations authorized
3. Purposes (i.e., to preserve heritage species, replenish existing herd, provide for interpretive programming, etc.)
4. Gestation periods for species
5. Lactation
 - a. Weaning
 - b. Drying off
6. Growth Expectations

D. Worming

1. Types of parasites and methods of detection
2. Schedule and rotations of medications for parasites
3. Documentation of detection and medication

D. Castration

1. Methods/determination
2. Medical treatment
3. Staff training and expertise needed

E. Veterinary Services

1. Maintenance of close, working relationship (identify)
2. Health check schedule
3. Hospital facilities (distance/location)
4. Sick animal quarantining
5. When to call

F. Farrier (**similar to Veterinary Services-if applicable**)

G. Disposal procedures

1. Live animals
 - a. Euthanasia—*have a very specific decision-making process in place*
 - b. Sale (include restrictions, if any)
 1. Public auction
 2. Sale to Private Party or Not-for-Profit
 3. Donation to not-for-profit—*donation to private parties and for-profit entities is discouraged*
 - c. Use in facility
 1. Human consumption in foodways programming
 2. Processing program
 3. Storage dissemination
2. Deceased animals
 1. Burial on site—*follow local regulations, if applicable*
 2. Disposal service
 3. Donations to vet schools or other facilities

H. Record Keeping

1. Health
2. Nutrition
3. Acquisitions
4. Disposal
5. Breed registration

III. Staff Training

A. Mission of livestock program

1. Relation of program to museum mission/program mission
2. Interpretive goals
3. Overview of policies and procedures relating to program
4. Chain of command
5. Training schedule

B. Animal husbandry (specific to species and/or individuals on site)

1. Livestock handling
2. Livestock behavior
3. Restraint techniques
4. Physiology of species
5. History of species
6. Grooming schedule

C. Visitor interaction (should be governed by interpretive goals)

1. To pet or not to pet
2. Naming of animals
3. Acceptable levels of visitor participation in animal handling/care

D. Driving techniques of draft/carriage animals, riding techniques for saddle horses (if applicable)

E. Visitor and staff safety

1. Around livestock
2. Facilities
3. State and local laws

F. Resources for reference use--*include hyperlinks and/or print materials*

IV. Liability Issues

- A. Insurance
- B. Training and procedures
- C. Equipment
- D. Policy for contractors on site

V. Emergency Plan—*should conform to museum's larger emergency plan*

- A. Inclement weather
- B. Disasters preparedness and response
- C. Contact list
- D. Evacuation procedures for animals

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