

## RAS All Dairy Cattle Show Code of Ethics

### Summary

This is a summary of the practices currently allowed and disallowed under the RAS Dairy Cattle Show Code of Ethics. Its purpose is to provide a summary only of the Code of Show Ethics document and it is no way intended to be a complete copy of the rules.

The RAS All Dairy Breeds Show Ethics Committee put a remit to the 2023 RAS AGM updating the RAS Dairy Cattle Show Code of Ethics. This remit was passed, and the changes are highlighted in the summary in **green**.

#### **Purpose:**

The practice of showing dairy cattle stimulates, encourages, and promotes interest in the breeding of registered dairy cattle. It is to the benefit of all breeders of registered cattle and the broader dairy industry that the reputation for integrity, good husbandry, and animal welfare in the dairy cattle at shows is maintained.

The primary purpose of the RAS Dairy Cattle Show Code of Ethics is to ensure the proper care and health of all animals, and to ensure that all animals presented for exhibition are free from any alteration. Exhibitors will always conduct themselves with honesty, good sportsmanship and maintain proper animal care to protect the health, safety and welfare of livestock and the food consuming public.

#### **Responsible Party:**

The Responsible Party (Owner, Lessee, Exhibitor, Fitter etc) is to ensure the general welfare needs of the animal under their care at a show is always met in line with the Animal Welfare Act 2016.

The Responsible Party includes the Owner, Lessee, Exhibitor, Fitter or anyone else involved in the exhibition of an animal. All parties are considered the Responsible Party and are liable for any breaches, whether they have signed the entry form, or not. "I didn't know" is not a defence, if you are involved with exhibiting an animal you need to beware of all parts of the animals care.

The onus is on the Responsible Party to ensure all show entry forms and exhibitor declarations are completed without false or misleading information, and that the rules of the RAS Dairy Cattle Code of Show Ethics are always adhered to.

#### **Currently Allowed Practices include:**

1. External applications of cosmetics that affect only appearance (hoof polish/clear magic etc)
2. Fake switches
3. **External teat sealing only** is an allowable practice but must not contravene clause 3.2.1 (vii) of the Code of Show Ethics document
4. **External teat setting only** is an allowable practice and must not contravene clause 3.2.1 (vii) of Code of Show Ethics document
5. Udder treatments provided the product is registered for use on dairy cattle within NZ, excluding electrical appliances used for stimulating the teat and udder.
6. The following allowed practices require an **Exhibitor Declaration** to be completed and returned to the steward before the animal is allowed to enter the ring –
  - a. Cidrs
  - b. Use of drugs before and during the show . Drugs allowed must have been prescribed by a veterinarian based on a therapeutic need as part of an animal treatment plan and declared in the Exhibitor Declaration: This includes Anti-inflammatories, Anti-biotics, Antihistamines, Sedatives & hormones (Oxytocin)

The following are examples of procedures and practices that are currently considered **to be in breach** of the RAS Dairy Cattle Show Code of Ethics:

#### **Major Violations – Animal Practices:**

1. Treating an animal externally including the udder, with an irritant or other substance not registered for use on cattle within NZ
2. The use and attachment of a stimulating device and/or electrical appliance to massage or modify the teat or udder
3. Surgically or otherwise inserting any prohibited chemical, drug, gas, liquid (including milk), matter or foreign substance to artificially enhance or change the natural shape or appearance of the udder.
4. Improper fitting practices, such as over filling and over bagging that causes animal pain, discomfort or walking difficulty and is validated by ultrasound scanning detecting unacceptable levels of oedema in the udder.
5. Administering an injected or applied anaesthetic to alter the carriage of the tail or other body parts or achieving such changes by any other procedure or means.
6. Administration of fluids by stomach tube or other similar device unless performed under the direct supervision of the show veterinarian for medical treatment
7. Manipulation of the teat internally by surgically or otherwise inserting a foreign substance to alter its normal direction, length, or shape, or to hold the teat unnaturally plum is **banned**. The length of the teat **must not** be altered, either internally or externally, under any circumstances i.e. teats must not be shortened in anyway.
8. Exhibitors have only one opportunity per show to check-in ringside and the animal will not be allowed in the ring for the duration of the show if any form of manipulation is detected.

#### **Major Violations regarding conduct of Exhibitors:**

1. Mistreatment of an animal at any stage during the show.
2. Criticising or interfering with the judge, show management or other Exhibitors while in the show ring, or other conduct detrimental to the breed or the show.
3. Challenging, threatening, criticising, or interfering with the Show Ethics Committee member or volunteer appointed by show management to monitor the animals on exhibit
4. Misrepresenting the age or lineage/breed for the class in which it is entered.
5. Failing to provide accurate animal identification when asked by show
6. Tampering with another Exhibitor's animal

#### **Minor Violations:**

1. Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of show handlers, exhibitors, or fitters.
2. Excessively manipulating the top line and/or tail head hair beyond 3.8 cms
3. The top line or tail head shall only consist of naturally grown hair. The use of foreign material, imitation or artificial hair to the top line or tail head is not permitted.
4. Misrepresenting the number of lactations and/or milking status of the animal for the class in which it is entered.
5. Using a device or product to artificially create or enhance the udder crease i.e. an **icebar**.
6. Animals 12 months or over, that are not dehorned.
7. Female animals 12 months of age or over, who are exhibited with a ring in their nose.

This document is a summary only of the RAS Dairy Cattle Code of Show Ethics, should you require the full document, please request this from your Breed Society.

The RAS All Dairy Breeds Show Ethics Committee is made of representatives from the RAS and all the Dairy Cattle Breed Societies. The Committee is Chaired by Doug Courtman and administered by Cherilyn Watson. For all enquires refer to your Breed Society, the Chair or Administrator.