

Methods to Reduce the Unethical Housing of Animals



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Purpose



- The growing desire for 4-H participants and parents to succeed, has created an increase in unethical practices.
- The housing of animals, paying professionals to raise, groom, or care for animals appears to be on a rampage in certain areas.

How do we monitor the location of animals?

- **Facts:**
 - Premise ID was designed to trace back animals to its farm, source location, or owner. The goal was to promote and develop a safe and healthy food supply.
 - 4-H enrollment forms state the address of the 4-H member.

How do we monitor the location of animals?

- But, how do we monitor where 4-H animals are being kept?



How do we stop it?

- How do we reduce the chances of professional fitters, groomers, and breeders from raising exhibitors projects to be successful?



Possible Ideas

- Promote Random Inspections.
- Change the enrollment forms and options.
- Develop stricter rules and animal identification methods.

State or Regional Random Inspectors

- Develop inspectors who audit, inspect, and track back the locations of where the 4-H participants are keeping their animals.
- In medicine or restaurants a state or health inspector has the right to inspect at any point in time. The same concept should be applied to livestock shows and 4-H.

The Random Inspector



State or Regional Random Inspectors

- An inspectors should be identified by a specific uniform and inspect locations outside of where they live.
- For example if the inspector is from the south they should inspect in the northern portion of the county, state, or region.

It Only Takes A Few Inspections!

- Just a few inspections would make people think twice before attempting something unethical.

County Inspectors

- Some counties already have superintendents and extension educators doing random inspections.
- All first year members are inspected where animals are housed. All other members can be inspected at any point in time.
- This is a good time to teach on the farm education. Example... clean water, proper bedding, shade, clean feed, feeding programs, health, vaccinations.

County Inspectors

- Some educators call the 4-H participant the night before the inspection. This legally is not considered trespassing.
- County Extension Educators need to make sure the Premise ID matches the location of the animals.
- Additionally they are making sure the animals enrolled are actually the ones located at the designated location.

What penalty do we use if caught?

- Disqualification
- Corrective actions
- Assistance in following the rules
- Attending ethics courses

New Concepts for Enrollment Forms

- Have a portion of the enrollment form that states: by signing this form, you are giving permission for an inspector to inspect your premise ID, location of animals, and make sure all animals enrolled have been located or properly identified.

Exceptions to the Rules

- Exceptions to the rules may have written permission to have animals house at a different location. This can include city children, broken families, or other specifically stated cases.

Most play by the rules!

- The majority of exhibitors will play by the rules and do the ethical decisions.
- Yet it only takes one unethical practice that can spread to cause a landslide of problems.



Bad Guy!

- No body wants to be the bad guy and crack down on unethical practices.
- Yet, who is going to do the right thing?

