



Title: Texas Tech Rodeo Team Herd Health

SOP Number: 049

Purpose: To ensure that all livestock are housed and maintained in a manner consistent with the Ag Guide and to ensure personnel handling livestock perform their duties in a manner that complies with all current laws, regulations, and guidelines.

RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The TTU Animal Care Services (ACS) veterinarians shall oversee all aspects of animal health and are assisted by program staff. In the case of animal welfare negligence, the University Veterinarian has the authority to intervene immediately.
- B. Facility Managers, Rodeo Coach and staff ensures implementation of all procedures.
- C. Students are responsible for the daily care of their personally owned animals.

PROCEDURE

All staff and student workers are required to complete generic IACUC training and to participate in the Occupational Health & Safety Program. Students are required to leave contact information in case of emergency.

Training

All students and staff caring for TTU animals will be trained via Texas Tech Equestrian Center/ Animal and Food Sciences in:

- A. Animal Husbandry
- B. Handling and Restraint
- C. Methods for minimizing pain, distress, and infection will be discussed during general care training.
- D. Proper use of equipment/ facilities.
- E. General IACUC training

Occupational Health

To promote the safety of the staff:

- A. Animal caretakers should be aware of the options available to minimize the risks associated with the care and use of livestock and horses as defined in the Occupational Health & Safety Program.
- B. Animal Caretakers should have a tetanus vaccine every 5-10 years.

FACILITIES AND ENVIRONMENT

Housing

All pens, pastures, barns and feed storage areas will keep vegetation overgrowth to a minimum.

- A. Housed by species
 - 1. In accordance with the Ag Guide, different species of animals will not be housed together.
- B. Noise

1. Loud or sudden noises will be kept to a minimum, however, white noise, such as a radio, may be kept in barns to mask or accustom the horses to startling sounds.

C. Horses

1. Pens are sized in accordance with the Ag Guide and shall be maintained and cleaned based on need. Small individual pens will be cleaned every other day at a minimum. Large pens will be scraped at least 1X per semester or more according to animal density.
2. Pens and pastures will be free of harmful objects, have access to shade and clean water.

D. Cattle

1. Dry lot pens and pastures for long-term housing (greater than 10 consecutive days) will be free of harmful objects, have access to shade/shelter, clean water, feed, and will meet the size requirements for cattle according to the Ag Guide. These pens will be scraped out every 3 months at a minimum.
2. Pasture areas, if available, will be provided for cattle enrichment. Areas for grazing will provide access to clean water and shade in accordance with the Ag Guide and will be fenced (permanent or temporary) in a manner to keep livestock secured on the TTEC property.
3. Temporary housing pens may be used for event livestock that do not stay longer than 10 days.
 - a. These pens must not be adjacent to the long-term housed herd to reduce biosecurity risk.

E. Goats

1. Goat pens will provide access to clean water, feed, and shelter/shade and will meet the size requirements for goats according to the Ag Guide.
2. Goat pen fencing will ensure that goats are secured from escape and will minimize access by predators.
3. Goat pens will be cleaned out monthly.

Feeding and Watering

- A. Feeding troughs, pails and hay rings will be kept clean and free of sharp edges.
- B. Livestock will either have access to safe pasture for grazing, free choice hay, or provided feed and hay in a consistent manner, on a regular schedule. It is acceptable to be off feed and water when livestock is being used.
- C. Water containers will be kept clean, full of fresh water and free of sharp edges.
- D. Feed, hay, and water is offered in a matter to minimize contamination by urine, feces and other materials. Any spoiled feed or hay is removed.
- E. Feed storage containers will be vermin proof (i.e. plastic trash containers with a lid).
- F. Feed and hay will be stored off the ground.
- G. Feeding and water sanitation and storage apply to both TTU animals and student owned horses.

Pest Control

- A. The offices, feed, and tack rooms will be fogged or treated regularly for flies and mice as needed.

- B. Fly masks can be kept on horses that show sensitivity to flies or the sun during summer months.
- C. Animals will be treated for flies and other external parasites using spray, pour-on, wipe or spot-on application products approved for appropriate species use.
- D. The Department of Vector Control will be consulted and will spray regularly during the mosquito season.
- E. Open feedstuffs will be kept in closed containers to prevent contamination from vermin.
- F. Hay will be kept on pallets away from the wall to prevent contamination from vermin.
- G. Efforts will be made to eliminate standing water on the grounds to minimize mosquito breeding.

HERD HEALTH

TTU ANIMALS

- A. These include animals purchased, leased, donated (temporarily or indefinitely) or used for TTU purposes that are housed long-term (> 10 days) at TTU facilities.
- B. These are the animals that TTU staff have assumed responsibility of the daily health and care, even if TTU does not have ownership.

Records

Records will be kept on all animals housed on TTEC property and in which TTU has assumed responsibility, in a file in the Rodeo Coach's office. This does not include student owned horses or animals kept for less than 10 days.

Identification/number of all animals

- A. Registration papers if available
- B. Negative EIA (Coggins) test for horses
- C. Daily observation records by species
- D. Medical treatment records and outcome/preventative care
- E. Acquisition and Disposition
 1. Health papers (CVI) for incoming animals and/or health history stating vaccination history, castration status, deworming history, and appropriate surveillance testing results.
 2. An ACS Veterinarian will examine the appropriate documentation (e.g., vaccines, health certificates etc.) and health status of the animals before entry is permitted.
 3. Animals arriving from sources of unknown health status (e.g., no health records) intended to be housed long-term with or next to the existing herd, will not be allowed to co-mingle or be housed adjacent to existing animals until an appropriate quarantine period (minimal of 2 weeks) is observed and/or any appropriate testing and vaccinations and deworming products are administered.
 - a. Any quarantine area will need to be off premises or at approximately 100 yards from the general population.
 - b. Daily care of quarantined animals should be by separate staff or after the general population care.
 - c. When quarantined on premises, animals will have access to feed, ad libitum water and ideally shade.

4. When incoming livestock arrive to be housed long-term at rodeo facilities, a large animal receiving record will be completed and kept with the daily observation/treatment records.
5. Within approximately 48 hours upon arrival, an ACS veterinarian will inspect incoming animals that will be housed long-term at rodeo facilities.
6. If animals that are a part of the general population leave for a short period of time (e.g., practice at another facility) they may return to the general population if they did not co-mingle with another source of animals of unknown health status.
7. Sick or injured livestock must be communicated to the TTU veterinarians.
 - a. They are not permitted to leave TTU premises without receiving veterinary care or a plan of care unless they are being transported to a veterinary clinic for examination and treatment.
 - b. Leased or donated animals may be relinquished back to the owner for treatment if communicated and approved by TTU veterinarians prior to relinquishment.
 - c. All treatments, treatment plans and animals leaving the facility must be documented in the treatment records.

General Health

- A. Animals will be observed daily.
- B. Hoof care will also be monitored by staff, owner, and professional farrier.
- C. Horses will maintain a target body condition score of 5.
 1. If it is determined by an ACS veterinarian that a horse is unable to maintain a body condition score of 3.5, therapeutic action will be taken to ensure the animal is receiving the best care.

Vaccinations & Deworming

A. Horses

1. Will be annually vaccinated with a combination product that includes:
 - a. Equine Influenza (Flu), equine herpes virus (Rhino), eastern, western and Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis (EEE), (WEE), (VEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV) and tetanus.
 - b. TTU horses will be vaccinated annually with Strangles vaccine.
 - i. Horses must be vaccinated 6 weeks prior to entry or return to the TTU facility. A titer of >3200 confirming sufficient immunity could replace vaccination. Horses currently housed at TTU should not be vaccinated for IN Strangles unless the horse can be isolated/quarantined for 6 weeks.

B. Cattle

1. Ideally, animals will be procured from a supplier that has a preconditioning program that includes 2 sets of vaccines, started on feed and dewormed.
2. If not previously vaccination per records, then they will be vaccinated with a modified live virus (MLV) or killed virus vaccine that includes:
 - a. IBR, BVD type I & II, BRSV & PI3
 - b. 7 or 8-way clostridial vaccine
 - c. Pasturella

3. Oral, topical or injectable deworming product

C. Goats

1. Ideally, animals will be procured from a supplier that has a program that includes vaccinations and deworming.
2. If not previously vaccination per records, then they will be vaccinated, on arrival, with *Clostridium perfringens* type C + D and tetanus (CDT), unless records verify previously done. Goats maintained long-term will be vaccinated annually.
3. Will receive oral drench of amprolium (i.e. Corrid) product on arrival
 - a. Other anthelmintic products to be determined with the input of ACS veterinarians

Illness or Injury

- A. Rodeo coach, TTEC director, trained staff or student workers will evaluate the illness or injury.
 1. Minor illness or injuries include
 - a. Abrasion
 - b. Ringworm
 - c. Loose stool
 2. Major injuries and sick animals must be reported immediately to the University veterinarians, and will be treated with consultation, or stabilized until treatment may be rendered.
 - a. Fracture
 - b. Bloat
 - c. Respiratory distress
 - d. Inability to rise/eat
 - e. Excessive or bloody diarrhea
 3. These are only examples of injuries and illnesses. The vet will be contacted if there is any question of the delineation and to prescribe the treatment plan.
- B. In the event that an animal must be euthanized it will be done so in accordance with the AVMA Guidelines for Euthanasia as appropriate for the species (e.g. gunshot, captive bolt, barbiturates).
- C. All assessments, communications, treatments, and outcomes must be recorded in the treatment records.

STUDENT OWNED ANIMALS

- A. These are the horses that students maintain and use for rodeo events and are considered a boarder in the TTU Rodeo barns. The student maintains ownership and responsibility of their individual horse.
 1. This does not include practice stock, or family donations for team or individual practices that will be housed long-term at the TTU facilities.
- B. In the event of sickness or injury on student owned horses.
 1. The owner will be notified immediately for an illness or injury, unless a prescribed, pre-arrangement has been provided.
 2. If the owner is unable to be reached immediately, trained staff or student workers will treat minor injuries and record the treatment.

3. If it is a major injury or illness, immediate assistance should be provided to the animal by the student's veterinarian of record and owner will be notified.
4. If the owner cannot be reached, veterinary care wishes will be followed as per stated on boarding/lease contract.

Health Records for Student Owned Horses

- A. Owner information including emergency contact numbers will be posted by the stall
- B. Identification of all animals.
- C. Registration papers if available
- D. Negative EIA (Coggins) test
- E. Information provided by the owner for de-worming, vaccine, and other health-related information.
- F. Identification and emergency contact will be posted on the wall across from each horse's stall or pen, and in the Rodeo Coach office.

Vaccinations for Student Owned Horses as per the Boarding Contract

- A. Required
 1. Influenza
 2. Rhinopneumonitis
- B. Recommended
 1. Eastern/Western Encephalitis
 2. Tetanus
 3. West Nile Virus
 4. Rabies
 5. Strangles IN
 - a. Recommended but horses must be vaccinated 6 weeks prior to entry or return to the TTU facility. A titer of >3200 confirming sufficient immunity could replace vaccination. Horses currently housed at TTU should not be vaccinated for IN Strangles unless the horse can be isolated/quarantined for 6 weeks.

Providing good care

- A. Student owned animals must adhere humane health and care standards for their horses. The university precedence must be preserved regardless of ownership.
 1. Feed, hay, and water is offered in a matter to minimize contamination by urine, feces and other materials. Any spoiled feed or hay is removed.
 2. For vermin control, open feed must be in a sealed container and feed and hay must be off the ground away from the wall.
 3. Vet care is provided when necessary and for preventative care.
 4. Stall space must be kept tidy and clear of trash and debris.
- B. Negligence will be recorded, and the owner will be notified.
 1. lack of feed or water,
 2. refusal to address injuries or sickness or
 3. unacceptable living conditions
 4. The owner MUST respond IN WRITING as to how the problem is being addressed.

- C. If a pattern occurs, (three notices), the owner will be asked to leave.
 - 1. All records, notices and correspondence will be kept in a file with the Rodeo Coach.
 - 2. If the negligence is an animal welfare issue the IACUC committee and the veterinarians will be notified, who have the authority to intervene immediately.

EVENTS AND USES

ANIMAL ACTIVITIES

- A. Livestock species will be used for similar purposes as they would during collegiate rodeo competitions, including team practices and affiliated events.
- B. Animals will be used in a manner to ensure they are not overused or subjected to undue stress.

Cattle

- A. Steers
 - 1. Steers will be used for steer wrestling and team roping practices as well as events.
 - 2. Dependent on environmental temperatures, a group of older well-conditioned steers will make no more than 8 runs in a day with no consecutive runs, so that they rest between each run. New, unconditioned steers will make no more than 3 runs per day. Steers will be roped no more than 5 days per week.
 - 3. The entire group of steers is run through consecutively to keep track of number of runs. Any animal with increased respiratory rate or lameness is not roped.
- B. Calves
 - 1. Calves will be used for tie-down roping and breakaway roping practices and events.
 - 2. Dependent on environmental temperatures, older, well-conditioned tie-down roping calves will make no more than 6 runs in a day with no consecutive runs, so they are allowed to rest between each run. Young, unconditioned tie-down calves will make no more than 2 runs per day with no consecutive runs. Dependent on environmental temperatures, breakaway roping calves will make no more than 8 runs per day with no consecutive runs, so they are allowed rest between each run. Calves will be roped no more than 5 days per week.
 - 3. The entire group of calves is run through consecutively to keep track of number of runs. Any animal with increased respiratory rate or lameness is not roped.
- C. Bulls
 - 1. Bulls will be used for bull riding activities.
 - 2. Bucking bulls will be ridden a maximum of 2 times per day, and no more than 3 days per week.

Goats

- A. Goats are used for goat tying practice and events.
- B. Dependent on environmental temperatures, goats will be tied a maximum of 10 times per day and no more than 5 days per week.
- C. If goats are open-mouth breathing or excessively vocalizing they will not be utilized further.

Horses

- A. Horses will be used for bucking horse techniques.
- B. Bucking horses will be ridden a maximum of 2 times per day, and no more than 3 days per week.

TEMPORARY EVENT ANIMALS

- A. Animals brought in for temporary housing less than 10 days for affiliated events (e.g., jackpots) cannot be housed next to the general population.
- B. Animals fall under some of the TTU animal requirements but not all:
 - 1. Clean feed and ad libitum water must be provided but a shelter is not required though recommended.
 - 2. They are exempt from acquisition and daily observation records.
 - 3. These animals are exempt from the 48-hour veterinarian notice and inspection, but not from needed veterinarian care (see below).
 - 4. TTU personnel are responsible for the daily care and health monitoring while on TTU property.

VETERINARY CARE

- A. TTU Animals
 - 1. In the event of an injury to TTU livestock, personnel will follow the "Illness and Injury" reporting procedures stated above to TTU veterinarians to ensure timely intervention.
- B. NON-TTU Animals
 - 1. During any public events (e.g., TTU Rodeo, Bucking Schools etc.), a veterinarian will be pre-arranged to be on-call
 - a. On-call veterinarian contact information will be posted in the event facility during public events
 - b. Event veterinary care must be provided for all stock