High Prairie Agricultural Spociety
Stallion & Exotic Animal Policy

1. Introduction

The High Prairie Agricultural Society is committed to providing a safe, controlled, and respectful environment for all riders, handlers, spectators, and animals on Society grounds. Stallions and exotic animals present unique safety considerations due to their strength, unpredictability, and potential to cause distress or danger to other livestock and participants. This policy outlines the expectations, restrictions, and procedures governing the presence and handling of stallions and exotic animals at all Society-sanctioned events and facilities.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Protect the safety of riders, volunteers, staff, and spectators.
- Ensure compliance with Alberta regulations regarding the handling and riding of stallions.
- Reduce the risk of injury or property damage caused by stallions or exotic animals.
- Maintain a safe environment for horses and livestock that may be easily startled or endangered by unfamiliar or high-risk animals.
- Provide clear procedures for participants and organizers to follow when stallions or exotic animals are present.

3. Policy & Procedures

3.1 Stallions

- **No individual under 18 years of age may ride or handle a stallion**.
- Stallions must be **under control at all times**, handled only by competent adults with appropriate experience.
- Stallions must be **properly haltered, tied, or penned** when not being actively ridden or handled.
- Stallion owners/handlers are responsible for ensuring the animal does not pose a risk to other horses or riders.

Why We Use the 18+ Rule

Even though it is not mandated by Alberta law, the 18+ rule is used because:

- *Stallions pose higher risk due to hormonal and reactive behaviour.*
- *Insurance providers often recommend or require age restrictions.*
- *Youth riders may not have the strength or experience to safely manage a stallion in a public environment.*

3.2 Exotic Animals

For the purposes of this policy, “exotic animals” include but are not limited to: buffalo/bison, ostriches, emus, llamas, alpacas, camels, zebras, or any non-traditional livestock species not commonly used in equine environments.

Ratified by the Board of Directors: June 15, 2026

- Exotic animals may only be brought onto Society grounds with **prior written approval** from the High Prairie Ag Society.
- Exotic animals must be **securely contained** in pens, trailers, or enclosures appropriate to their species and temperament.
- Exotic animals must not be placed in areas where they may **spook or endanger horses**, riders, or spectators.
- Handlers must ensure exotic animals are kept at a **safe distance** from equine warm-up areas, arenas, barns, and high-traffic zones.
- The Society reserves the right to **deny entry or require removal** of any exotic animal deemed unsafe or disruptive.

3.3 General Safety Requirements

- Owners and handlers assume **full responsibility and liability** for their animals while on Society property.
- Any animal displaying aggressive, dangerous, or uncontrollable behaviour may be **immediately removed** at the discretion of Society officials.
- All participants must follow the instructions of event officials, volunteers, and safety personnel.
- Failure to comply with this policy may result in **removal from the grounds**, disqualification from events, or suspension from future participation.

4. Enforcement

This policy is enforced by the Ag Society Board, event organizers, and designated safety personnel. Decisions made under this policy are final and binding to ensure the safety and integrity of all Society activities.

5. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or as required to remain compliant with Alberta legislation and best practices in livestock and equine safety.

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