



## Code of Ethics HOLSTEIN NIGHT 2018

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Successfully putting together an event like ours is the result of the input of a whole team who work with the utmost professionalism to give the farming industry the best possible image.

For obvious reasons, there is a risk that some practises could be badly interpreted by the public and consequently jeopardise all the work put in leading up to this magnificent show.

It is for this reason that we ask that you follow the code of ethics described below while your animals are at the show ground.

The purpose of the code of ethics is to limit the excess administration of medications or other treatments to the animals being shown and to ensure the welfare of the animals during preparation for and participation in the competition.

### 1) Authorised practises

The following practises are permitted when preparing the animals for their exhibition at the competition or show:

1. Trimming the animal's hooves, clipping the animal's hair, washing the animal and straightening its topline (maximum length 4 cm).
2. Naturally filling the cow's udder with its own milk, as long as this is judged to be necessary and the well-being of the animal is carefully respected. Instructions will be given to the judge, who may downgrade cows with udders that are too full. The cow's teats may be sealed with collodion in order to prevent milk from leaking.
3. Oxytocin may only be used when the cow is being milked.

### 2) Non-authorised practises:

The following practises are not permitted when preparing the animals for their exhibition at the competition or show.

1. Leaving the animals outside the hall is strictly forbidden once the competition has started.
2. No substance prohibited by Belgian legislation may be administered, either at the competition or prior to the competition, to the exhibited animals.
3. Artificially altering the natural position of the teats.

4. Obstructing the flow of milk using glue (such as Superglue). The use of collodion is permitted.
5. Applying a non-bodily substance under the skin with the intention of modifying the natural contours of the animal's body or coat.
6. Any surgical intervention carried out on the udders at any point during the animal's life, except the removal of extra teats.
7. Treating the udders and/or teats with any irritant (for example Final Mist). The use of Babygel is permitted.
8. Modifying the appearance of the central suspensory ligament with a thin cord or any other suspension tool.
9. Using equipment that promotes blood circulation in the udder.
10. Administering substances (orally, rectally or vaginally) that modify the natural contours of the animal.
11. Animals may not be drenched unless on the advice of a vet.
12. Any other treatment, physical intervention or action that means that the animal is presented with a non-natural appearance and that, according to the Holstein Committee or its delegated representatives, could give the exhibitor an unfair advantage.

### **3) Administration of veterinary treatment**

1. Once you have arrived at the competition site and if required, the vet approved by the Holstein Night may treat your animal.
2. **From Saturday morning (the day of the competition)**, treatment may only be provided by the vet approved by the Organising Committee. This vet will be on site for the entire competition. This vet will prioritise carrying out **all treatment** in the area reserved for this purpose. Nevertheless, the vet may carry out treatment at his/her absolute discretion in any area of hall 2.

### **4) Ethics inspection**

At the request of the Holstein herdbook and with a view to applying best practices in preparation, an Ethics Committee will be appointed to inspect the animals before they enter the ring, in particular looking at how full the udders are to ensure no animals have overfull udders.

Please bring your animal to the pre-ring before the start of the category for the inspection **early enough** to leave time to adjust the fullness of the udders, if necessary and at the discretion of the vets.

If any farmer does not adhere to this code of ethics, follow the instructions of the Ethics Committee or behaves in an undesirable or inappropriate manner, they will not be allowed to participate in the competition with their animal.

The owner(s) or exhibitor must submit, upon request of a member of the Ethics Committee, the animal to be checked at any time before, during or after the show. More specifically, they may require the animal to be examined (for example a blood test or ultrasound).

By participating you confirm that you accept the code of ethics.

**The Organising Committee would like all farmers to comply with this code in the interests of the show and Holstein farming.**