

ANIMAL HEALTH CHECKS: DOGS



Quality health checks are the first line of defense for protecting humans and animals from contagious diseases at fairs and other animal events. Use this checklist to confirm that animals participating in an agricultural fair or event are visibly healthy. Health checks should be completed inside the trailer or right outside; do not permit the animal to walk through the fairgrounds, barns or event before confirming its health status. Use gloves and other personal protective equipment (PPE) as appropriate. Disinfect footwear between assessments on animals not housed together. Change your clothes after completing the animal assessments. Wipe down any equipment like flashlights or radios between groups of animals. Certain conditions and observations noted within this checklist may not pose a significant public or animal health risk. In such cases, decisions regarding an animal's eligibility for exhibition should be made in consultation with event leadership and/or the on-call veterinarian. Follow any additional policies provided by event leadership and your state's Department of Agriculture.

Identification

- ☐ Collar with tag that displays ID number matching registration information
- ☐ Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)
- ☐ Physical rabies certificate and valid state dog license

General Appearance

- ☐ Adequate overall physical condition
- ☐ No signs of injury or wounds
- ☐ Adequate hydration: skin returns quickly after being gently pinched
- ☐ No signs of stress, including excessive panting or self-injury
- ☐ No signs of respiratory challenges, including coughing

Nose, Eyes, and Mouth

- ☐ No discharge from nose
- ☐ Clear eyes without inflammation, discharge, clouding, abnormal blinking, or sensitivity to light
- ☐ Pink gums without bleeding, inflammation, or other signs of infection or bleeding

Skin and Hair

- ☐ Clean coat without any signs of hair loss, matting, flaking of the skin, or inflammation
- ☐ No external parasites, including ticks and fleas
- ☐ No excessive licking or scratching

Rear End

- ☐ No sign of heat in bitches (swollen vulva, pink to red discharge, flagging)
- ☐ No unusual discharge from the vulva
- ☐ Anal area free of redness, inflammation, and signs of scooting or extreme licking

Paws and Legs

- ☐ Well-maintained nails trimmed to an appropriate length with no signs of injury
- ☐ Paws free of wounds, infections, and pain
- ☐ No signs of lameness, joint pain, or stiffness in legs



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Identification:

Collar with tag that matching ID number; valid CVI; physical rabies certificate and valid state dog license

General Body:

Adequate overall physical condition; no signs of injury, wounds, or stress, including excessive panting or self-injury. No signs of respiratory challenges, including coughing.

Nose, Eyes, and Mouth:

Clear eyes without signs of injury or injection; no nasal discharge; healthy gums.



Skin and Coat:

Clean coat without any signs of hair loss, matting, flaking of the skin, or inflammation. No external parasites, excessive licking, or scratching.

Rear:

No sign of heat or unusual discharge from the vulva. Anal area free of redness, inflammation, and signs of scooting or extreme licking.

Paws and Legs:

Well-maintained nails with no signs of injury; paws free of wounds, infections, and pain; no signs of lameness, joint pain, or stiffness in legs.

The BE SAFE Project and this fact sheet are supported by Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement. Farm Credit Northeast AgEnhancement supports programs, projects and events that are intended to strengthen Northeast agriculture, commercial fishing and forest products. This program is a combined effort of Farm Credit East and CoBank.

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