

Holstein USA National Showring Policy

(Text below is excerpted from the "National Show Program" has been adapted to our show)

Showing Cattle is an important part of promoting, merchandising and breeding Registered Holsteins for breeders and Holstein USA, Inc.(and the California Holstein Association). It is also in the best interest of Registered Holstein breeders to maintain integrity and present a positive and progressive image of themselves and their cattle in the showring.

ETHICS

At all times, Registered Holsteins shall be treated in a humane manner and in accordance with dairy quality assurance practices so as to protect the health, safety and welfare of the livestock and consuming public. No person shall present for exhibition or exhibit an animal which he or she knows or has reason to suspect, is affected with or has been exposed to a dangerously contagious or infectious disease illness, or illegal or non-approved use of drugs, medication and/or prohibited substance, or residue. The position of Holstein Association USA (and California Holstein Association) is that all animals presented for exhibition shall be in their natural confirmation and structure, free of any alteration or modification caused by unethical fitting.

- A. The following practices or procedures are considered unacceptable and defined as being fraudulent and/or unethical in the showing of Registered Holstein cattle:
 1. Misrepresenting the age and/or milking status of the animal for the class in which it is shown.
 2. Treating the animal, particularly the udder, internally or externally
 - a. with an irritant or counter-irritant
 - b. using a device to artificially create or enhance the udder crease,
 - c. using other substances as detected by testing that cause changes in the udder to artificially improve the conformation.
 3. Surgery or unethical insertion of any matter under the skin or into body cavities, performed to change the natural contour or appearance of the animal's body though not to preclude practices required or involved in normal management.
 4. Criticizing or interfering with the judge, show management, or other exhibitors while in the showring, or other conduct detrimental to the breed or the show.
- B. The following practices and procedures are considered to detract from the image of the showring when carried to excess and will be taken into consideration by the show judge in placing animals within a class:
 1. Changing the natural color of the animal is prohibited. However, external applications of cosmetics that affect only appearance may be used, including by way of example hoof polishes and false switches.
 2. The maximum allowable length of naturally growing hair anywhere on the topline is not to exceed 1 ½ inches. Exhibitors will be asked to comply with this rule before the animal is allowed to enter the ring.
 3. Addition of foreign objects, including but not limited to hair or hair substitutes (except false switches) cloth or fiber, to change the natural contour or appearance of the animal's body is prohibited.
 4. Unsportsmanlike conduct by exhibitors.
 5. Improper fitting practices such as overfilling and over-bagging.
 6. Externally sealing the teat end with a preparation that does not harm the animal's skin is permissible. Natural teat placement will be given preference over artificially positioned teats.

. In keeping with the basic philosophy of the Holstein Association USA, ethics are an individual responsibility of the owner of each animal shown. The act of entering an animal in the State Holstein Show is the giving of consent by the owner, exhibitor, fitter and/or absolutely responsible person (the "Exhibitor") to have disciplinary action for violation of this Showring Policy taken by show management and/or the CA State Holstein Association without recourse.