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Youth Signature : _____ Date: _____

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Maryland 4-H Behavioral Expectations



A goal of the Maryland 4-H program is to provide opportunities for children and youth to build character. Maryland 4-H supports the **CHARACTER COUNTS!**SM six pillars of character: **TRUSTWORTHINESS, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, FAIRNESS, CARING AND CITIZENSHIP.** In order to ensure that Maryland 4-H programs provide positive environments for all individuals to learn and grow, 4-H participants agree to abide by these expectations of behavior:

(CHARACTER COUNTS! is a service mark of the CHARACTER COUNTS! Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics.)

I will be trustworthy. I will be worthy of trust, honor and confidence. I will be a model of integrity by doing the right thing even when the cost is high. I will be honest in all my activities. I will keep my commitments by attending all sessions of the planned event. If I am not feeling well or have a schedule conflict, I will inform my chaperon or a person in charge. I will be in the assigned area (e.g., club meeting room, building, dorm) at all times. Maryland 4-H does not permit dishonesty by lying, cheating, deception or omission.

I will be respectful. I will show respect, courtesy, and consideration to everyone, including myself, other program participants and those in authority. I will act and speak respectfully. I will treat program areas, lodging areas, and transportation vehicles with respect. I will not use vulgar or abusive language or cause physical harm. I will appreciate diversity in skill, gender, ethnicity and ability. Maryland 4-H does not tolerate statements or acts of discrimination or prejudice.

I will be responsible. I will be responsible, accountable and self-disciplined in the pursuit of excellence. I will live up to high expectations so I can be proud of my work and conduct. I will be on time to all program events. I will be accountable by accepting responsibility for my choices and actions. I will abide by the established program curfew. I will be responsible for any damage, theft or misconduct in which I participate.

I will be fair. I will be just, fair and open. I will participate in events fairly by following the rules, not taking advantage of others and not asking for special exceptions.

I will be caring. I will be caring in my relationships with others. I will be kind and show compassion for others. I will treat others the way I want to be treated. I will show appreciation for the efforts of others. I will help members in my group to have a good experience by striving to include all participants.

I will be a good citizen. I will be a contributing and law-abiding citizen. I will be respectful to the environment and contribute to the greater good. I will not use any illegal substances such as tobacco, alcohol and drugs.

Maryland 4-H Behavioral Expectations



I. Maryland 4-H expects youth participating in programs to behave in an acceptable manner and in accordance with the Maryland 4-H Behavioral Expectations outlined on the reverse side of this document. 4-H participants who engage in unacceptable conduct, including the following behaviors, are subject to discipline.

- Possession, use, or distribution of alcohol and/or illegal drugs.
- Possession or use of weapons or dangerous materials.
- Possession or use of tobacco products.
- Misuse of prescription or nonprescription drugs.
- Sexual activity.
- Lying, cheating, misrepresenting project work or other unethical practices.
- Unauthorized absence from program site.
- Physical, verbal, emotional, or mental abuse of, or threats toward another person.
- Theft, destruction, or abuse of property.

II. A participant in a 4-H program who engages in conduct (including the above behaviors) that, in the discretion of the extension faculty, staff or UME volunteer in charge, may jeopardize the health or safety of the participant or others, or the integrity of 4-H, will be dismissed immediately from the program (meeting, activity, event, trip, camp, etc.). The participant's parent or guardian will be responsible for providing transportation home for a child if dismissed.

III. Following a program, a participant and his/her parent or guardian will be notified in writing of the nature of any unacceptable conduct for which sanctions (up to and including suspension from one or more 4-H programs or dismissal from (4-H) are being considered. In such cases:

- The extension faculty or staff member with overall responsibility for the program will set up a meeting to hear the 4-H member. The 4-H member's parent or guardian will be permitted to be present at such time. At the discretion of UME or at the request of the 4-H participant, a committee may be appointed by UME to review the matter.
- Following the meeting, the 4-H participant and his or her parent/guardian will be notified in writing of the outcome of the meeting and any sanction(s) to be imposed.
- Sanctions may be appealed in writing within seven (7) days after receiving notice of the decision, to the County/City Extension Director (CED). In the event that the extension faculty in charge also serves as the CED, the appeal will be made to the Regional Extension Director (RED).
- The 4-H participant and his/her parent or guardian will be notified in writing of the decision of the CED (or RED). The decision of the CED (or RED) may be appealed in writing to the State 4-H Leader within seven (7) days after receiving notice of the decision. The decision of the State 4-H Leader will be final.

"I HAVE READ THE MARYLAND 4-H BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS AND THE MARYLAND 4-H DISCIPLINARY POLICY AND PROCEDURES. I AM AWARE THAT MY ACTIONS AND DECISIONS AFFECT ME AND OTHERS AND MAY RESULT IN LOSS OF PRIVILEGES DURING 4-H PROGRAMS, AND FOR FUTURE PROGRAMS. I WILL ACCEPT THE APPROPRIATE AND LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF MY ACTIONS, AS DETERMINED BY MARYLAND 4-H."

Member Signature _____ Date _____

"AS THE PARENT/GUARDIAN OF _____, I HAVE READ THE MARYLAND 4-H BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS AND THE MARYLAND 4-H DISCIPLINARY POLICY AND PROCEDURES AND WILL SUPPORT THE INDIVIDUAL IN CHARGE IN MAINTAINING APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR. I AGREE TO ACCEPT THE APPROPRIATE AND LOGICAL CONSEQUENCES OF MY CHILD'S ACTIONS AS DETERMINED BY MARYLAND 4-H."

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Updated for Extension name and logo change- AMT 2/2010

University of Maryland Extension programs are open to all citizens without regard to race, color, gender, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, or national origin.

**University of Maryland Extension (UME)
4-H Code of Animal Science Ethics**



4-H members enrolled in animal science projects (e.g., beef, camelids, dairy, dog, goat, horse, poultry, rabbit, sheep, small pet, and swine) shall, at all times, conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship, including while with their projects and at all 4-H animal science activities and events. Their conduct should always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity to promote the advancement of 4-H and its animal science program. 4-H members, as well as parents, UME volunteers and others working with them, are under an affirmative responsibility to do more than avoid improper conduct or questionable acts; and their conduct and values must serve as a positive influence on others.

This Code of Ethics applies to all 4-H members who are enrolled in animal science projects, and to others (4-Hers, parents, volunteers, owners, etc.) who participate in the animal science program; and it covers daily animal care, as well as participation in competition and other 4-H animal activities and events.

4-H members and others who violate this Code of Ethics demean the integrity of 4-H and its animal science program. 4-H members who violate the code of animal science ethics are subject to sanctions including, but not limited to, forfeiture of premiums, awards, and/or auction proceeds and may be prohibited from participation in 4-H or 4-H/UME events or activities; other violators may also be subject to sanction, as appropriate. Infractions may be reviewed by 4-H and/or UME (on the local or state level, as appropriate to the infraction and to the event and/or activity in question), and/or may be subject to a fair oversight committee or other entity that oversees an activity or event. In addition, some acts may also be subject to review based upon the 4-H Behavioral Expectations (4-H 418) and/or other UME policies.

The following is a list of standards and requirements for all 4-H animal science projects, at all times, whether at home, at animal exhibitions or events, or any other 4-H event or activity.

1. The care of all 4-H project animals is the responsibility of the 4-H member. 4-H members must properly care for and groom their animals for the duration of their project.
2. All project animals are expected to be housed at the 4-H member's residence unless a different location is submitted to and approved in writing by the local 4-H staff. Any change in location must be approved in writing by the local 4-H staff; however, it is not necessary to report direct transport to and from shows or other events.
3. Upon request of 4-H, UME, or other program, fair, event or animal officials, 4-H members must present proof of ownership, length of ownership, identity and/or age of all 4-H project animals owned or leased. Misrepresentation of ownership, age, or identity of animal, or any facts relating thereto is prohibited. If a 4-H project animal is sold in a livestock sale, it is no longer eligible to be shown in a 4-H event in Maryland in that year.
4. 4-H members must provide appropriate animal health certificates upon request of 4-H, UME, or other program, fair, event or animal officials.
5. 4-H project animals must be presented to competition, activities and/or events, where they will enter the food chain, free of volatile drug residues. Animals which are presented to competition, events and/or activities that do not culminate with the animal entering the food chain, shall not be administered drugs other than in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations and rules. 4-H project animals shall not be exhibited if drugs administered in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations and rules may affect the animal's performance or appearance at the event. At any time after an animal arrives on a fair or other 4-H activity or event premises, a licensed veterinarian must administer or, in consultation with fair, event, UME, or 4-H officials, direct the administration of any treatments involving the use of drugs and/or medications.
6. The act of enrolling in a 4-H animal science project, and/or entering a project animal in a 4-H competition, show, activity, or other event, gives consent for 4-H or UME or event authorities to obtain any specimens of urine, saliva, blood, hair, tissue, or other substance from the animal to be used for testing purposes including, but not limited to, drugs or identification. It is presumed that the sample of urine, saliva, blood or other substance tested by the approved laboratory to which it is sent is the one taken from the animal in question, its integrity is preserved, and all procedures of said collection and preservation, transfer to the laboratory and analysis of the sample are correct and accurate and the report received from the laboratory pertains to the sample taken from the animal in question and correctly reflects the condition of the animal at the time the sample was taken, with the burden on the 4-H owner to prove otherwise at any review in regard to the matter conducted by a fair or other event or the 4-H program. If the laboratory report on the chemical analysis of saliva, urine, blood, hair, tissue or other sample, taken from a 4-H animal science project, indicates the presence

