

2026 Yealmpton Show Animal Welfare Protocol

Further to our recent Facebook posts about animal welfare, with regard to the high temperatures at the forthcoming Yealmpton Show on Wednesday 29th July, we wanted to share our protocol that is in place with you.

We take animal welfare extremely seriously and have put comprehensive measures in place to ensure the highest standards of care across all sections of the show.

All sheep exhibitors have been instructed to provide adequate shade for their animals. In practice, they are already very good at this, routinely bringing gazebos, umbrellas, and other forms of cover. Fresh water will be available throughout the day to ensure animals remain hydrated.

Cattle exhibitors have been given the same instructions, with clear guidance on shade, water, and monitoring throughout the event.

For horses, we have reduced the time spent in the ring. A large, well-shaded holding area is available under ancient trees, providing excellent natural cover while horses wait. The Working Hunter class has been cancelled due to the hard ground conditions, as jumping would not be appropriate or safe. Again, fresh water will be available throughout the day to ensure animals remain hydrated.

If the dog show goes ahead, it will take place in one of the most shaded areas of the showground, as it does in normal years, ensuring dogs remain cool and comfortable.

We have increased our veterinary presence on site so that, should any animal require assistance, support is immediately available.

We have also taken advice from DEFRA and the Ministry Vets, who have reviewed our plans and confirmed that they are entirely appropriate for the forecast conditions. Alongside guidance from the ASAO, they have stated that our welfare measures are fully acceptable given the current predicted temperature of below 30°C on the 29th.

To reassure you, our main ring attraction, Colt Bandersnatch and his Wild West Extravaganza will still be performing.

Animal welfare remains our top priority, and we are confident that these steps provide robust protection for all animals attending the show.

Please follow our Facebook page to ensure you receive any further updates or announcements we might make. We look forward to seeing you all at the show - and don't forget the sunscreen!