



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ANIMAL HEALTH SECTION

50 HARRY S. TRUMAN PARKWAY, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

410.841.5810

mda.maryland.gov



2026 MARYLAND ANIMAL HEALTH EXHIBITION (FAIR AND SHOW) REQUIREMENTS

Ref: COMAR 15.11.14.06

[MDA WEBSITE](#)

Effective: February 1, 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INFORMATION.....	2
1. NOTABLE CHANGES FOR 2026.....	3
2. REQUIREMENTS FOR SPONSORS.....	5
3. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EXHIBITORS.....	5
SPECIES SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS.....	9
1. CATTLE.....	10
2. SWINE.....	12
3. SHEEP.....	13
4. GOATS.....	13
5. HORSES, PONIES, MULES AND OTHER EQUIDAE.....	15
6. POULTRY.....	16
7. RABBITS.....	18
8. CAMELIDS.....	19
9. PETTING ZOOS/COMMERCIAL ANIMAL EXHIBITS.....	20

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Animal Health Program strives to safeguard Maryland's animal industries at our fairs and shows. With an increased potential of disease transmission occurring when large numbers of animals gather for exhibition, MDA has set forth requirements for exhibitors to follow at Maryland fairs and shows. As an exhibitor, you can help reduce the potential risk of introduction and spread of infectious and/or contagious diseases by following the species-specific health requirements below. Fairs may impose more stringent rules than the requirements in this document at their own discretion. All exhibitors are encouraged to check with the management of each fair in advance to ensure compliance with all fair requirements. These requirements and recommendations are a shared responsibility of show management and exhibitors to protect public and animal health in the state. Exhibitors and exhibition managers are expected to comply with all applicable Maryland laws. These requirements are subject to change. For the most up to date requirements please refer to our [website](#).

NOTABLE 2026 ANIMAL HEALTH REQUIREMENTS:

1. CERTIFICATES OF VETERINARY INSPECTION (CVI):

- a. Maryland CVI's are now valid for **ONLY 60 days** (NOT 120 days).
- b. Online CVIs have always been accepted and are **strongly recommended**.
Veterinarians are encouraged to use electronic CVI's. Owners are required to produce a copy (digital or printed).
- c. Starting in 2026, there is a fee for paper CVI's (\$3/certificate). They will be distributed in packs of 25 (\$75/pack) with a shipping fee of \$25. We will **NOT** be printing more CVI's, therefore once our inventory is out, you will be required to use an electronic CVI.
- d. Equids will be required to have either a CVI or verification of a veterinary-client-patient-relationship (VCPR).
- e. It is strongly recommended that all rabbits be accompanied by a CVI.

2. EXHIBITOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. All animals that originate from a location other than Maryland shall meet all Maryland State importation regulations appropriate to the species in addition to the fair animal health requirements.
- b. It is strongly recommended that animals returning home from exhibitions be isolated from other members of the herd or flock for a minimum of 14 days to help prevent the spread of disease. We recommend that exhibitors of all animals discuss the health of their animals, including vaccine recommendations and other preventative measures, with a veterinarian on a regular basis. Owners and their veterinarians should carefully check and comply with additional requirements specific to each exhibition prior to the exhibition to ensure eligibility.

3. EXHIBITION BIOSECURITY AND SPACE REQUIREMENTS

- a. Note the recommendations for poultry, rabbits, and commercial animal exhibits in their designated sections.
- b. An exhibition facility and its associated buildings shall be cleaned and disinfected with a State Veterinarian-approved disinfectant and used in accordance with label

instructions before animals are admitted and between groups of animals when housing is rotated.

- i. Approved Disinfectants: follow label directions for use of any disinfectant, if not specified below.
 1. Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxides (Accel,® Intervention®, or Rescue®)
 2. Bleach (such as Clorox®) at a ratio of 1:32, which is $\frac{1}{2}$ cup (4 oz.) to 1 gallon of water. Do not add ammonia to bleach/water mixture.
 3. Phenolic disinfectants (like Pinesol ®) for poultry equipment and pens
 4. Virkon-S®

4. RESPONSIBLE PERSON ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

- a. All responsible persons or superintendents at exhibitions will be required to fill out an acknowledgement form of exhibition requirements and biosecurity best practices.
- b. This form is available on [MDA's website](#) and should be returned to our office at least 30 days prior to the event.

5. MARYLAND POULTRY:

- a. For avian influenza testing, a representative sample of **10 BIRDS PER PREMISES** must be tested within 21 days of the event start date, regardless of National Poultry Improvement Program (NPIP) status.
 - i. If there are less than 10 birds, then all birds must be tested.
 - ii. Owners are required to produce a copy of the test results (digital or printed).
- b. Meat birds are required to be tested for AI.
- c. Meat bird projects, properly identified with a leg/wing band, do not need to be PT tested but must be separated from other untested birds on the premises.

6. MARYLAND EQUIDS:

- a. Maryland equids must have verification of a veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR). This can be either a current CVI or EECVI (recommended), however, a completed VCPR form is acceptable. Owners are required to produce a copy (digital or printed). Please visit our [website](#) for the VCPR form.
- b. It is the responsibility of the horse owner to be aware of any changes to health and travel requirements during disease outbreaks that may be posted to our [website](#). Consult with your veterinarian to understand the risks associated with travel to equine events.
- c. An Equine Exhibitor's Self Certification of Animal Health is **required** for each equine entering a fair/show-type event where multiple livestock species are present. The form must be available for inspection if requested (digital or printed). Those participating in equine-only shows and events are exempt from this requirement.

d. INSTRUCTIONS TO EQUINE EVENT MANAGERS

- i. An equine event is any **organized** equine show, sale/auction, exhibition, contest, fair, trail ride, parade, wagon train, charity or social event, or any

other occurrence at which any number of horses of more than one (1) owner are gathered.

1. Proof of a valid negative Coggins's is required for ALL events except sales and auctions in which all horses will be tested for equine infectious anemia.
2. Maryland equids must have verification of a veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR). This can be either a current CVI or EECVI (recommended), however, a completed VCPR form is acceptable.
- ii. MDA Animal Health will contact equine event managers after receiving a copy of their notification form for exhibition to ensure that all participating horses have a valid negative Coggins.
- iii. A valid test is one which has a negative result from blood drawn less than one (1) year from the event date and matches the horse presented. One person should be designated by the organization to serve as the equine event manager. Additionally, the event manager is subject to notification prior to the event to provide the Equine Event Report or a similar report, that each horse at the event has a valid negative Coggins's test.
- iv. COMAR 15.11.12.03 states that:
 1. All equines over 9 months old assembled for supervised exhibition in the State shall have been found negative to an official test for equine infectious anemia made within 12 months before the date of the event. The supervisor of the event shall ascertain that a copy of the official negative test results accompanies each equine to the event and shall make a list of the entries and their test status available for inspection by a representative of the Secretary upon request.

7. DEFINITIONS:

- a. PETTING ZOO
 - i. An exhibition where the public is encouraged to touch/interact with any livestock or other animals.
 - ii. This can include but is not limited to pony rides and fair and show petting zoos.
- b. COMMERCIAL ANIMAL EXHIBIT
 - i. A public display of animals for profit, which can include goat yoga, cow cuddling, piglet snuggling, rent-a-chick etc.
 1. These exhibits are subject to regulations, such as those under the Animal Welfare Act, which mandate minimum standards of care for animals that are exhibited.
 2. Exhibitors must have a valid commercial animal exhibit registration through the Maryland Department of Agriculture. The form is available on MDA's [website](#).
- c. EDUCATIONAL ANIMAL EXHIBIT
 - i. Breed displays, birthing centers and other displays/exhibits where the public is **not** permitted to touch the animals.

MARYLAND LAW PROVIDES PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF ANIMAL HEALTH LAW AND REGULATIONS. LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY FAILING TO MEET COMPLETE DOCUMENTATION OF ALL REQUIREMENTS WILL BE DENIED ENTRY OR REMOVED FROM THE EXHIBITION - "REJECTED." SEE ANIMAL REJECTION POLICY UNDER GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EXHIBITORS.

REQUIREMENTS FOR SPONSORS OF A LIVESTOCK/POULTRY EXHIBITION
(COMAR 15.11.14.05)

1. **NOTIFICATION:** Exhibit sponsors must notify the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), of intent to sponsor an event that includes the exhibition of livestock or poultry no less than 30 days before the proposed event. Please fill out all contact information correctly, to include a phone number and email address. Animal arrival times MUST be provided to ensure coverage for entry. Please call 410.841.5810 to request a **NOTIFICATION FORM** or go to MDA's [website](#).
2. **RESPONSIBLE PERSON ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM:** All responsible persons or superintendents at exhibitions will be required to fill out an acknowledgement form of exhibition requirements and biosecurity best practices. This form is available on MDA's [website](#) and should be returned to our office at least 30 days prior to the event.
3. **REPORTING:** Sponsors must report to MDA, within 24 hours, any animal from the exhibition suspected of having or showing obvious, apparent, or known signs of a contagious or infectious disease and/or deaths; and exclude from the exhibition premises any animals having obvious, apparent, or known signs of a contagious or infectious disease. A summary of all disease events shall be provided to MDA, in the form of an animal incident report. Call 410.841.5810 to request an **ANIMAL INCIDENT REPORT FORM** or go to MDA's [website](#).
4. **RECORDS:** Exhibit sponsors must maintain a report of the owner, premises location, and species of all animals attending the exhibition and provide this report to MDA if requested.
5. **EXEMPTIONS:** Exemptions of this regulation may be granted. (Refer to COMAR 15.11.14.05)

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR EXHIBITORS OF ALL ANIMAL SPECIES
(COMAR 15.11.14.04-06)

- **Exhibitors** at state, county, and district fairs, along with other livestock exhibitions, expositions, rodeos, shows, and swap meets are required to comply with regulatory provisions of the State of Maryland relating to animal health as noted in COMAR 15.11.14.04-06.
- **Requirements apply to all livestock and poultry:** Livestock is defined as those species of animals used for human food or fiber or those species of animals used for

service to humans. This includes but is not limited to cattle, bison, sheep, goats, swine, equine, New World camelids (llamas & alpacas), privately owned cervids, and rabbits. Livestock does not include dogs, cats, and exotic pets. Poultry is defined as any living domestic bird raised for food or other purposes including, but not limited to, chickens, turkeys, ostriches, emus, rheas, cassowaries, other ratites, waterfowl, and game birds. This includes hatching eggs.

1. **DOCUMENTATION:** Documentation is required for entry of all livestock and poultry and is described below. Examples of forms can be obtained by visiting our [website](#).
 - a. For out-of-state animals, see each species' specific out-of-state requirements. Upon request, a person who exhibits livestock or poultry shall present for inspection all reports, test results, and appropriate health certificates required to accompany their animal(s).
2. **CERTIFICATE OF VETERINARY INSPECTION (CVI)**
 - a. **MARYLAND ENTRIES:** All Maryland livestock entries must be accompanied by a Maryland Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) for show. It is recommended for rabbits and poultry. Equines are required to have either a VCPR form or CVI (preferred).
 - i. A CVI is **valid for 60 days for Maryland fairs and shows**, providing that the status of the herd or animal(s) does not change.
 - ii. A CVI is a **legible record**, made on an official Maryland State form or via an approved electronic CVI platform. CVI's are issued by a licensed Maryland and USDA Category II accredited veterinarian for animals being shown within the state that meet the health requirements of the state of Maryland.
 - iii. The CVI **must be completed and signed by a licensed, accredited veterinarian (as described above)**. Each animal must be properly identified on the CVI. The veterinarian must select if this document is for fair and exhibition season, sale or other (with explanation).
 - iv. The veterinarian is required to send the original paper CVI (white and canary copies) to MDA Headquarters **within 7 days of completion**. The middle (pink transport copy) is to be retained by the owner and should accompany livestock during travel. The last (goldenrod copy) is for the veterinarian's records.
 - v. **Electronic CVI's from an approved platform are recommended. The owner can produce either a digital or printed copy.**
 - vi. Starting in 2026, there is a fee for paper CVI's (\$3/certificate). They will be distributed in packs of 25 (\$75/pack) with a shipping fee of \$25. We will **NOT** be printing more CVI's, therefore, once our inventory is out, you will be required to use an electronic CVI.
 - vii. In 2027, paper CVI's will no longer be accepted.
 - b. **OUT-OF-STATE ENTRIES:** All out-of-state entries must be accompanied by an **Interstate Certificate of Veterinary Inspection**, except poultry.
 - i. The Interstate CVI is **valid for no more than 30 days** from the date of inspection.
 - ii. An Interstate CVI must be **legible**, made on an official form of the state of origin, issued by a licensed, accredited veterinarian (both USDA and in

the state or origin), and issued for animals being imported to this state within 30 days before the entry of the animals, which shows that the animals listed meet the health requirements of the state of Maryland. **If this CVI is completed via an approved electronic platform, the owner can produce either a digital or printed copy.**

- iii. In 2027, paper CVI's will no longer be accepted for any out-of-state entries.

3. **SELF-CERTIFICATION:** A completed ***Self-Certification form*** is required for all entries.

- a. Self-Certification forms **must be filled out within 24 hours prior to loading** and presented upon request to the designated representative. Owners can produce either a digital or printed copy.
 - i. A Self-Certification is an official Maryland document **signed by the owner/caretaker/transporter** stating that the animals presented for exhibition are not showing any signs of or having recent exposure to infectious or contagious diseases (within the last 21 days).
 - ii. Forms are species-specific for livestock, equine, poultry and rabbits. They are available on MDA's Animal Health [website](#).

4. **TEST REPORT FORMS:** Testing is required for some species, and if so, a test report form will be required unless otherwise documented on the CVI. See species-specific requirements for details of testing and test report requirements. Examples of test reports are shown below:

- a. Avian Influenza Test Report
- b. Pullorum-Typhoid Test Report
- c. Coggins Test Report (Equine Infectious Anemia)
- d. Tuberculosis Test Report
- e. HPAI Milk Test Report for LACTATING DAIRY cattle

5. **MARYLAND POULTRY PREMISES IDENTIFICATION:** All Maryland premises with poultry are required to be registered with MDA. The Poultry Premises number must be noted on the Test Report or other documentation of NPIP U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid and U.S. H5/ H7 Avian Influenza Clean or State H5/H7 Monitored status. To obtain a poultry premises number, please fill out the application available on our [website](#).

6. **ANIMAL REJECTION POLICY:** Animals may be rejected from an exhibition, either denied entry or removed from the exhibition, as described below:

- a. **FAILURE TO PROVIDE COMPLETED DOCUMENTATION IS GROUNDS FOR REJECTION.**
- b. Suspicion of communicable disease is adequate grounds for rejection. **Confirmed diagnosis is not required** since timely removal of suspicious animals is required by law to protect the remaining animals.
- c. Livestock with clinical signs of infectious or contagious diseases or external parasites are not permitted entry or allowed to remain at the exhibition. Clinical signs include, but are not limited to, active lesions of ringworm, sore mouth, sore nose, caseous lymphadenitis, mange, or multiple warts easily visible without close examination.

- d. Exposed animals may be rejected if it is believed that there is a potentially serious communicable disease present. All animals originating with the suspect animal may be rejected. Vesicular diseases are of particular concern.
- e. All decisions are final.
- f. All parties involved will be notified of all rejections, including exhibit sponsors and supervisors.
- g. Animal rejections can be made by MDA Animal Health veterinarians or field inspectors, private veterinarians contracted by the show, Maryland Extension employees, or individuals designated by the fair or show as a 'responsible person.'

SPECIES-SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the general requirements above, specific requirements by species are shown for the following species:

- [CATTLE](#)
- [SWINE](#)
- [SHEEP](#)
- [GOATS](#)
- [HORSES, PONIES, MULES AND OTHER EQUIDAE](#)
- [POULTRY](#)
- [RABBITS](#)
- [CAMELIDS](#)
- [PETTING ZOOS AND COMMERCIAL ANIMAL EXHIBITS](#)

FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS: **CATTLE**

ALL CATTLE

IDENTIFICATION: INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFICATION OF EACH ANIMAL SHALL BE A 15 DIGIT 840 ISO-COMPLIANT RFID EAR TAG.

RODEO CATTLE must have official individual ID that is recognized by the USDA (9 CFR Parts 71, 77, 78, and 86). Rodeo Cattle are NOT allowed to commingle with any other cattle at the exhibition.

SELF-CERTIFICATION: All cattle exhibitors are **required** to complete and produce (digital or printed) a Livestock Exhibitor's Self Certification of Animal Health.

MARYLAND CATTLE

- **INFLUENZA A:** No testing requirements for Maryland cattle.
- **BRUCELLOSIS:** Maryland is a Bovine Brucellosis Class-Free State. Brucellosis testing is not required for Maryland cattle.
- **TUBERCULOSIS:** Maryland is an Accredited Tuberculosis-Free State. A tuberculin test is not required for Maryland cattle.
- **IMMUNIZATION:** Bovine Respiratory Disease Complex vaccination is recommended for all cattle to include Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus, Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus, Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis and Parainfluenza. Leptospirosis vaccination is also recommended.

OUT-OF-STATE CATTLE

- **INFLUENZA A:**
 - a. For LACTATING DAIRY cattle:
 - i. Defined as a cow that is producing milk, regardless of the volume of milk that she is producing. This does not include dairy calves, pregnant heifers, or dairy cows that are 'dry' or no longer producing milk.
 - ii. A milk sample from all four quarters must be tested for Influenza A within 7 days of travel, and results must be recorded on the CVI. Failure to comply will result in denied entry. **A bulk tank sample will not be accepted.**
- **BRUCELLOSIS:**
 - a. Bovine Brucellosis Class-Free State, Region or Zone
 - i. No brucellosis test required.
 - b. Non-Bovine Brucellosis Class-Free State, Region or Zone
 - i. Official vaccines under 24 months old with vaccination dates recorded on the Interstate CVI permitted, or
 - ii. Test negative within 30 days before entry.
- **TUBERCULOSIS:**
 - a. Accredited Tuberculosis-Free State, Region or Zone
 - i. No tuberculin test required.
 - b. Modified Accredited Advanced or lower Tuberculosis Free Areas or States (Not TB Free)
 - i. All cattle over 6 months of age shall comply with the following:

1. Cattle must originate from a herd where a complete herd test was conducted within the past 12 months; progeny from such herds born since that test may be imported without a tuberculin test, or
2. Any individual animal, over 6 months of age, entering Maryland must have a negative tuberculin test within 60 days before import.

- ii. Status of herd and area must be shown on their certificate.

- **IMMUNIZATION:** Bovine Respiratory Disease Complex vaccination is recommended for all out of state cattle to include Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus, Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus, Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis and Parainfluenza. Leptospirosis vaccination is also recommended.

FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS: **SWINE**

ALL SWINE

IDENTIFICATION: INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFICATION OF EACH ANIMAL SHALL BE AN RFID OFFICIAL EAR TAG.

SELF-CERTIFICATION: All swine exhibitors are **required** to complete and produce (digital or printed) a Livestock Exhibitor's Self Certification of Animal Health.

MARYLAND SWINE

- **BRUCELLOSIS:** Maryland is a Brucellosis Class-Free State. Brucellosis testing is not required for Maryland swine.
- **PSEUDORABIES:** Maryland is a Pseudorabies Stage V state. Pseudorabies testing is not required for Maryland swine.
- **Immunization:** Leptospirosis vaccination is recommended.

OUT-OF-STATE SWINE

- **BRUCELLOSIS:** All swine, except barrows, 6 months of age and older shall be negative on an official test for brucellosis within 30 days prior to exhibition entry, or originate directly from a validated brucellosis-free herd or brucellosis-free state.
- **PSEUDORABIES:** Swine over 6 months of age shall be negative on an official test for pseudorabies conducted within 30 days prior to exhibition entry, or originate immediately and directly from a Qualified Pseudorabies Negative herd or Stage 4 or Stage 5 Pseudorabies-Free State.
- **IMMUNIZATION:** Leptospirosis vaccination is recommended.

All U.S. states are currently swine brucellosis free and pseudorabies free. This is the current status as of the effective date on this document. It is the exhibitors responsibility to regularly check each state's status for any changes.

FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS: **SHEEP AND GOATS**

ALL SHEEP AND GOATS

IDENTIFICATION: ALL SHEEP AND GOATS MUST BE OFFICIALLY SCRAPIE-IDENTIFIED. OFFICIAL IDENTIFICATION FOR SHEEP INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

1. USDA-approved Scrapie ear tags;
2. Legible registration tattoos, for which the breed registration paper shall contain the registry premises or flock tattoo prefix that is linked to the APHIS-assigned PIN and flock ID number of the flock of birth, if breed registry is approved by APHIS; or
3. Legible tattoos consisting of an individual animal number unique within the flock in one ear and the official Scrapie premises identification number (flock ID) in the other ear, except where the tail web or flank may be used for earless animals or animals with damaged ears; must be accompanied by an owner statement.
4. A ISO-compliant 15-digit microchip with official Scrapie identification is acceptable if the owner provides the reader.
5. USDA approved RFID tag.
6. **NOTE: All animals bearing identification with blue colored scrapie program tags labelled “meat” with a US shield are not permitted to be exhibited in Maryland**

SELF-CERTIFICATION: All sheep and goat exhibitors are **required** to complete and produce (digital or printed) a Livestock Exhibitor's Self Certification of Animal Health.

Further clarification on the Federal Scrapie Program can be found at:

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/sheep-and-goat-health/national-scrapie-eradication-program/>

MARYLAND SHEEP

- No additional requirements

OUT-OF-STATE SHEEP

- No additional requirements

MARKET LAMBS

- It is recommended that all lambs be slick shorn prior to entry for inspection for Club Lamb Fungus (sheep ringworm).

MARYLAND GOATS

- **BRUCELLOSIS:** Maryland is a Brucellosis Class-Free State. Brucellosis testing is not required for Maryland goats.
- **TUBERCULOSIS:** Maryland is an Accredited Tuberculosis-Free State. Tuberculin test is not required for Maryland goats.

OUT-OF-STATE GOATS

- **BRUCELLOSIS:**
 - There are no out of state requirements for brucellosis testing in goats.

- **TUBERCULOSIS:**

- Accredited Tuberculosis-Free States, Region or Zone: A tuberculin test is not required.
- Modified Accredited Advanced or lower Tuberculosis Free Areas or States (Not TB Free)
 - All goats over 6 months of age shall comply with the following:
 - Goats must originate from herds in which all animals are tested negative within the past 12 months; progeny from such herds born since that test, may be imported without a tuberculin test, or
 - Any individual animal entering Maryland must have a negative tuberculin test within 60 days before import.
 - Status of herd and area must be shown on their certificate.

FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS:
HORSES, PONIES, MULES, AND OTHER EQUIDAE

ALL EQUINE

- **IDENTIFICATION:** Individual official identification shall include the following as applicable: Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) test report with photo or drawing of the animal, tattoo, brand, or microchip. Animals using tattoos or brands for official identification must be accompanied by the breed registration papers.
- **EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA (COGGINS) TESTING:** All equine for exhibition shall be accompanied by a valid Coggins Test done within 12 months prior to **the opening date of the exhibition**.
- **SELF-CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT AND EXEMPTION:** An Equine Exhibitor's Self Certification of Animal Health is required for each equine entering a fair/show-type event where multiple livestock species are present. The form must be available for inspection if requested (digital or printed). Those participating in equine-only shows and events are exempt from this requirement; however, it is good practice to thoroughly double check the health and skin condition of the animal before departing for the event. The form provides an easy checklist to do this. Exhibitors may not bring an animal having apparent or known signs of a contagious or infectious disease to a show.
- During disease outbreaks, these requirements may change - please check our [website](#) for the most up-to-date requirements or call us at 410.841.5810 for more information.

MARYLAND EQUINE

- **VETERINARY-CLIENT-PATIENT RELATIONSHIP (VCPR):** ALL equines must have verification of a veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR). This can be either a current CVI or EECVI (recommended), however, a completed VCPR form is acceptable. This form is available on our [website](#).

OUT-OF-STATE EQUINE

- All horses and other equidae must be accompanied by a CVI issued within 30 days prior to entry. An Interstate CVI must be legible, on an official form from the state of origin, issued by a licensed, accredited veterinarian, and issued for animals being imported to this state within 30 days before the entry of the animals, which shows that the animals listed meet the health requirements of the state of Maryland.

FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS: **POULTRY**

ALL POULTRY

1. PRIVATE SALES WILL BE ALLOWED WITH PROPER DOCUMENTATION OF THE SALE BY THE EXHIBITION SPONSOR AND MAINTAINED FOR ONE YEAR.
2. **IDENTIFICATION: ALL POULTRY** entering an exhibition must be identified with a numbered leg or wing band.
3. **AI TESTING:** Owners are **required** to produce a copy of the test results (digital or printed).
4. All poultry exhibitors are **required** to complete and produce (digital or printed) a Poultry Exhibitor's Self Certification of Animal Health and Biosecurity Statement.
5. DOCUMENTATION must be provided on MDA-E06 and MDA-E20, VS Form 9-2, VS Form 9-3 or comparable form approved by the State Veterinarian.

MARYLAND POULTRY

1. **PREMISES REGISTRATION:** All poultry exhibitors originating from Maryland must have valid proof of a registered Maryland Poultry Premises ID Number or Federal Premises ID Number, included on test paperwork.
2. **AVIAN INFLUENZA (AI) TESTING REQUIREMENTS:** All poultry, including wild birds except pigeons and doves, shown at public exhibitions in the state shall meet the following AI testing requirement:
 - a. Have a negative avian influenza test conducted on a representative sample of **10 BIRDS PER PREMISES** within 21 days prior to the event start date.
 - b. If there are less than 10 birds, then all birds must be tested.
3. **SALMONELLA PULLORUM-TYPHOID TESTING REQUIREMENTS:** All poultry, 4 months of age or older, except waterfowl, wild birds, pigeons and doves, shown at public exhibitions in the state shall meet one or more of the following requirements:
 - a. Originate directly from an NPIP U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean flock as defined in Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (and there was no break in the chain of ownership by NPIP participants), OR
 - i. "Flock" is defined as "all of the poultry on one premises, except any group of poultry that has been segregated for 21 days may be considered a separate flock." (COMAR 15.11.11.02) **This pertains to PT testing only.**
 - b. Have a negative official test for Salmonella Pullorum-Typhoid within 90 days before fair, exhibition, exposition, or show and remain segregated from all poultry of unknown or positive Salmonella Pullorum-Typhoid test status.
 - i. Segregation is defined as no direct contact between poultry. For biosecurity purposes, it is advised to care for the tested flock before interacting with any untested poultry on site.

OUT-OF-STATE POULTRY

1. **AVIAN INFLUENZA (AI) TESTING REQUIREMENTS:** All poultry, including wild birds except pigeons and doves, shown at public exhibitions in the state shall meet the following AI testing requirements:
 - a. Have a negative avian influenza test conducted on a representative sample of **ALL BIRDS IN THE FLOCK** within 14 days prior to the opening date of the event.

b. If there are greater than 30 birds in the flock, only 30 birds need to be tested.

2. **SALMONELLA PULLORUM-TYPHOID TESTING REQUIREMENTS:** All poultry, 4 months of age or older, except waterfowl, wild birds, pigeons and doves shown at public exhibitions in the state shall meet one or more of the following requirements:

- a. Originate directly from a U.S. Pullorum-Typhoid Clean flock as defined in Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (and there was no break in the chain of ownership by NPIP participants), OR
 - i. "Flock" is defined as "all of the poultry on one premises, except any group of poultry that has been segregated for 21 days may be considered a separate flock." (COMAR 15.11.11.02) **This pertains to PT testing only.**
- b. Have a negative official test for Salmonella Pullorum-Typhoid within 90 days before fair, exhibition, exposition, or show and remain segregated from all poultry of unknown or positive Salmonella Pullorum-Typhoid test status.
 - i. Segregation is defined as no direct contact between poultry. For biosecurity purposes, it is advised to care for the tested flock before interacting with any untested poultry on site.

POULTRY BARNs

MDA's Animal Health Program is implementing the following biosecurity measures for **ALL** poultry exhibitions:

1. The Poultry Barn must have clearly designated entrances, exits, and as much as possible, a one-way viewing path for the public.
2. Biosecurity protocols must be in place, including handwashing or hand sanitizing stations. Footbaths/mats are recommended.
3. Each person who enters the Poultry Barn **MUST**:
 - a. NOT be allowed to touch or handle the birds (unless it is their own personal bird and even then we recommend limiting handling).
 - b. USE hand sanitizer or wash hands upon entering and exiting the barn.
 - c. It is recommended to DISINFECT footwear before entering and upon exit of the barn. This can be a powder disinfectant or liquid footbath/mat.
4. All visitors to the poultry barn **MUST** follow the above biosecurity guidelines!
5. The fair staff should disinfect the barn walkways in the morning and evening, and if possible, especially on busy days, in the afternoon.
6. Only bird owners or their designated representatives are permitted to handle birds on-site.
7. Those handling birds must wear dedicated footwear that is disinfected after each interaction with birds and must remain on the event grounds for the duration of the event. After the fair, this footwear must be disinfected before returning home to prevent potential disease spread.
8. Signs should be clearly placed around the barn to advise visitors against touching birds.
9. Infographics and information about Avian Influenza should be placed around the barn to provide education for the visitors. Such information can be provided by MDA upon request.

FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS: **RABBITS**

ALL RABBITS

1. **IDENTIFICATION:** Individual identification of each animal shall be a tag, legible and healed tattoo, or microchip, if the exhibitor provides the reader.
2. All rabbit exhibitors are **required** to complete and produce (digital or printed) a Rabbit Exhibitor's Self Certification of Animal Health.
3. **RECOMMENDATIONS:**
 - a. It is strongly recommended that all rabbits have a Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI).
 - b. Vaccination against Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease (RHDV-2) is recommended.
 - i. Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease is of particular concern, and clinical signs include bleeding from eyes, nose, mouth, or have bloody stools.
4. While on exhibit or at any time following the exhibition, exhibitors and exhibition managers are obligated to report all mass mortality events and all rabbits who show signs of a dangerous transmissible disease to MDA at 410.841.5810.

RABBIT BARN RECOMMENDATIONS AND REFERENCE TO FEDERAL CODE:

- Due to potential high heat and humidity conditions during our exhibition season it is important to maintain proper temperatures and ventilation so animals are not subject to uncomfortable conditions.
 - Since most rabbits do not tolerate temperatures exceeding 85°F, it is recommended that fans, misters, and cold packs in cages be allowed to help the rabbits cope with high temperatures.
 - Ventilation during extreme heat is essential to help with air quality, therefore, cage fans (small, rechargeable/battery-powered stroller fans are ideal) are encouraged to provide airflow for the animals.
 - Clip-on rechargeable fans are readily available online.
 - Note: We do not encourage or promote any one particular brand of fan.
 - Rabbits will also need to be sheltered from the elements so it is encouraged to have all areas of the barn shaded or out of direct sunlight to avoid overheating of the animals.
- Summary of Federal Code relating to Animal Welfare states the following for Facilities and Operating Standards for Rabbits (9 CFR Part 3 Subpart C 3.51 and 3.52):
 - Indoor housing facilities for rabbits shall be adequately ventilated. Such facilities shall be provided with fresh air either by means of windows, doors, vents, or air conditioning and shall be ventilated so as to minimize drafts, odors, and moisture condensation. Auxiliary ventilation, such as exhaust fans and vents or air conditioning, shall be provided when the ambient temperature is 85°F or higher.
 - Primary enclosures shall be so placed as to protect the rabbits from excessive sunlight.
 - When sunlight is likely to cause overheating or discomfort, sufficient shade shall be provided to allow all rabbits to protect themselves from the direct rays of the sun. When the atmospheric temperature exceeds 90°F, artificial cooling shall be provided.

FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS: **CAMELIDS**

ALL CAMELIDS

IDENTIFICATION: Individual identification of each animal shall be an official metal ear tag or microchip, if the exhibitor provides the reader.

SELF-CERTIFICATION: All camelid exhibitors are **required** to complete and produce (digital or printed) a Livestock Exhibitor's Self Certification of Animal Health.

MARYLAND CAMELIDS

- **BRUCELLOSIS:** Brucellosis testing is not required for Maryland camelids.
- **TUBERCULOSIS:** Tuberculin test is not required for Maryland camelids.

OUT-OF-STATE CAMELIDS

- **BRUCELLOSIS:** Brucellosis testing is not required for out-of-state camelids.
- **TUBERCULOSIS:**
 1. Accredited Tuberculosis-Free State, Region or Zone
 - a. No tuberculin test required.
 2. Modified Accredited Advanced or lower Tuberculosis Free Areas or States (Not TB Free)
 - a. All camelids over 6 months of age shall comply with the following:
 - i. Camelids must originate from a herd not under restriction or quarantine for tuberculosis and from which a complete herd test was conducted within the past 12 months; progeny from such herds born since that test may be imported without a tuberculin test, or
 - ii. Any individual animal, over 6 months of age, entering Maryland must have a negative tuberculin test within 60 days before import.
 - b. Status of herd and area must be shown on their certificate.

FAIR AND SHOW REQUIREMENTS: **PETTING ZOOS AND COMMERCIAL ANIMAL EXHIBITS**

DEFINITIONS:

- **PETTING ZOO:** An exhibition where the public is encouraged to touch/interact with any livestock or other animals. This can include but is not limited to pony rides and fair and show petting zoos.
- **COMMERCIAL ANIMAL EXHIBIT:** A public display of animals for profit, which can include goat yoga, cow cuddling, piglet snuggling, etc. These exhibits are subject to regulations, such as those under the Animal Welfare Act, which mandate minimum standards of care for animals that are exhibited. Exhibitors must have a valid Commercial Animal Exhibit Registration through the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Details can be found on MDA's [website](#).

PETTING ZOOS, COMMERCIAL ANIMAL EXHIBITS, AND PONY RIDES:

- **MUST HAVE THE FOLLOWING:**
 - **CVI** - including **Rabies** vaccination status
 - Certain exemptions may apply (see below)
 - **SELF CERTIFICATION DOCUMENTS (completed and produced either digitally or printed)**
 - The requirements for each species is the same for fairs and shows (see previous sections)

GENERAL EXHIBITION REQUIREMENTS (COMAR 15.11.14.01):

- Applies to **ALL** animals in a petting zoo
 - Rabies Vaccination:
 - A person may not show livestock at any petting zoo unless all exhibited animals in the petting zoo, 12 weeks or older, are vaccinated against rabies as provided in *COMAR 10.06.02 (Communicable Diseases - Rabies)*, unless there is no rabies vaccine licensed and approved by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for that animal species.
 - Approved Species – cattle, sheep, horses, dogs, cats and ferrets
 - MDA does not require off-label use of the rabies vaccine
 - Fairs and shows have authority to set their own requirements above and beyond state requirements
 - **CVI** - Issued within 60 days of the exhibition
 - **Rabies** - Proof of adequate rabies vaccination on all required species shall be documented by the veterinarian administering the vaccine. This can be noted on the CVI or written on an approved rabies certificate that is issued by the veterinarian. Proof of vaccination should be presented at the time of entry with the CVI and Self Certification.
 - **Self Certification Form** - species specific
 - Documentation:

COMMERCIAL ANIMAL EXHIBITS:

- Exemption of the 60 day CVI
 - On farm, non-traveling exhibits are not required to have a CVI when they possess a valid commercial animal exhibit registration **BUT** are required to have a rabies vaccine for the animals interacting with people.

BIOSECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Biosecurity is a concern when allowing the public to interact with animals on the farm. The introduction of disease to your animals from an outside source could have devastating consequences for not only the animals but also for your business. Typically, in an agritourism petting zoo setting or commercial animal exhibit, you will not know whether visitors have been in contact with other farm animals before coming to your farm. Implementing appropriate biosecurity practices will aid in protecting your animals, visitors, and your business. MDA's Animal Health Program recommends the following biosecurity best practices for ALL petting zoos and commercial animal exhibits:

- Communicating rules with visitors
- Displaying clear signage
- Parking visitor vehicles away from animals
- Insisting on clean footwear and clothing
- Establishing controlled entry
- Using gates to limit access
- Requiring parental supervision
- Providing handwashing/sanitizing stations and foot baths

The 2026 MDA Fair and Show Requirements were approved by the State Veterinarian and finalized on the date below.



Jennifer Trout, DVM
State Veterinarian

February 1, 2026

Date