



# THE PUREBRED DAIRY CATTLE ASSOCIATION

## Show Ring Code of Ethics

The showing of registered dairy cattle is an important part of the promotion, merchandising and breeding program of many breeders. Additionally, it is an important part of the program of the various dairy breed associations to stimulate and sustain interest in breeding registered dairy cattle. This relates to both spectators and exhibitors. In this connection, The Purebred Dairy Cattle Association believes that it is in the best interest of the breeders of registered dairy cattle to maintain a reputation of integrity and to present a wholesome and progressive image of their cattle in the show ring. It recognizes that there are certain practices in the proper care and management of dairy cattle which are necessary in the course of moving dairy cattle to and between shows that are advisable to keep them in a sound, healthy condition so that they might be presented in the show ring in a natural, normal appearance and condition. Conversely, it recognizes certain practices in the cataloging, handling and presentation of cattle in the show ring which are unacceptable.

The following practices or procedures are considered unacceptable and defined as being fraudulent and/or unethical in the show ring of registered dairy cattle:

- (1) Misrepresenting the age and/or milk status of the animal for the class in which it is shown.
- (2) Treating the animal, particularly the udder, internally or externally, with an irritant or counter-irritant, or other substance to artificially improve the conformance.
- (3) Surgery or insertion of foreign material under the skin, 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 which in the show ring, or other conduct detrimental to the breed or the show.
- (5) Setting teats or manipulating a teat to alter its normal position such as to unnaturally hold it plumb or to alter its length.

The following practices and procedures are considered to detract from the image of the show ring when carried to excess and will be given slight to serious discrimination in placing animals within class:

- (1) Excessive manipulation of hair.
- (2) Use of artificial hair except for false switches.
- (3) Unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of showmen.
- (4) Improper fitting practices such as over fitting and over bagging.

Practices which should be encouraged to enhance the image of the show:

- (1) Establish uniform dress code for exhibitors in the show ring.
- (2) Recognize good herdsmanship and exhibits in the barn. In keeping with the basic philosophy of the P.D.C.A., ethics are an individual responsibility of the owner of each animal shown.

**VIOLATIONS OF THESE POLICIES ARE SUBJECT  
TO THE DISCIPLINARY PROVISIONS OF THE  
APPROPRIATE DAIRY BREED ASSOCIATION  
AND/OR SHOW MANAGEMENT**