

RULES & GUIDELINES FOR THE November 2009 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ANIMAL WELFARE JUDGING & ASSESSMENT CONTEST

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Date: November 21-22, 2009

Location: Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

Divisions Offered: Undergraduate, Veterinary Students, Graduate Students

Species to be evaluated for November 2009: livestock species = meat goats; lab/companion animal species = rats; exotic animal species = farmed white tailed deer; team assessment problem = live evaluation of sheep facility.

Educational Seminar: During the morning of the first day (11/21), an educational seminar will be conducted with invited presentations from the panel of judges/other welfare science experts.

II. CONTACTS

Undergrad Division & Graduate Student Division Coordinator: Dr. Camie Heleski, heleski@msu.edu, 517/355-8427

Veterinary Student Division Coordinator: Dr. Gail Golab, AVMA, GGolab@avma.org, 847/285-6618

Coordinating Committee: *Dr. Janice Siegford, MSU; Dr. Janice Swanson, MSU; Courtney Daigle, MSU*

Help with organization, recruitment and PR: Dr. Gail Golab, AVMA; Dr. Richard Reynnells, USDA; Dr. Suzanne Millman, Iowa State University

III. REGISTRATION & MEETING

Registration Deadline: **Please let me know by October 1 if you plan to bring a team(s) to the 2009 contest (this will assist greatly with planning). Official entries will be due October 15, 2009.** (Entry forms will be available at <http://www.canr.msu.edu/animalwelfare/AWJC/AWJC.htm> or contact Camie for a copy (heleski@msu.edu).

Pre-contest Coaches' meeting: To be conducted via email prior to November 21, 2009. An additional coaches' meeting will be scheduled during the weekend of the 21st/22nd ...most likely in the early afternoon of the 22nd.

IV. ELIGIBILITY OF CONTESTANTS

1. DIVISION I: Must be undergraduate, enrolled in a recognized institution offering a curriculum in Animal Sciences, Zoology or other animal focused curriculum. DIVISION II: Veterinary students enrolled in a recognized institution. DIVISION III: Graduate students.
2. Each contestant must establish his or her institutional residency by having been enrolled in the institution he or she represents for at least one semester, trimester, quarter or term as a full time student before competing in the Contest. Graduate students are not required to be at full time status, but must be currently enrolled at their institution.
3. University, Senior College, Community College, Junior College and students in a two-year certificate program are eligible for participation in the Contest.
4. Each collegiate coach and his/her institution will be responsible for verifying the eligibility of the students representing their institution.
5. Up to 15 contestants may be entered per institution. Contestants can compete as a team or as individuals. Team members will be identified by the coach prior to the start of the contest.
6. A team will consist of 3-5 members **The 3 highest scores will count toward the team score.** Institutions may enter up to 2 teams in each Division.
7. Questions regarding eligibility will be directed to the Advisory Board and decided on a case by case basis. Decisions are final for that contest year, but may be revisited for subsequent years as a rule change.

V. COORDINATOR

The Coordinator is a 3 year position that oversees the preparations for and the conduct of the annual judging contest. The position is reviewed for renewal annually by the Advisory Board. The Coordinator will have complete charge of the contest. He/she will see that all rules and regulations governing the contest are duly carried out and that the contest is conducted with fairness and justice to all concerned. The Coordinator will seek consultation with members of the advisory board (when practical) concerning questions which may arise in connection with the interpretation of the rules. The final decision regarding such questions will be announced by the Coordinator.

A coordinating committee will consist of the Coordinator and at least 3 committee members. The committee members will chair organizational subcommittees that are responsible for specific activities in preparation for and conduct of the annual contest and report to the Coordinator. The subcommittees are (but not limited to) the following: Local Arrangements, Scenario development, Team recruitment, Publicity, Fund raising, Speakers/Judges invitations and accommodations.

VI. ADVISORY BOARD

The advisory board will consist of up to 7 members representing academia, business, nonprofit and federal agencies. Members serve a staggered 3 year appointment. The advisory board is responsible for reviewing all rule changes

and providing direction regarding the content of the contest. The advisory board can recommend the subsequent year's hosting school and Coordinator.

VII. JUDGING SYSTEM

A Committee of Judges will place all classes, establish the placing cuts (1-7 points between pairs), and evaluate all oral reasons. Judges will be selected based on their background in animal welfare science, applied ethology and other disciplines specific to the content of the contest. A minimum of 3 judges will make up the committee of judges. A panel of judges (a minimum of 3 judges) will be selected from the committee of judges to evaluate the team assessment class. If the number of teams entered indicates that additional judges are necessary to expedite and make more efficient the evaluation of oral reasons, the Coordinator will have the authority to appoint such judges. Judges will receive guidelines for evaluation of scenarios and oral reasons (see Attachment I)

VIII. METHOD OF CONDUCT

No member of any team nor their coach (unless engaged in a judging assignment) will be allowed to view the scenarios or conduct a team practice session at the facility used for team assessments prior to the contest. In the instance that a University facility is used for the walk through assessment class, the coach of that institution's team should not use that facility as part of the team practice sessions, as this may give unfair advantage to that team.

There will be no conferring/communicating between contestants or anyone else, except during the team assessment class or as directed by the Coordinator or his/her representative. Any violation of this rule may be punished by expulsion of the offender.

While the contest is in progress, the use of cell phones and pagers are prohibited for all contestants.

The Coordinator will provide tape measures and other tools for assessment when necessary.

Team members will not wear any identifying pins, badges, lettering or any article of clothing that will reveal their identity or will identify the university that they represent. (An exception may be allowed to wear jackets – that may have identification - during on-farm team assessments.)

IX. CONTEST

A. CLASSES - The contest will consist of 3 or 4 scenario classes and 1 team assessment class. The Coordinator will announce the species or general subject matter of the scenarios and the assessment classes at least 60 days prior to the contest.

Scenario classes are judged by individual team members. Each scenario is presented as a Power Point slide show using scientific and management data, videos, and photographs in 2 or more comparable situations.

The team assessment class may be presented as a Power Point slide show (or similar format) or may be done as a live walk through assessment. The team must analyze the information presented or observed in situ (in the case of a live team assessment) and evaluate the management in terms of the welfare provided to the animals. **Team assessments will be conducted with staggered starts so that each team has approximately the same amount of time to prepare their oral presentation.**

Contestants judging as individuals will view the assessment class Power Point slide show or live walk through assessment and answer a set of questions regarding the assessment class. The official judges will provide the questions for the individuals. Questions may be posed to individuals orally or in written format. Contestants competing as individuals will not be permitted to confer with members of the team(s) from their institution, or any other, regarding the assessment class.

B. TIME ALLOWED - Contestants will be allowed 20 minutes to place each scenario class. There will be a 5-minute time warning. Each contestant will be allowed a minimum of 20 minutes for each scenario class to prepare their oral reasons.

The contestants will be allowed 30 minutes to view the team assessment slide presentation. More time may be provided during a live in situ team assessment. The amount of time allowed will be determined by the Coordinator. Teams will be informed of the amount of time allowed prior to beginning the team assessment. Conferring between team members is allowed during the team assessment class. Contestants are not permitted to ask questions of the group leaders, but may ask questions of the Contest Coordinator or that person's assistants. Teams will be given a minimum of 45 minutes to prepare their team assessment reasons.

C. REASONS - Contestants will give oral reasons no longer than 3 minutes in length on each of the scenario classes. Judges may question the contestants following the presentation of their individual reasons for no more than 2 minutes. **Total time for presentation of reasons and questions will not exceed 5 minutes. Penalties for going over time will be as follows: 3:00 – 3:10 (i.e. up to 10 sec over) (-2 pts); 3:11 – 3:20 (i.e. 11-20 sec over) (-4 pts); 3:21-3:30 (i.e. 21-30 sec over) (-6 pts) **Reasons will be stopped at 3:30 (i.e. 30 sec over; a warning will be provided 15 sec prior to absolute stop time).****

Team assessment presentations will be a maximum of 10 minutes in length with a 1 minute warning. Presentations less than 8 min will lose points at the discretion of the judges. **Presentations over 10 min in length will be stopped (will be stopped at 10:15).** The panel of judges may question the team for **5**

minutes following the assessment presentation. **Total time for presentations and questions will not exceed 15 minutes.**

Contestants judging as individuals will present their findings to a single judge (again, **this segment may be conducted via written format depending upon time constraints**). Individual presentations will not exceed 5 minutes with a 1 minute warning. The judge may question the contestant for 2 minutes.

Reasons should be given while standing unless a disability prevents this.

D. MATERIALS - The Coordinator will supply placing cards and any other necessary forms for conducting the contest. Contestants will be permitted to take notes and use reference materials (other than on-site Internet access) while preparing reasons. The use of notes is permitted (a 3" x 5" or 4" x 6" card), however excessive use is discouraged.

X. DETERMINATION OF RATINGS

Ratings will be based upon a possible score of 50 points for placings for each class, 75 points for each set of reasons, and 25 points/class for the response(s) to the judge's questions. Team assessment scores will be based on 125 possible points plus 50 possible points for response to questions.

Team assessment winners: The team having the top score (at a minimum) in the team assessment category will be recognized.

Overall individual contest winners: The top 3 (at a minimum) total scores for all contestants will be recognized. The individual with the highest total score will be recognized as the overall individual winner of the contest. Overall individual scores will be determined by adding the scores from all classes. Team assessment scores will NOT count toward these awards.

Overall team contest winners: The top 3 scoring teams (at a minimum) will be recognized. The team with the highest overall score will be recognized as the overall winner of the contest. Team scores are determined by adding the individual scores of the top 3 scoring individuals of each team with the team assessment scores.

Sponsored travelling trophies currently exist for the Undergraduate Division, and the Veterinary Student Division. A Graduate Student travelling trophy is currently being prepared.

TIE BREAKERS

In case of a tie for individual scores, ties will be broken in the following manner:

1. Scenario reasons (first tie-breaker) <highest score will win>
2. Total placing score of all scenario classes (second tie-breaker)
3. "Flip of the coin" (third tie-breaker)
4. Awards will not be duplicated.

In case of a tie in the team assessment category, ties will be broken in the following manner:

1. Assessment reasons (first tie-breaker)
2. Total placing score of all scenario classes (second tie-breaker)
3. "Flip of the coin" (third tie-breaker)
4. Awards will not be duplicated.

In the case of a tie in the overall score for teams, ties will be broken in the following manner:

1. Score in the team assessment scenario (first tie breaker) <highest score will win>
2. Total scenario reasons score for the team (top 3 scores) (second tie-breaker)
3. "Flip of the coin" (third tie breaker)
4. Awards will not be duplicated

APPEAL PROCESS - Calculation errors in the scores may be appealed by submitting a request to the Coordinator within 1 week of the contest. Errors will be rectified by the Coordinator and awards will be redistributed as needed. Scoring decisions by the judges are final.

ATTACHMENT 1

JUDGES GUIDELINES FOR EVALUATING THE ANIMAL WELFARE CONTEST

REVIEW OF MATERIALS

Judges will evaluate the scenarios at the same time as the contestant. Ideally the judges should view the scenarios in a separate room from the contestants in order to allow the judges to discuss aspects of the scenarios freely. Judges will view **live** assessment scenarios prior to the first group of contestants and will confer privately.

DETERMINING PLACING AND POINT CUTS FOR COMPARISON SCENARIO CLASSES

Placing points: 50 max / cuts 1-7 point deduction for incorrect placing.

Judges will confer on each scenario and decide, as a group, on a placing and cut(s) for each scenario. Cuts are based on how clearly the managerial situations in the scenarios depict a difference in the welfare of the animals. If the judges feel that one managerial situation is clearly better (or worse) in terms of welfare provided to the animals, the number of points cut for an incorrect placing should be higher (max of 7 point deduction out of 50). Whereas if the consensus of the judges is that the depicted situations are very close in terms of the welfare the number of points cut should be lower (min. of 1 point deduction).

ORAL REASON SCORING

Total points: 75 max / 45 min (recommended)

The contestants oral defense of their placings is the most important part of the comparison scenario portion of the contest, therefore the possible points earned for oral reasons is greater than the placings themselves,. Reasons should be judged on the following criteria:

Organization; Is the contestant's defense easy to follow? Is it logical?

Relevancy: Is the contestant's argument pertinent to welfare issues, including questions of both science and ethics?

Accuracy: Are the contestant's points accurate as depicted on the scenario? Are the contestant's cited facts accurate in regard to animal welfare, animal behavior and/or animal science and/or veterinary science?

Terminology: Does the contestant use appropriate terms that are relevant to animal welfare, animal behavior, animal science, veterinary science?

Grants: Does the contestant acknowledge the positive points (if applicable) of the management situation that he/she did not place highest?

Presentation Style: The style (voice level, tone, inflection, posture, etc.) should be informative yet conversational, not overly formal. Is the contestant at ease? Does he/she make eye contact? Does he/she make excessive use of notes (the use of one 4x6 note card for bullet points or to site references is permissible). Citing relevant references should be valued.

Below is a **guideline** assigning points for oral reasons/defense:

Excellent to good: 75-69 points

Good to above average: 68-63 points

Average: 62-57 points

Below average: 56-51 points

Poor: 50-45 points

(no one should receive < 45 unless they do not show up)

*****Judges, please remember that many students will be nervous when giving reasons. Please try to provide them a positive experience. Thank you.***

QUESTIONS

Contestants have 3 minutes to complete their oral reasons. Judges should announce/ or show a sign for a 15 sec warning when 2:45 is reached and should announce "time up" at the 3 minute limit. Judges should then ask questions of the contestants. Total time for presentation of reasons and questions/answers cannot exceed 5 minutes per contestant. Contestants can earn a max. of 25 points for their response to questions. Questions will preferably be similar or identical from one contestant to the next. Questions should be discussed amongst judges prior to beginning the reason listening session.

TEAM ASSESSMENT SCORING

Team assessment scenarios may be presented as a Power Point slide show (or similar format) or done as a live assessment at a facility. **There is also the possibility that multiple facilities would be evaluated.**

Judges should view the assessment scenario and come to consensus regarding the strengths and weaknesses of the facility(s) and areas of improvement.

Teams must make an assessment of the facility(s) (strengths and weaknesses), identify areas of concern and recommend changes. One possible option is that teams should indicate whether changes should be addressed by management *immediately, short term (1-6 months) or long term (6 months or longer).*

Team assessments are scored based on a 125 point maximum with 50 possible points for response to questions. Team assessments are judged based on accuracy of interpretation of management strengths and weaknesses, relevance to welfare of the animal, effectiveness and practicality of recommended changes, assessment of the urgency of the recommended changes. Judges should also consider organization and presentation style of the team assessment.

-Was the presentation logical and easily followed?

-Did each team member contribute to the presentation?

Each judge should be prepared to ask at least 1 pertinent question regarding the assessment scenario. Additional clarifying questions may also be asked.

Questions should be asked following the assessment presentation for each team.