

# STATE FAIR

OF VIRGINIA

August 1, 2008

## Statements on Animal Handling, Ride Safety and Security

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### **Animal Handling Guidelines**

The State Fair of Virginia complies with the National Show Ring Code of Ethics that governs all livestock shows. The State Fair does not condone mistreatment of animals. It ensures the overall well-being of animals exhibited and use of commonly-accepted practices in preparing and exhibiting animals for show. This maintains the integrity of animal competitions and enables future generations to better understand about the proper care and exhibit of animals.

For the complete Code of Ethics and General Rules, please visit the "Competitions" section at [www.statefairva.org](http://www.statefairva.org).

### **Ride Safety**

Since 1981, all State Fair of Virginia rides have been inspected by a professional inspector certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia prior to the Fair's opening day. Each ride receives a thorough inspection daily before it is operated. A certified ride inspector is hired each year by the State Fair to oversee the Midway layout, set-up and operation. The State Fair's contracted Midway provider, Deggeller Attractions, Inc, received high scores from the Outdoor Amusement Business Association, qualifying it for OABA's "Circle of Excellence" in 2004-2005.

### **Security**

The State Fair of Virginia Safety Committee (see list next page) reviews operations and procedures for the State Fair event. Items adopted by the Fair which reflect the committee's recommendations include having the independent ride inspector's contract issued by the Fair, working with the Virginia Employment Commission to screen seasonal employees and using metal wands to screen customers, which augments current package inspection procedures.

The Fair works closely with the Henrico County Fire and Police Departments, as well as Old Dominion Security, RMC Events, Virginia State Police and volunteer professional medical staff from the Richmond area. In addition, the Fair pays for ambulance service throughout the event.

**The State Fair Safety Committee includes:**

Major Mike Hall	Caroline County Sheriff Office
Major Dave Hines	Hanover County Sheriff's Office
Robert Kipper	National Youth Violence Specialist
Sherriff Tony Lippa	Caroline County Sherriff's Office
Oscar Mabry	URS Corporation
Mary Mule	Henrico Doctors Hospital
Dr. Bill Pierson	Center for Molecular Medicine & Infectious Diseases, Virginia Tech
Chief Edwin Smith	Henrico County Division of Fire
Lt. Col. Gene Stockton	Virginia State Police
James Willet	Pamunkey Regional Jail

**Consultant:**

Col. W. Gerald Massengill	Retired – Virginia State Police Superintendent
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