

Myth Busters! - Myths about Certificates of Veterinary Inspection at the Iowa State Fair and other Exhibitions in Iowa

Each year, the staff of the Animal Industry Bureau of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS) examine hundreds of Certificates of Veterinary Inspections (CVI's) that accompany animals that are being exhibited at the Iowa State Fair and for the most part, the CVI's are acceptable. Each year, there are some CVI's that are disapproved because the veterinarian completed them improperly. In those instances, for the animal(s) to be exhibited, the owner or exhibitor has to pay the State Fair attending veterinarians (from ISU) to examine the animal(s) and issue another CVI at the expense of the exhibitor. This causes stress and added expense for the exhibitor, discomfort for the Animal Industry personnel, and frankly reflects poorly on us as accredited veterinarians.

Below are some myths about CVI's that are common misconceptions and the facts. Follow these guidelines to make sure your CVIs are completed correctly and your clients have a successful experience at the Iowa State Fair.

1. **MYTH:** I don't need to write down the complete Scrapie ID number on the CVI of sheep and goats.
FACT: The number one problem we have at the Iowa State Fair is that sexually intact sheep or goats arrive with either no Scrapie ID written on the CVI or an incomplete/incorrect Scrapie ID is written on the CVI. Record the complete Scrapie ID number (i.e. IA3421-0157), not just the flock number (i.e. IA3421), or the individual ID number (i.e. 0157). **Scrapie ID is required on all sexually intact sheep and goats at the State Fair and the complete Scrapie ID must be recorded on the CVI.**
2. **MYTH:** Market cattle at the Iowa State Fair or district shows do not need to have official ID.
FACT: **All cattle** shown at the State Fair or district shows (this includes all exhibitions in the state excluding county fairs) are required to have official ID and that ID is required to be written on the CVI.
3. **MYTH:** Sometimes the ear tag numbers for swine are hard to read. I can put the ear notch numbers on the CVI and that will be good enough.
FACT: **All swine** exhibited are required to have official ID tags (only 4H swine have an exception: see Health Requirements). The official ID number is required to be written on the CVI. Previously registered swine that had registration ear notches could use the registration ear notches for official ID in the past but the law has changed. Official tags are now required.
4. **MYTH:** If an animal is showing signs of a disease (Ringworm, Club Lamb Fungus, Sore Mouth, Herpes, Genital Warts, etc.) but I think it might pass inspection at the fair, I can send it anyway.
FACT: Don't put this on us! **If an animal comes to the State Fair showing signs of illness or disease it CANNOT BE EXHIBITED, REGARDLESS OF CIRCUMSTANCES.** It will be disqualified and sent home, which causes problems for everyone. The animal cannot be kept on the fairgrounds and the owner has to take it home immediately!
5. **MYTH:** I don't need to sign the CVI. My printed or typed name is fine.
FACT: All **CVI's must be signed** by the licensed veterinarian that inspected the animals. **CVI's must also include the date** the animals were inspected.
6. **MYTH:** If there is an error on the CVI that I issue, the exhibitor can change the information.

FACT: Only the issuing veterinarian can make changes to a CVI. If the veterinarian needs to make a change, they must initial and date the change.

7. **MYTH:** If an exhibitor is going to show an animal at multiple exhibitions within a 30-day time period, they can use the same CVI for all of these exhibitions.

FACT: A CVI is good for only one movement (i.e. from home to the state fair, then straight back home). For the Iowa State Fair, the consignee should be listed as: Iowa State Fair, 3000 East Grand Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50317.

8. **MYTH:** The CVI a veterinarian issues is good for 30 days after the veterinarian signs it, regardless of species or exhibition.

FACT: A CVI for sheep is good only for 14 days from the date the sheep are inspected until the date the sheep arrive at the exhibition. A CVI for any other species is good for 30 days for the same time frame. When using a "Form O" health certificate, please list the date the veterinarian inspected the animal and the date the veterinarian signed it.

9. **MYTH:** If I issue an electronic CVI, the exhibitor can keep it on their cell phone and show it to the IDALS staff at the State Fair.

FACT: The exhibitor needs to have a paper copy of the CVI so it can be stamped and initialed by the IDALS staff.

10. **MYTH:** The Health Requirements for animals showing at the Iowa State Fair and other exhibitions never change! I don't need to read them.

FACT: The requirements change almost every year! You should carefully read the requirements before each exhibition. The *2018 Health Requirements for the exhibition of Livestock, Poultry and Birds at State Fair, District Shows and Exhibitions* is available online at:

<http://www.iowaagriculture.gov/animalIndustry.asp>

If you have questions or want to see examples of acceptable CVI's for the 2018 Iowa State Fair send an email to greg.schmitt@iowaagriculture.gov or contact the State District Veterinarian in your area.