

Animal Donations and Leases to Virginia 4-H

As of January 1, 2004, the Virginia 4-H program prohibits the acceptance of donated animals of any kind in the name of 4-H. This policy includes both unit and state 4-H programs. However, the proceeds of the sale of animals will be accepted. See options listed below for suggestions on how to accept the proceeds of the sale of animals.

The Virginia 4-H program also prohibits animals being leaves in the name of 4-H. For leave arrangements, as it is with the donation of animals, lease agreements can be initiated between or among private individuals, but not in the name of 4-H.

All current donated 4-H animals should be transferred to private ownership to someone willing to take the animal(s) by January 31, 2004. Any exceptions must be approved by Dr. Robert Ray Meadows or current state 4-H leader.

Note: Anyone may donate an animal to a private citizen, even to a 4-H volunteer or member, but not in the name of 4-H. In essence, 4-H volunteers may take ownership of donated animals as private citizens, but not as a donation to 4-H. Youth may continue to use animals in their projects owned by other individuals or private groups; however, no animals will be owned in the name of 4-H. Occasionally, a member of the community may ask Extension staff or volunteers to assist them in locating a 4-H member to whom they can donate an animal or other tangible asset to use in a 4-H project. It is up to the good judgment of the volunteer or paid staff member whether to assist in such a transaction. However, it is strongly recommended that all parties be reminded that the transaction is between two private parties, that the 4-H program assumes no liability and that gifts is NOT tax deductible.

How to Accept the Proceeds of Animal Donated to 4-H.

The following options may be employed as a way of accepting the proceeds of the sale of animals for 4-H:

- The person(s) sells the animal(s) through public auction or private treaty sale and donates the proceeds of that sale to the 4-H program, 4-H club or 4-H event/activity of choice.
- An individual(s) purchases an animal at a 4-H sponsored auction and then donates the proceeds of the resale of that animal to the 4-H program, 4-H club or 4-H event/activity of choice.
- In some cases, that animal may be resold during that same sale, while in others the animal may need to be taken to another sale facility (local auction) or sold privately. The 4-H program, 4-H club or 4-H event/activity of choice does not actually take ownership of the animal in either situation. The individual who purchased the animal through the 4-H sale retains ownership, and thus all liability until the animal is resold. The owner of the animal will also need to make arrangements for the animal to be transported to the new sale facility, or sold privately if needed (some locations may already have a seamless way for this to happen; therefore, the new owner would not be required to do much more than

they are currently). Upon resale, the proceeds can then be given to the 4-H program, 4-H club, or 4-H event/activity of choice.

(Adopted by the 4-H ELC on February 13, 2004)