



Entry Fees and Deadlines:

\$1.50 per entry
\$3.00 per entry

Due June 12, 2026
After June 12, 2026

For Questions, please contact: Email: smallanimals@alamedacountyfair.com

[Register Online Now!](#)

YOUTH SMALL ANIMAL DEPARTMENT RULES

Submission of entry constitutes as agreement of these rules.

SPECIAL RULES (4-H, FFA, & OPEN YOUTH JUDGED TOGETHER)

1. ADMISSION AND PARKING

- Each exhibitor will receive one (1) season exhibitor wristband. (You will not receive additional passes if you cross enter in Open Class or in the Small Animal Show).
 - Exhibitors 16 and older with a valid driver's license may receive one (1) season parking. Exhibitors must present valid driver's license to Livestock office.
 - Two (2) parent season wristbands
 - Two (2) parking passes
 - Two (2) Delivery On-Ground Permits

Additional Parent passes and sibling passes will not be provided for you. You can purchase additional passes at an advanced rate by going to [Tickets - Alameda County Fair](#).

2. **ELIGIBILITY AND OWNERSHIP:** Exhibitors must be the bona fide owners of all entries for 60 days prior to the opening day of the fair. All entries must be under the maintenance of the exhibitor at least 60 days prior to the opening day of the fair.
- a. Youth Breeding shows are open to Alameda County and surrounding counties exhibitors. Surrounding counties are the following: Contra Costa, San Joaquin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara & Stanislaus.
 - b. The greatest care will be exercised in the handling of exhibits, but the Fair Management, the Fair Association, and the County of Alameda will not be held responsible for loss, theft, or damage of any kind from any cause. Submission of entry constitutes an agreement to this effect.
 - c. 5 – 8-year-old exhibitors may not show rabbits in the Market Rabbit Divisions (meat animals). They may enter showmanship and other Rabbit or Cavy divisions. NO ONE UNDER THE AGE OF 5 as of January 1, 2026, is eligible to show in any of the small animal divisions or classes.
 - d. Youth members of youth organizations in surrounding counties may enter in the Small Animals Department as "Open Youth". These exhibitors may not participate in Department 4 (Market Division) and Round Robin events.
 - e. Age is determined by the exhibitor's age as of January 1, 2026. If you have previously used the online entry portal, please remember to ensure the exhibitor's age and date of birth are correct so that classification is accurate on judging day. If you are not using the online entry portal, the exhibitor's date of birth MUST be clearly written on entry forms.

3. **ENTRY:**

- a. Animals will be shown and judged in the proper division and class for the breed, variety, age, and sex only. If no division is offered, no awards may be made.
- b. The sex and age in months (on show date) must be entered on the entry form for each entry.
- c. Substitutions must be made at least 24 hours prior to delivery and may be made within the same division only. See State Rules. Ear changes will be accepted only within the same breed, variety, class, and sex.
- d. All rabbits must be identified by a permanent ear tattoo marking before arriving at the show to conform to the entry form. Any duplication of ear markings by one exhibitor in the same division must be eliminated and the change recorded on the judging sheet before judging. **No Tattooing on the fairgrounds.**
- f. State Rabbit Health Rule: Any rabbit showing evidence of disease will be immediately removed from the Fairgrounds.

4. **HANDLING:**

- a. **Youth Exhibitors are responsible for feeding and watering their own animals.** Feed and shavings will be provided by the Fair and available between 8 AM and 9:30 AM daily. In the case of an exhibitor not being present, another youth (proxy) may be designated.
- b. **Youth Exhibitors are required to clean their animal's cages every day between 8 and 9:30 AM. Cages not cleaned beyond two days will be subject to forfeiture of all awards and premiums.**
- c. NO Straw or Hay in Cages.
- d. Animals can only be taken from cages for scheduled activities. Animals may not be removed until checkout day and time.
- e. DURING SMALL ANIMAL EVENTS, ONLY EXHIBITORS ARE ALLOWED TO HANDLE AND CARE FOR THE ANIMALS. Adults are not allowed to handle animals. See 4-H and FFA Local Rule for penalty and enforcement provisions.
- f. **CAGE SECURITY:** Though the Small Animal staff does their best to ensure security of animals on exhibit, youth exhibitors are REQUIRED TO PROVIDE and MAINTAIN LOCKS for their animals. Combination or key locks are encouraged. Alameda County Fair will offer "C" rings, but youth exhibitors must provide their own means of "C" ring installation and removal (i.e. pliers).

5. **JUDGING:**

- a. Exhibitors must carry their own rabbits.
- b. **SHOW ATTIRE:** Show attire will be worn by all exhibitors at every event except chicken calling contest. Rabbit exhibitors must wear long sleeves. Bowl teams may choose a themed attire and do not have to use 4-H uniform. Costume may be worn to match animal in the Dress-Up contest.
FFA: White shirt and pant, FFA tie or scarf and jacket. 4-H: White long sleeve shirt and pants, 4-H tie or scarf and hat. OPEN YOUTH EXHIBITORS: White long sleeve shirt and pants.

6. **RELEASE:**

Release slips are required to remove exhibits from the Fairgrounds. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to obtain the Release from the Small Animal Office Check-out Staff prior to departure. **EARLY RELEASE** of exhibit animals will result in forfeiture of all awards.

7. **SALES:** See Open Small Animal Department Rules