

<b>ANIMAL RIDES</b>	An exhibitor who uses regulated animals to give rides to the public must meet all the applicable Animal Welfare Act regulations and standards.
<b>Criteria</b>	Examples of animals used to give rides are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• elephants</li><li>• camels</li><li>• llamas</li><li>• cattle</li></ul> Note: Domestic equine species are exempt. Therefore, horse or pony rides are not covered.
<b>Conducting the Inspection</b>	When inspecting animals used for rides, make sure that the exhibitor meets all the applicable regulations [2.40, 2.50, 2.75, 2.78, 2.80, 2.125, 2.126, 2.130, 2.131], all the standards, including the transportation standards, for the animals being used, and Policies 3, 4, 18, 21, 22, 24, and 25.  While conducting your inspection, some areas to pay special attention to include, but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• training and handling experience of the handlers and employees</li><li>• attentiveness of the handler during the ride, i.e., is the handler watching the animal during the ride, or staring off into space</li><li>• number of personnel, i.e., are there enough personnel to watch for dangerous behaviors from the animals, the riders, and the viewing public</li><li>• perimeter fence and/or barriers between the animals and the general viewing public</li><li>• proper fit of saddles, riding equipment, halters, or restraint devices. Some signs of improper fit include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ redness</li><li>➤ sores</li><li>➤ abrasions</li><li>➤ irritated skin</li><li>➤ hair loss</li></ul></li></ul>

- condition of the equipment, i.e., no sharp edges, no broken straps, buckles or fasteners, padding not thin or excessively worn
  - appropriateness of the weight load for the animal
  - animal's physical condition and behavior
  - animal's locomotion, gait and uniformity of stride
  - willingness of the animal to work
  - availability of drinking water
  - availability of shade
  - foot care, especially elephants
  - rest for animals between rides and overnight
- Note: Animals must be allowed a rest period equal to the amount of time that they were giving rides. [2.131(b)(2)]
- contingency plan to provide veterinary care if an animal is injured away from the home facility

NOTE: On the inspection report, be sure to put the name of the elephant(s).

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