

Halter Committee Meeting 8/15/2022

In attendance: Courtnee Onsager (Chair), Aspen Kelchen (Secretary), Stephen Fritz (Liaison), Kelly Squires

Not in Attendance: Sean Hart and Eugene Robinson

Call to Order: 6:32pm CST

Non-Breeder topic: There is a non-breeding yearling class and we had an exhibitor ask why there is a non-breeder yearling male class if they shouldn't be gelded until 18-24 months and the shows will not let you show it in non-breeder unless it is in fact castrated.

Discussion: if a male is not in fact gelded- it should not be allowed to show in a non breeding class. It can be shown in an intact male class until it has been castrated. However we do not want to take away the yearling non-breeder class because some breeders still castrate young and can enter that class.

Halter Fiber Divisions: (Copy and pasted from an Email sent to the committee) think it is time for a serious discussion regarding animals who are blatantly entered and shown in the wrong wool division and how this should be addressed in the guidelines. I can understand when a "tweener" is involved. However, the photos attached show animals that are textbook medium wool animals being shown and awarded in Heavy and EXTREME Heavy classes. I know the usual excuse is that "I am only supporting the shows by bringing lots of animals" and "I have to split them up because I don't have enough handlers." I also have many animals that share divisions and classes. However, I usually address this issue by asking friends and other showman to take in my animals to their correct division or I limit my entries so that the rules and guidelines are being followed. While the support sentiment is appreciated, it is not an excuse to blatantly ignore the wool division guidelines and even further, to rewarded for doing so. This takes away from animals who are being entered in the correct classes and fit that "typing". To further explain, GENERALLY Extreme Heavy animals lean more toward the Argentine typing and build, this means they are more than likely shorter and more solid. This forces them to be judged equally with an animal that not only, does not fit the guidelines for this class but towers above them and may very well draw more attention, because it does not fit where it is being shown. I've noticed this is an increasing issue over the years as I've been showing and even more so since I became a Dual Sanctioned Judge. Judges have no place to move animals that are incorrectly entered into heavy since it is usually the final division of the show. And it is generally up to the judge how to handle these situations leaving a blurred line of what is allowed. I feel because it is being done more frequently nowadays, including by judges and advanced teaching judges themselves, we need to have a clear outline of how this should be handled moving forward. If nothing changes, people will continue to enter their animals in the wrong wool divisions for personal gain (less animals in that division, size/style advantage, Premiums, etc.) and

there will be no repercussions. I feel our guidelines very clearly state what the wool divisions are and are extremely detailed (I will also be attaching these for reference). I believe we now need to discuss what the outcome is if they are not followed and maybe we can discuss with the Judges committee our thoughts on how it should be handled on that end.

Discussion: Having the fiber judge of the first big ILR show at check in or the exhibitor's first show to classify that animal for the year, keeping that classification through the year. (If you enter in Suri beginning of the year, you stay there throughout the year.) hopefully reducing the pressure on judges of deciding if an animal fits the class or not and avoiding the issue of an animal being in the wrong division where they cannot be moved to the correct class. (this is what we would be taking to the Board for discussion)

(Back up idea) Discussing with the Judges Committee on a set way for judges to handle animals being in the wrong division where they are unable to move them to the correct division. At this time there is no clear way to handle this. Some say to judge them as if they belong there and some say to judge them down because they do not fit the class requirements.

Courtnee and Stephen will be taking this to the Governing Board meeting to discuss and we can regroup after depending on their response.

Meeting Ended: 6:54pm CST