

## WHO MAKES THESE DECISIONS?

Only the **Market Veterinarian** has the authority to decide if an animal is unacceptable for sale at a public livestock market.

## WHO PAYS?

**Pre-Existing Conditions** – the owner is responsible for treatment, euthanasia, and disposal.

**Acute Conditions** – conditions occurring during transporting, is the responsibility of the trucker's insurance (if insured), or owner, if self-transporting the animal(s) or if the trucker does not carry insurance. Markets carry insurance for accidental injury while animals are present at the market.

## HOW DO I DECIDE IF MY ANIMAL CAN GO TO THE PUBLIC LIVESTOCK MARKET?

If you have an animal that may be questionable, discuss it with your private veterinarian or the market veterinarian where you intend to take the animal(s). Cooperative county extension agents are another excellent source of information to help you make a decision as to your market strategy.

## "Promoting safe and efficient handling of Colorado's Livestock sold at Public Livestock Markets and addressing non-ambulatory livestock issues"

For a complete set of guidelines from the Colorado Department of Agriculture, please refer to the document included in this packet titled, "**PUBLIC LIVESTOCK MARKET-ANIMAL CONDITION/ DISPOSITION GUIDELINES**"

Or contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture.

**Colorado Department of Agriculture  
Animal Industry Division  
State Veterinarian's Office  
700 Kipling, Suite 4000  
Lakewood, CO 80215  
303-239-4161**

[www.colorado.gov/ag/animals](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/animals)



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# Non-Eligible Livestock For Sale At Public Livestock Markets



## THE LAW

The Colorado Livestock Market Act Title 55 Section 35 Supp. 1995 and 1996 H.B. 96-1340, prohibits certain livestock from being sold at Colorado Public Livestock Markets.

**This law is intended to address two basic concerns:**

- 1) ensure that reasonably healthy livestock are delivered in safe and effective means to auction markets**
- 2) prevent undue suffering of those animals that are severely injured or are non-ambulatory (unable to rise and walk).**

Any animal presented for sale at a public livestock market is subject to this law, including cattle (beef, dairy & exotic), horses, mules, sheep, goats, pigs, llamas, and poultry.

## UNACCEPTABLE CONDITIONS DISEASES:



**Cancer Eye (cattle)** –those

lesions that involve the entire eye, eyelids, or bony socket, are not acceptable for sale. See above photos.



Further, if the animal's body condition is in the lower 20%, regardless of the degree of eye involvement, it will not be allowed to sell. (Note: small lesions or those lesions that are, in the market veterinarian's opinion, able to be surgically removed, are able to be sold "as is.")



**Lump Jaw & Woody Tongue (cattle)** – small swelling of the jaw, nose or throat would sell "as is." Large swelling as shown in the photo is not acceptable.

**Pneumonia (any species)** – an animal that is visibly sick with pneumonia, is in a reasonable body condition, and able to move with minimal handling, can be sold "as is." **But**, an animal that is visibly sick, is unable or unwilling to rise and walk, **or** has a body condition score in the lower 20% for that species is **not** acceptable.

**"Downer" Animals** – typically refers to non-ambulatory animals with metabolic imbalance (caused by milk fever, grass or shipping tetany), and those animals are not acceptable for sale at a public livestock market.

However, if, after contact with the owner, and if the owner agrees that treatment may be helpful, the market veterinarian or a veterinarian of the owner's choice may treat the animals). If the animal recovers in 2 hours and is able to rise and walk it can be sold "as is."

**Tumors (all species)** – animals which are afflicted with tumors that are associated with severe swelling, severe discoloration, open draining lesion, are not able to be surgically corrected, or the animals body condition score is in the lower 20% for its species is not acceptable.

## INJURIES:

**Fractures (all species)** – fractures of the leg bones which prevents the animal from bearing weight, the affected limb(s) collapses with weight bearing or the fractured bone protrudes through the skin (compounded), this animal is not acceptable for sale.

**Dislocations (luxation) [all species]** – a dislocation of the knee, hock or pastern joints, which prevents the animal from bearing weight on the affected limb, and the limb collapses with weight bearing, is unacceptable for sale.

## DISABLED:

Any condition which renders the affected animal(s) unable to rise and walk with minimum handling, this animal will be termed **non-ambulatory**.

Any non-ambulatory animal regardless of cause is not eligible to be sold at a public livestock market. Any animal which is in the lower 20% of its species body condition score as a result of disease or injury, is not eligible for sale at a public livestock market. Body condition loss of an animal as a result of nutrition or age is eligible to be sold.

**"The Colorado Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the care and handling of Colorado's livestock.**

**Animals play such a large part in all of our lives and that is a responsibility that must be taken seriously."**

**—Commissioner of Agriculture**

## Pre-Existing vs Acute Conditions

There are two basic situations in which an animal(s) may be refused to be sold at a public livestock market.:

**Pre-Existing Conditions** – those conditions discussed in this pamphlet, in which the animal was affected by the condition prior to being loaded and shipped to a public livestock market.

**Acute Conditions** – those animals which may have been injured or "down" during transporting or injured at the market premises.