

**To: Science Fair Sponsors, Regional Chairpersons, Safety Inspectors**

**From: IJAS Safety Committee Co-Chairs:**

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**Re: Safety Concerns**

We wish to make the 2009 IJAS Exhibition as enjoyable as possible for your participants. Please take note of the following information, in order to avoid having any of your student's projects disqualified during this year's fairs. The Safety Guidelines for Experimentation section of the P&P Manual (p. 8) is in a new format.

- A new section regarding Biology projects has been added to the P&P Manual (p.8) dealing with 'Use and Care of Humans as Test Subjects', 'Use and Care of Non-Human Vertebrates', also 'Use and Care of Microorganisms'. The changes are as follows:
  - Cultures have been defined as the growth of microorganisms, tissue cells, or other living matter in a specially prepared nutrient medium.
  - Chicken or other bird embryo projects are allowed, but the treatment must be discontinued at or before 72 hours before scheduled hatch day. At that time the egg must be destroyed.
  - Projects that involve behavioral studies of newly hatched chickens or other birds will be allowed if no changes have been made in the normal incubation and hatching of the organism, and that all the vertebrate rules are followed (only non-manipulated eggs may be hatched).
- A Microorganism Endorsement (see Appendix- page 48) must be completed for any project involving microorganisms. All microorganism experimentation must be conducted in a laboratory setting such as a science classroom or professional research facility. This is an area that involves many dangers and hazards so it is the responsibility of the teacher/sponsor to teach proper safety techniques.
- A Human Endorsement (found in the IJAS P&P Manual) must be completed for any project that involves a human as a test subject. This includes Behavioral Science projects—even those considered surveys.
- A Non-Human Vertebrate Endorsement applies to all vertebrate animal projects including behavioral studies. The basic aim of experiments involving animals is to achieve an understanding of life processes, therefore sacrificing vertebrate animals or inflicting pain on them in the course of completing a project is not allowed. Be especially aware of this regulation when doing studies involving the use of one vertebrate animal as a food source for another.
- A copy of the Abstract, Safety Sheet, and any Endorsement (if applicable) must be displayed on the front of the exhibitor's backboard. If space is a concern students may stack these documents so that the inspector and judges can flip through them. If students reduce the documents, please do not reduce to less than 75% of the original size (5.5" x 8.5").

We are making a concerted effort to move Science Fair out of the old "Show and Tell" mode and into the more modern view that students communicate their research information and data. Please help in our attempt to eliminate demonstrations and the display of unnecessary items. This effort applies to all situations unless the student has constructed an apparatus or grown plants that cannot be properly photographed.

If these regulations are enforced uniformly at all fairs, it is less likely that infractions will occur at the state exhibition. The enclosed Inspection Guidelines and Violation Forms may be used at your local and regional fairs to help in this effort.

Many questions can occur during the execution of these rules. If you feel a project is getting into a gray area, please contact us before proceeding with the investigation. It is easier to discuss matters and come to conclusions prior to the student spending time working on a project.