

# **American Embryo Transfer Association Code of Ethics**

The American Embryo Transfer Association (AETA) prides itself as being composed of individuals and companies that follow sound ethical principles and are committed to delivering dependable, high-quality services to the industry. Ethical principles are goals that every member should strive to achieve. They serve as the justification for the specific requirement of the Code of Ethics. This code is binding upon members of the AETA and violations may subject the member to disciplinary action in accordance with the Bylaws of the organization. The AETA recognizes that ethical obligations exist to clients, society, other governing bodies and the organization.

## Objectives

Define the ethical principles expected within the embryo transfer industry and outline the obligations of a member of the American Embryo Transfer Association.

Provide a set of guidelines that may be referenced should questions concerning the conduct of a member arise.

### **I. Obligations to the Client & their Livestock**

- A. Members shall operate in accordance with the commonly used and widely accepted standards of the embryo transfer industry in regards to donor treatment and handling, donor superovulation schedules, recipient synchronization protocols, embryo collection and processing, and sterile technique as set forth by the International Embryo Technology Society (IETS) and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH).
- B. Members shall protect confidential information pertaining to the client.
- C. Members shall carry out all aspects of services in a competent and respectful manner.
- D. Members shall not engage in any conduct which is of a character likely to deceive, defraud or harm the client they serve in the course of providing services.

### **II. Obligations to Society**

- A. Members shall not engage in any conduct which is of a character likely to defraud or deceive the public.
- B. Members shall not engage in false or misleading advertising.
- C. Members shall ensure that any treatments or procedures will not result in a volatile residue in any food-producing animal.

- D. Members shall not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs when performing embryo transfer work.
- E. Member veterinarians, DVM/VMD, shall operate in accordance with the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics as set forth by the American Veterinary Medical Association and in compliance with the veterinary practice acts of the states in which they practice.
- G. Members who provide embryo transfer services without a veterinary license shall do so in accordance and in compliance with the veterinary practice acts of the states in which they practice.
- H. Members shall ensure that the use of veterinary prescription drugs or the extra-label use of any pharmaceutical shall be under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

### **III. Obligations to the Governing Bodies**

- A. The identity of all donor animals should be verified in the case of registered donors.
- B. Members shall maintain clear and accurate records of all embryo transfer activity. Certificates and forms will be prepared and available within an acceptable period of time.
- C. Members shall comply with all federal, state or local laws, rules or regulations governing or impacting the industry.

### **IV. Obligations to the AETA**

- A. Members shall comply with the Bylaws of the AETA and this Code of Conduct.
- B. Members who are AETA Certified shall comply with the certification guidelines established by the Certification Committee and the AETA Board of Directors.
- C. Members shall conduct themselves in a proper and appropriate manner while attending or participating in AETA sponsored events and in all communications with AETA staff.
- D. Members shall be honest, fair, and act with integrity to other AETA members and treat others with mutual respect and trust for each individual and company.
- E. Members shall honestly represent the capabilities of themselves and or their company.
- F. Quality control measures should be in place in all embryo transfer practices as described in the IETS manual.