

## —Animals raised responsibly—

At Happy Valley Meat Company our mission is to forge a direct connection between chefs and farmers who raise their animals in a responsible and humane way. We believe a return to direct sourcing from small farming communities is the key to improving the lives of the people and animals that feed us. This belief is what our business is based on, and it's why all of our meat comes from farmers who take their time and treat their animals right.

All of our farmers must meet strict welfare standards, from birth to slaughter, in order to guarantee that our animals are treated as they should be for their entire lives. To ensure our standards get the results we want, we use species-specific, reliable, and valid outcome-indicators to evaluate our farms. By using animal-, input-, and practice-based standards that are observable and measurable we can make certain our animals are raised the right way whenever we set foot on our farms.

By the end of 2018, all of our farms and slaughter facilities will be strictly adhering to our welfare standards and, by 2021, independently certified for all possible species by Animal Welfare Approved, Certified Humane, or other certification programs recognized by the ASPCA® *Shop With Your Heart*. To get there, Happy Valley will work alongside our farmers using publicly published welfare guides, on-farm tools, and funding support to maintain and improve the welfare of our animals.

Developed in partnership with the ASPCA®, our standards adhere to the “Five Freedoms” that all animals under human care must have:

### 1. Freedom from Hunger and Thirst

—by ready access to fresh water and diet to maintain health and vigor—

#### We Require:

- ✓ Diets appropriate for age and climate that support proper nutrition and health
- ✓ Non-competitive feeding strategies or free access to feed
- ✓ Free and continuous access to clean, fresh water
- ✓ Maintenance of healthy body condition scores
- ✓ No antibiotics used for growth promotion or feed efficiency
- ✓ No added growth hormones or promoters
- ✓ No animal by-products in feed
- ✓ Short transport times with minimized periods of food and water withdrawal
- ✓ Written nutrition and feeding plans
- ✓ Written emergency supplementary feeding plans

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## 2. Freedom from Discomfort

—by providing an environment with appropriate shelter, comfort, and climate—

### We Require:

- ✓ Pasture or outdoor access for all animals for at least 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s of their lives
- ✓ Natural light and daylight cycles
- ✓ Animals and their environment are clean and hygienic
- ✓ Sufficient air quality to prevent illness or discomfort
- ✓ Adequate space per animal on farms and in transport to prevent overcrowding
- ✓ Slip-resistant, clean, dry, and solid flooring in all non-pasture areas
- ✓ Clean, dry bedding of sufficient quality and quantity for comfort and nesting
- ✓ Protection from thermal stress and adverse temperature and humidity levels
- ✓ Sufficient natural or built shelter to protect from adverse or extreme weather
- ✓ All equipment and facilities to be maintained, repaired, and functional

## 3. Freedom from Pain, Injury, and Disease

—by prevention, rapid diagnosis, and treatment—

### We Require:

- ✓ Zero tolerance for animal abuse
- ✓ Elimination of unnecessary painful procedures
- ✓ Careful and competent handling to avoid slipping and injury
- ✓ No electric prod use except when animal or human safety is in jeopardy
- ✓ No breeds that compromise welfare through excessive growth or production
- ✓ Immediate treatment of injured, sick, lame, or otherwise suffering animals
- ✓ Antibiotics only for the treatment of illness or as prescribed by a veterinarian
- ✓ Euthanasia of non-recoverable animals using only AVMA approved methods
- ✓ No transport of sick, injured, or downed animals for auction or slaughter
- ✓ Best practices for animal procedures to minimize pain and suffering
- ✓ Species- and size-appropriate restraint devices and handling facilities
- ✓ Written health plans and record-keeping of animal-based indicators
- ✓ Established veterinarian-client-patient relationship

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## 4. Freedom to Express Normal Behavior

—by providing sufficient space, facilities, and company of other animals—

### We Require:

- ✓ Prohibited use of closed confined housing, unless temporarily required
- ✓ Prevention or remedy of abnormal behavior, bullying, or aggression
- ✓ No animals are isolated or separated, unless medically required
- ✓ Space sufficient for normal movement, behavior, and socialization
- ✓ Appropriate herd or house grouping by age, size, and life stage
- ✓ Appropriate housing and nesting materials for breeding animals
- ✓ Maintenance of stable social groups
- ✓ Environmental enrichment sufficient for engagement in normal behavior

## 5. Freedom from Fear and Distress

—by ensuring conditions and treatment that avoid mental suffering—

### We Require:

- ✓ Zero tolerance for animal mistreatment or cruelty
- ✓ Calm, low-stress handling of animals at all times
- ✓ Elimination of excessive and unexpected noise
- ✓ No passageways or facilities that impede animal movement
- ✓ Species-specific and low-stress handling, loading, and transport facilities
- ✓ Diffuse and uniform lighting in handling, loading, and transport areas
- ✓ Low-stress weaning methods and weaning ages closer to natural separation
- ✓ Protection from pests and predators
- ✓ All slaughter plants must meet American Meat Institute (AMI) standards
- ✓ Effective stunning before shackling and slaughter
- ✓ On-farm welfare education and training

Contact Us or Learn More About our Animal Welfare Progress here:



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