

Information for Petting Zoo and Animal Exhibit Operators

What are the Responsibilities of Petting Zoo and Animal Exhibit Operators?

Operators should assume all animals may carry diseases that can make people sick. Operators should take the following precautions to help protect visitors:

- Distribute information on safety precautions to visitors as they enter the animal exhibit.
- Provide adequate hand washing stations with running water, liquid soap and disposable towels. At least one hand washing station should be right beside the animal area.
- Ensure hand washing stations and bathrooms are kept clean and fully stocked with liquid soap and disposable towels.
- Place hand washing signs in many locations (including the entrances or exits) to remind visitors to wash their hands after visiting the animals and before eating.
- Ensure children under 5 are accompanied and supervised by an adult while in the animal area and during hand washing.
- Ensure animal contact areas are separate from visitor eating areas.
- Do not allow the public to milk cows or drink unpasteurized milk.
- Do not allow strollers, pacifiers, sippy cups, baby bottles, food or drinks in the animal exhibit area.
- Ensure food is not fed to the animals in containers that people may try to eat (e.g. ice cream cones).
- Keep birthing animals out of public areas.
- Keep animals healthy and safe. Keep their environment stress free and do not crowd them.
- Provide only healthy animals for public display or contact.
- Clearly indicate which animals can be touched and which cannot.
- Regularly remove faeces and other waste. Dispose of safely.
- Provide barriers to prevent visitors from touching animals that should not be touched.
- Hand rails and other contact surfaces should be made of easy to clean materials. Clean and disinfect these surfaces daily before opening and at mid-day and closing.
- Provide adequate garbage bins for visitors.
- Direct traffic flow in one direction. The entrance and exit should not be next to one another.
- Ensure Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health is notified of the petting zoo/animal exhibit at least 30 days prior to opening.
- Also notify WDG Public Health of all locations planned for the next 30-day period.

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