

Appendix 1

Animals in Public Settings: Guidelines for Venue Operators and Staff Members

Operators and staff members should be aware of the following risks for disease and injury associated with animals in public settings:

- Disease and injuries have occurred following contact with animals and their environment.
- Direct contact with some animals is inappropriate in public settings, depending on the expected audience. For example, direct contact with ill animals is inappropriate for any public group. In addition, direct contact with preweaned calves, reptiles, amphibians, and live poultry is not appropriate for children < 5 years of age. Other animals for which contact is of increased concern include other ruminants (eg, goats and sheep). Reptiles and amphibians should not be given as prizes at fairs, carnivals, or other events. Dangerous animals (eg, nonhuman primates, certain carnivores, other rabies reservoir species, and venomous reptiles) should be prohibited from direct contact.
- Healthy animals can carry germs that make visitors sick.
- Visitors can pick up germs when they touch animals or animal droppings or enter an animal's environment.
- Visitors can rid themselves of most germs acquired if they wash their hands immediately after leaving an animal area. Visitors should wash their hands even if they did not directly contact the animals.
- The risk for developing serious or life-threatening illnesses from contact with animals is higher among certain visitors, especially young children (ie, those < 5 years of age), persons ≥ 65 years of age, pregnant women, and persons with weakened immune systems.

Operators and staff members should take the following steps to maintain a safe environment when animals are present in public settings:

- Design the venue with safety in mind by having designated animal areas, nonanimal areas, and transition areas.
- Do not permit any animals other than service animals in nonanimal areas.
- Provide hand-washing facilities where food and beverages are stored, prepared, served, or consumed.
- Assign trained staff members to monitor animal contact areas.
- Exclude food and beverages, toys, pacifiers, spill-proof cups, and baby bottles, and prohibit smoking in animal contact areas.
- Keep the animal areas as clean and disinfected as possible, and limit visitor contact with manure and animal bedding.
- Allow feeding of animals only if contact with animals can be controlled (eg, over a barrier).
- Minimize use of animal areas for public activities (eg, weddings and dances).
- Design transition areas for entering and exiting animal areas with appropriate signs or other forms of notification regarding risks associated with animal contact and location of hand-washing facilities.
- Maintain hand-washing stations that are accessible to children, and direct visitors to wash their hands when exiting animal areas.
- Position hand-washing stations in places that encourage hand washing when exiting animal areas.
- Ensure that animals receive appropriate preventive care, including vaccinations and parasite control appropriate for the species.
- Provide potable water for animals.
- Prohibit consumption of unpasteurized dairy products (eg, raw milk), ciders, and juices.

Operators and staff members should educate visitors regarding animal contact in public settings:

- Inform visitors about the risks for disease and injury before they enter animal areas.
- Provide simple instructions in multiple age- and language-appropriate formats.
- Direct visitors to wash their hands and assist children with hand washing immediately after visiting an animal area.
- Advise visitors that they should not eat, drink, or place things in their mouths after animal contact or visiting an animal area until they have washed their hands.
- Advise visitors to closely supervise children and to be aware that objects such as clothing, shoes, and stroller wheels can become soiled and serve as a source of germs after leaving an animal area.
- Make visitors aware that young children, persons ≥ 65 years of age, pregnant women, and persons with weakened immune systems are at increased risk for serious illness.

Hand washing is the most important prevention step for reducing disease transmission associated with animals in public settings.