



Office of Infectious Disease Services

Vector-borne & Zoonotic Disease Program

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Dear Petting Zoo Operator or Animal Exhibitor,

Interacting with animals at petting zoos or other exhibits provides a unique educational experience for the public, particularly children. Most visitors to animal venues, however, are not aware of some of the health risks associated with animal contacts. We ask for your collaboration to ensure that health risks to the public are minimized while allowing a rewarding exposure to animals in your facility.

Animal contact can result in serious infections and injuries if the proper precautions are not employed. Approximately 150 human disease outbreaks from 1996-2010 were associated with visitors to public animal exhibition settings. There continues to be a number of reported illnesses caused by *Salmonella* and *Escherichia coli* O157, among visitors to petting zoos, fairs, and farms. These reports commonly document livestock, such as cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs as sources for infection. However rabbits, reptiles, and other exotic animals should not be overlooked as sources of infections. Animals harboring infectious organisms often do not show signs of illness, but still shed the pathogens and contaminate the environment.

To ensure the health and safety of visitors to your exhibits, staff working with the animals, and of the animals themselves, it is important to implement protection measures. These measures include guidelines on hand-washing, adult supervision of young children, proper animal management, and appropriate petting zoo design. Important tips for making your petting zoo or animal exhibit safe for the public and educational flyers for your venue are provided with this packet.

The education flyers are designed to be posted **1) at the entrance of the petting zoo, 2) at the exit, and 3) at the hand washing facility.**

Please let us know if you have any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

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Packet Contents

- 1) Tips for Making your Petting Zoo Safe for the Public
- 2) Recommendations for Animal Care
- 3) Hand-Washing Tips & Recommendations
- 4) Flyers to post around your exhibit
 - a. “No food, drink, toys, or smoking” in animal area – POST AT ENTRANCE
 - b. “Do not put fingers in your eyes, nose, or mouth” –POST IN ANIMAL AREA
 - c. “Wash hands after petting animals” –POST IN ANIMAL AREA
 - d. “Henry the Hand” instructions –POST AT EXIT



Tips for Making Your Petting Zoo Safe for the Public

- ☑ No food or drink should be allowed in animal areas.
- ☑ Carrying toys, use of pacifiers and baby bottles, and smoking should NOT be permitted in animal areas.
- ☑ Supervision of children, especially those younger than 5 years old, should be mandatory.
- ☑ Discourage hand-to-mouth contact and ensure proper hand-washing when needed, including after exiting animal areas.
- ☑ Provide hand-washing stations at exit. Running water and soap is strongly recommended. Use the fun recommendations page for hand-washing.
- ☑ Provide transition areas between animal areas and non-animal areas and clearly define them.
- ☑ Entrance transition areas should have signs that instruct visitors not to eat, drink, or place their hands in their mouth while in animal area.
- ☑ Exit transition areas should instruct visitors to wash their hands and guide visitors to hand-washing stations. Hand-washing stations should be accessible to children.
- ☑ Remove soiled animal bedding and manure promptly. Animal waste should be store temporarily in appropriately labeled containers that are lined with plastic bags. Waste removal tools (e.g. shovels and pitchforks) should be kept within designated animal areas and restricted from public access.
- ☑ Staff must be present in areas of animal contact to encourage appropriate human-animal interactions to reduce risk of injury and report exposures.
- ☑ If you allow animals to be fed by visitors, only food sold or provided by your venue should be allowed. Food for the animals should not be eaten by people and should not be provided in containers that can be eaten by people (e.g. ice cream cones). This will reduce risk of animal bites and likelihood of children eating food that has come into contact with animals.
- ☑ Food vendors should NOT be located immediately adjacent to animal exhibits due to the natural spread of animal waste in the environment.



Recommendations for Animal Care and Management

- ☑ Animals should be monitored daily by owners or caretakers for any signs of illness, and receive veterinary care if signs of illness occur.
- ☑ No ill animals or animals from hers with a recent history of abortion or diarrhea should be included in the exhibit.
- ☑ Animals should be housed to minimize stress and overcrowding, which can increase shedding of microorganisms.
- ☑ Preventive care, vaccinations, and parasite control should be provided by a licensed veterinarian appropriate to the animal species at the exhibit. Screenings for some diseases (e.g. tuberculosis in elephants and some ruminants or Q fever for ruminants in birthing exhibits) should be considered.
- ☑ Animals should be housed to reduce potential exposure from wild mammals, such as those that carry rabies (e.g. bats, foxes, and skunks). Mammals should also be current on rabies vaccinations.
- ☑ Some animals can be dangerous, unpredictable, or carry highly infectious diseases, and therefore are not appropriate to include in exhibit settings. These include non-human primates (e.g. monkeys and apes), and carnivores (e.g. lions, tigers, or bears).
- ☑ Reptiles, baby chicks, and ducks are at high risk of shedding gastrointestinal bacteria, and should not be allowed for petting, especially by young children.
- ☑ Additionally, reservoirs of rabies such as bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes, and coyotes, should not be used for exhibits of this nature.
- ☑ If you are interested in including an exotic animal for your exhibit, please contact the Arizona Game & Fish Department and inquire about a permit.
- ☑ Generally, bringing an animal to a public exhibit that is very near to giving birth is not recommended. Animal births that may occur at your exhibit should be monitored to ensure the public has no contact with birthing products and the environment should be cleaned appropriately and thoroughly.
- ☑ Back-flow prevention devices should be installed between outlets in livestock areas and water lines supplying other uses on the grounds.
- ☑ Adequate distance from water supplied by a well must be maintained from possible sources of contamination such as animal holding areas or manure piles.
- ☑ Minimize the use of outdoor hoses, and do not leave hoses on the ground. Mark those accessible to the public as “not for human consumption”.

Hand-Washing Tips & Recommendations

- Hand-washing is the single most important prevention steps for reducing disease transmission.

Included in this packet are some flyers to post around your animal exhibit and at the exit near hand-washing stations that show proper hand-washing methods.

HOW-TO

- Wet hands with running water
- Place soap in palms and rub together to make a lather
- Scrub hands vigorously for 20 seconds
- Rinse soap off hands
- Dry hands with a disposable towel
- Turn off faucet using a disposable towel

FACILITIES or STATIONS

- Must be accessible and sufficient for maximum anticipated attendance.
- Configured for use by children and adults.
- Hands should always be washed after leaving animal areas and prior to eating/drinking.
- Running water should be of sufficient volume and pressure to remove soil from hands.
- Should be conveniently located between animal and non-animal areas.
- Routinely clean area and restock soap and towels.
- Design of hand-wash unit should leave hands free if possible. Do not use communal basins.

HAND-WASHING AGENTS

- Liquid soap dispensed by hand or foot pump is recommended.
- Alcohol-based sanitizers are effective when soap and water are not available. However, extremely dirty hands should be washed with soap and water, or dirt removed as best as possible before using hand sanitizers.

Do you have questions or comments?

Please call the Vector-borne & Zoonotic Disease Program at the Arizona Department of Health Services at (602)-364-3676.

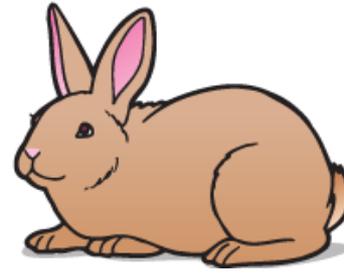
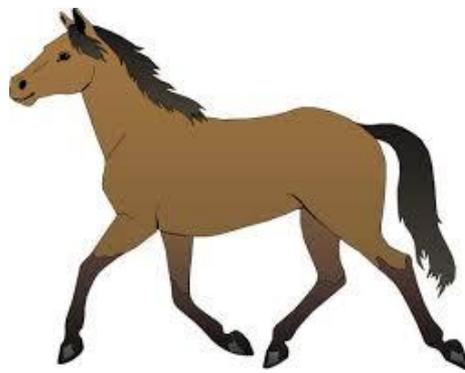
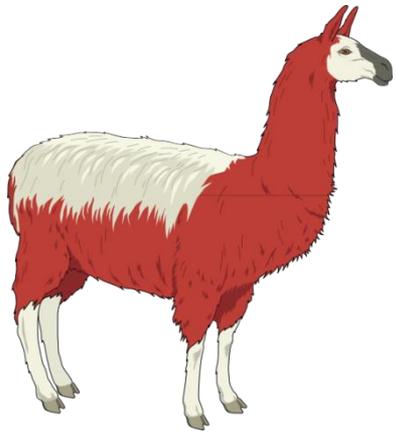


NO FOOD OR DRINK

NO PACIFIERS, TOYS, OR SMOKING

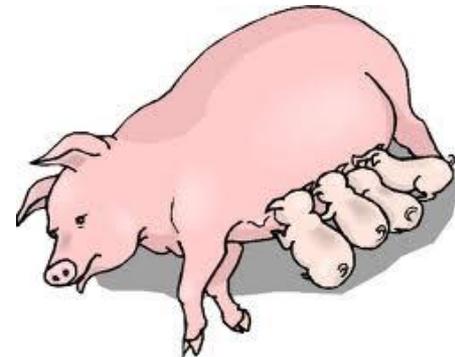
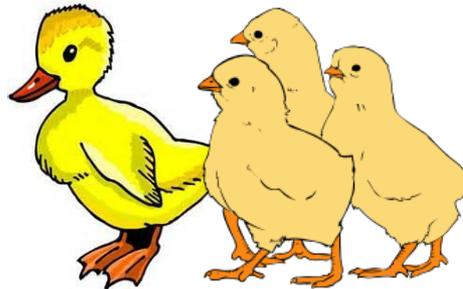
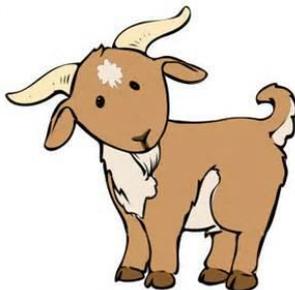
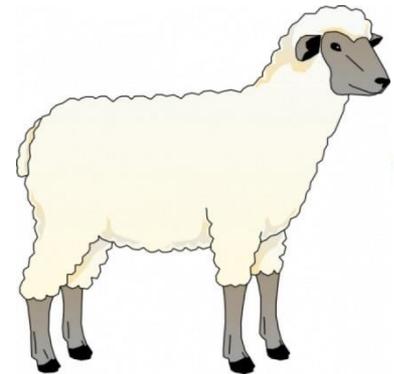
in Animal Area





Wash Your Hands after Petting the Animals!

*Please tell children not to put their hands
in their mouth, eyes, or nose!*



HENRY THE HAND'S HAND WASHING GUIDE

5 REMEMBER
to turn off the water
USING A
PAPER TOWEL
INSTEAD OF
YOUR HANDS



2 Use SOAP
and
WARM
WATER



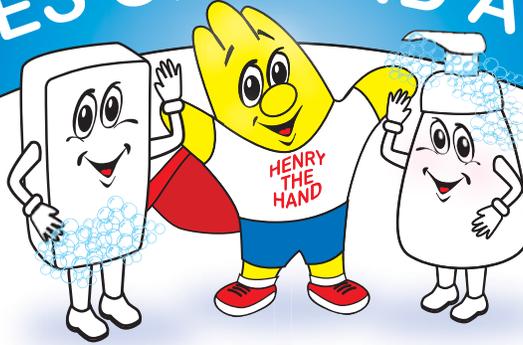
WASH
Between Fingers
Wrists
Under Fingernails
Backs of hands



HENRY THE HAND®

4 PRINCIPLES OF HAND AWARENESS

HEY KIDS!



1

WASH YOUR HANDS WHEN THEY ARE DIRTY AND BEFORE EATING!



2

DO NOT COUGH INTO HANDS!



INSTEAD TRY COUGHING HERE!



3

DO NOT SNEEZE INTO HANDS!



INSTEAD SNEEZE HERE!



4

ABOVE ALL, DO NOT PUT YOUR FINGERS IN YOUR EYES, NOSE OR MOUTH!



HENRY THE HAND®

4 pasos para manos limpias

HEY NIÑOS!



1

Lávate las manos cuando estén sucias y antes de comer



2

No tosas en tus manos



INSTEAD TRY COUGHING HERE!



3

No estornudes en tus manos



SINO AQUI



4

Pero sobre todo, no te lleves las manos a los ojos, nariz o boca!



LA GUIA DE LAVADO DE HENRY THE HAND

5 **RECUERDA
CERRAR EL
GRIFO CON
UNA TOALLA
DE PAPEL EN
LUGAR DE
LAS MANOS**



ENJUAGUE

**USA
JABON
Y AGUA
TIBIA**



ENJABONADO



**Lava entre los
dedos, las muñecas,
debajo de las uñas
y toda la mano**

SECADO



ENJUAGUE



ESTREGADO



www.henrythehand.com

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