

Animal Contact Best Practices Checklist

Facility Design

- ☐ Handwashing stations
 - Running water
 - Accessible for children and persons with disabilities
 - Plan in place for restocking paper towels, soap, and water
- ☐ Hand sanitizer (Hand sanitizer should be used as a supplement to soap and water and does not replace soap and water for handwashing)
 - Plan in place for restocking sanitizer
- ☐ Petting of animals only allowed over/through barriers (fences); visitors not allowed into pens, strollers not allowed into pens
- ☐ No transport of manure/soiled bedding through public areas
- ☐ Transition area at entrance between non-animal and animal waste areas
 - Stroller and bag storage. No strollers in animal contact area
- ☐ Transition area at exit as people leave animal space to non-animal space
 - Handwashing stations positioned near exit so visitors cannot miss them
 - Food service and eating areas kept separate from animal contact area
- ☐ Surfaces, especially pen railings, cleaned daily using soap and water
- ☐ Feed provided in containers that won't be confused as human food (e.g., do not use ice cream cones)
- ☐ Other: _____

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Staff and Visitor Education

- ☐ Review best practices and recommendations from the Animal Contact Compendium (*Appendix A*)
 - Educate staff about the risk for disease and injury associated with animals
 - Educate staff on how diseases are transmitted from animals to people
 - Educate staff on prevention messages that should be shared with visitors
- ☐ Ensure staff feel comfortable explaining these concepts to visitors
- ☐ Explain staff members' role(s) in the animal contact area
 - Teach people about animals
 - Teach people how to enjoy animals safely by following these best practices
- ☐ Educational messages in multiple formats (e.g., signs, videos, recorded messages, stickers, bracelets, interaction of staff and visitors)
- ☐ Signage in transition area at entrance
 - Animals can carry germs that can make people sick
 - No food or drink allowed in animal areas
 - No hand-to-mouth activities in the animal area (drinking, eating, bottles, pacifiers)
 - No strollers in animal contact areas
 - Children under 5 years old, senior citizens, pregnant women, people with chronic health conditions or a weakened immune system should be extra careful around animals
- ☐ Signage in transition area at exit
 - Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water immediately after visiting the animals
- ☐ Staff members present to encourage safe animal contact
 - Remind visitors to refrain from risky activities in the animal area (no drinking, no eating, no bottles, no pacifiers, no strollers)
 - Remind visitors to wash their hands after visiting the animal area
 - Remind parents to supervise children when around animals
- ☐ Other: _____