DATE: May 6, 2011

TO: State Public Health Veterinarians
State Epidemiologists
State Veterinarians
Others Concerned with Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings

FROM: John Dunn, DVM, PhD
Kirk Smith, DVM, PhD
Co-Chairs, Compendium Committee

SUBJECT: Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2011

On behalf of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV), we are pleased to announce the availability of the *Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2011*. There are many positive benefits of human-animal contact; however, infectious disease outbreaks related to such contacts have been increasingly reported. This Compendium provides standardized recommendations for use by public health officials, veterinarians, animal venue operators, animal exhibitors, and others concerned with disease control and with minimizing risks associated with animals in public settings. During September 15–17, 2010, NASPHV members and external expert consultants met at the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia. This Compendium updates the 2009 Compendium published in MMWR 2009;58:RR-5 .

The 2011 Compendium provides the following updates:
• A revised list of references to reflect recent publications and disease outbreaks.
• More information on indirect transmission of zoonotic infections through contact with animal environments and contaminated objects.
• Unique challenges associated with intensive animal contact venues like farm day camps.
• Expanded information regarding salmonellosis associated with amphibians.
• Inclusion of additional information about zoonotic influenza.

We recommend that you distribute this cover memorandum and the Compendium widely to persons responsible for oversight or regulation of animal contact venues, persons who operate such venues, and public settings where animal contact may occur. You also may wish to distribute the Appendices as stand-alone handouts, including Appendix A: "Animals in Public Settings: Guidelines for Venue Operators and Staff Members"; Appendix B: "How to be Safe Around Animals" handout; Appendix C: Hand-Washing Recommendations and sign; and Appendix D: Guidelines for Animals in School Settings. If you update any web links to this document, please delete links to prior versions of the Compendium. This Compendium will be available on the web at the NASPHV website: www.nasphv.org, in the Publications section, along with the rabies,

psittacosis/avian chlamydiosis, and veterinary infection control compendia. In addition to the Compendium, Appendices and a “Users Guide” are available for your convenience as separate downloadable documents on the NASPHV website.

This Compendium is periodically updated. We encourage your comments or suggestions for future Compendium issues. Comments should be sent to Dr. Dunn at Tennessee Department of Health, 425 5th Ave N, Cordell Hull Building, Nashville, TN 37243 or by email to John.Dunn@tn.gov.

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Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2011

National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc.

Continuing Education Examination available at http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/cme/conted.html

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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On the Cover: *Top left:* Girl and a sheep at a petting zoo (Photo/Champlain Valley Exposition, Essex Junction, Vermont). *Top right:* Brushing a pig at a petting zoo (Photo/C. Barton Behravesh, CDC). *Bottom right:* Boy and a calf at an animal exhibit in Minnesota (Photo/J. Springfield, V. A. Medical Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota). *Bottom left:* People looking at hatchling chicks at a chick exhibit (Photo/M. Calico, International Association of Fairs and Expositions). *Center:* Hand washing after animal contact (Photo/J. Smith).

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Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2011

National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc. (NASPHV)

Prepared by
NASPHV

Summary

Certain venues encourage or permit the public to be in contact with animals, resulting in millions of human-animal interactions each year. These settings include county or state fairs, petting zoos, animal swap meets, pet stores, feed stores, zoologic institutions, circuses, carnivals, educational farms, livestock-birthing exhibits, educational exhibits at schools and child-care facilities, and wildlife photo opportunities. Although human-animal contact has many benefits, human health problems are associated with these settings, including infectious diseases, exposure to rabies, and injuries. Infectious disease outbreaks have been caused by Escherichia coli *O157:H7,* Salmonella *species,* Cryptosporidium *species,* Coxiella burnetii, Mycobacterium tuberculosis, *ringworm, and other pathogens. Such outbreaks have substantial medical, public health, legal,* and *economic effects.*

This report provides recommendations for public health officials, veterinarians, animal venue staff members, animal exhibitors, visitors to animal venues, physicians, and others concerned with minimizing risks associated with animals in public settings. The recommendation to wash hands is the most important for reducing the risk for disease transmission associated with animals in public settings. Other important recommendations are that venues prohibit food in animal areas and include transition areas between animal areas and nonanimal areas, visitors receive information about disease risk and prevention procedures, and animals be properly cared for and managed. These updated 2011 guidelines provide new information on the risks associated with amphibians and with animals in day camp settings, as well as the protective role of zoonotic disease education.

Introduction

Contact with animals in public settings (e.g., fairs, educational farms, petting zoos, and schools) provides opportunities for entertainment and education. The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV) understands the positive benefits of human-animal contact. However, an inadequate understanding of disease transmission and animal behavior can increase the likelihood of infectious diseases, rabies exposures, injuries, and other health problems among visitors, especially children, in these settings. Zoonotic diseases (i.e., zoonoses) are diseases transmitted between animals and humans. Of particular concern are instances in which zoonoses result in numerous persons becoming ill. During 1991–2005, the number of enteric disease outbreaks associated with animals in public settings increased (*1*). During 1996–2010, approximately 150 human infectious disease outbreaks involving animals in public settings have been reported to CDC (CDC, unpublished data, 2010).

Although eliminating all risk from animal contacts is not possible, this report provides recommendations for minimizing associated disease and injury. NASPHV recommends that local and state public health, agricultural, environmental, and wildlife agencies use these recommendations to establish their own guidelines or regulations for reducing the risk for disease from human-animal contact in public settings. Public contact with animals is permitted in numerous types of venues (e.g., animal displays, petting zoos, animal swap meets, pet stores, feed stores, zoological institutions, nature parks, circuses, carnivals, educational farms, livestock-birthing exhibits, county or state fairs, child-care facilities or schools, and wildlife photo opportunities). Managers of these venues should use the information in this report in consultation with veterinarians, public health officials, or other professionals to reduce risks for disease transmission.

Guidelines to reduce risk for disease from animals in health-care and veterinary facilities and from service animals (e.g., guide dogs) have been developed (*2–6*). Although not specifically addressed here, the general principles and recommendations in this report are applicable to these settings.

This report has been endorsed by CDC, the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists, the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal Plant Health Inspection Service, the American Association of Extension Veterinarians, and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

Corresponding preparer: John R. Dunn, DVM, Co-chairperson, NASPHV Animal Contact Compendium Committee, Tennessee Department of Health, 425 5th Avenue North, Cordell Hull Building, 1st Floor, Nashville, TN 37243. Telephone: 615-741-5948; Fax: 615-741-3857; e-mail: John.Dunn@tn.gov.

Methods

NASPHV periodically updates the recommendations to prevent disease associated with animals in public settings. The revision includes reviewing recent literature; updating reported outbreaks, diseases, or injuries attributed to human-animal interactions in public settings; and soliciting input from NASPHV members and the public. During September 15–17, 2010, NASPHV members and external expert consultants met at CDC in Atlanta, Georgia. A committee consensus was required to add or modify existing language or recommendations. The 2011 guidelines have been updated with recently reported information about zoonotic disease outbreaks and prevention measures. This includes more information on indirect transmission through contact with animal environments and contaminated objects and unique challenges associated with intensive animal contact venues like farm day camps. In addition, the guidelines describe the importance of previous knowledge about disease risk in preventing illness. New or expanded disease topics include salmonellosis associated with amphibians and zoonotic influenza.

Enteric (Intestinal) Diseases

Infections with enteric bacteria and parasites pose the highest risk for human disease from animals in public settings (*7*). Healthy animals can harbor human enteric pathogens, many of which have a low infectious dose (*8–10*). Enteric disease outbreaks among visitors to fairs, farms, petting zoos, and other public settings are well documented. Many pathogens have been responsible for outbreaks, including *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 and other Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC), *Salmonella enterica*, *Cryptosporidium* species, and *Campylobacter* species (*11–24*). Although reports often document cattle, sheep, or goats (*1,13,14)* as sources for infection, live poultry (*25*), rodents (*26)*, reptiles (*19*), amphibians (27), and other domestic and wild animals also are potential sources.

The primary mode of transmission for enteric pathogens is fecal-oral. Because animal fur, hair, skin, and saliva (*28*) harbor fecal organisms, transmission can occur when persons pet, touch, feed, or are licked by animals. Transmission also has been associated with contaminated animal bedding, flooring, barriers, other environmental surfaces, and contaminated clothing and shoes (*12,17,19,29–32*). In addition, illness has resulted from fecal contamination of food (*33*), including raw milk (*34–37*), and drinking water (*38–40*).

Removing ill animals, especially those with diarrhea, is necessary but not sufficient to protect animal and human health. Animals carrying human enteric pathogens frequently exhibit no signs of illness but can still shed the organisms, thereby contaminating the environment (*41*). Some pathogens are shed by animals intermittently and live for months or years in the environment (*42–46*). Intermittent shedding of pathogens and limitations of laboratory testing make attempts to identify and remove infected animals unreliable as a means of eliminating the risk for transmission. Antimicrobial treatment of animals also cannot reliably eliminate infection, prevent shedding, or protect against reinfection. In addition, treatment of animals can prolong shedding and contribute to antimicrobial resistance (*47*).

Multiple factors increase the probability of disease transmission at animal exhibits. Animals are more likely to shed pathogens because of stress induced by prolonged transportation, confinement, crowding, and increased handling (*48–54*). Commingling increases the probability that animals shedding pathogens will infect other animals (*55*). The prevalence of certain enteric pathogens is often higher in young animals (*56–58*), which are frequently used in petting zoos and educational programs for children. Shedding of STEC and *Salmonella* organisms is highest in the summer and fall, when substantial numbers of traveling animal exhibits, agricultural fairs, and petting zoos are scheduled (*53,58,59*).

The risk for human infection is increased by certain factors and behaviors, especially in children. These factors and behaviors include lack of awareness of the risk for disease, inadequate hand washing, lack of close supervision, and hand-to-mouth activities (e.g., use of pacifiers, thumb-sucking, and eating) (*60*). Children are particularly attracted to animal venues but have increased risk for serious illness when they are infected. Although farm residents might have some acquired immunity to certain pathogens (*61,62*), livestock exhibitors have become infected with *E. coli* O157:H7 in fair outbreaks (*17*; K. Smith, DVM, Minnesota Department of Health, personal communication, 2010).

The layout and maintenance of facilities and animal exhibits can increase or decrease the risk for infection (*63*). Factors that increase risk include inadequate hand-washing facilities (*64*), inappropriate flow of visitors, and incomplete separation between animal exhibits and food preparation and consumption areas (*12,16,65*). Other factors include structural deficiencies associated with temporary food-service facilities, contaminated or inadequately maintained drinking water systems, and poorly managed sewage- or manure-disposal (*19,32,38–40*).

Outbreaks and Lessons Learned

In 2000, two *E. coli* O157:H7 outbreaks in Pennsylvania and Washington prompted CDC to establish recommendations for enteric disease prevention associated with farm animal contact. Risk factors identified in both outbreaks were direct

animal contact and inadequate hand washing (*15,66*). In the Pennsylvania outbreak, 51 persons (median age: 4 years) became ill within 10 days after visiting a dairy farm. Eight (16%) of these patients acquired hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS), a potentially fatal complication of STEC infection which involves kidney failure. The same strain of *E. coli* O157:H7 was isolated from cattle, patients, and the farm environment. An assessment of the farm determined that no areas separate from the animal contact areas existed for eating and drinking, and the hand-washing facilities were poorly maintained and not configured for children (*15*).

The protective effect of hand washing and the persistence of organisms in the environment were demonstrated in an outbreak of *Salmonella enterica* serotype Enteritidis infections at a Colorado zoo in 1996. A total of 65 cases (primarily among children) were associated with touching a wooden barrier around a temporary Komodo dragon exhibit. Children who were not ill were significantly more likely to have washed their hands after visiting the exhibit. *Salmonella enterica* serotype Enteritidis was isolated from 39 patients, a Komodo dragon, and the wooden barrier (*19*).

In 2005, an *E. coli* O157:H7 outbreak among 63 patients, including seven who developed HUS, was associated with multiple fairs in Florida (*13*). Both direct animal contact and contact with sawdust or shavings were associated with illness. Persons who reported feeding animals were more likely to become ill. Persons were less likely to become ill if they reported washing their hands before eating or drinking. Among persons who washed their hands with soap and water, creating lather decreased the likelihood of illness, illustrating the value of thorough hand washing. Drying hands on clothing increased the likelihood of illness (*67*).

During 2000–2001 at a Minnesota children's farm day camp, washing hands with soap after touching a calf and washing hands before going home decreased the likelihood for illness in two outbreaks involving multiple enteric pathogens (*22*). Implicated pathogens for the 84 human infections were *E. coli* O157:H7, *Cryptosporidium parvum*, non-O157 STEC, *Salmonella enterica* serotype Typhimurium, and *Campylobacter jejuni*. These pathogens and *Giardia* organisms were isolated from calves. Risk factors for children who became ill included caring for an ill calf and getting visible manure on their hands.

Disease transmission can occur in the absence of direct animal contact if a pathogen is disseminated in the environment. In a 2002 Oregon county fair outbreak, 60 *E. coli* O157:H7 infections occurred, primarily among children (*29*). Illness was associated with visiting an exhibition hall that housed goats, sheep, pigs, rabbits, and poultry; however, illness was not associated with touching animals or their pens, eating, or inadequate hand washing. *E. coli* O157:H7 was likely disseminated to environmental surfaces via contaminated dust (*29*). In 2004, an outbreak of *E. coli* O157:H7 infections was associated with attendance at the North Carolina State Fair goat and sheep petting zoo (*14*). Health officials identified 108 patients, including 15 who developed HUS. In addition to direct contact with animals, risk factors included manure contact and hand-to-mouth behaviors. Evidence indicated that falling down or sitting on the ground in the petting zoo was associated with illness. The outbreak strain of *E. coli* O157:H7 was isolated from shoes and shavings collected from a stroller in households of petting zoo visitors (*14*).

Enteric pathogens can contaminate the environment and persist in animal housing areas for long periods. For example, *E. coli* O157:H7 can survive in soil for months (*32,42,44,68,69*). Prolonged environmental persistence of pathogens was documented in a 2001 Ohio outbreak of *E. coli* O157:H7 infections in which 23 persons became ill at a fair facility after handling sawdust, attending a dance, or eating and drinking in a barn where animals had been exhibited during the previous week (*32*). Fourteen weeks after the fair, *E. coli* O157:H7 was isolated from multiple environmental sources within the barn, including sawdust on the floor and dust on the rafters. Forty-two weeks after the fair, *E. coli* O157:H7 was again recovered from sawdust on the floor. Environmental persistence of *E. coli* O157:H7 was also described after a 2003 outbreak in which 25 persons acquired *E. coli* O157:H7 at a Texas agricultural fair. The strain isolated from patients also was found in fair environmental samples 46 days after the fair ended (*17*). In the previously mentioned North Carolina outbreak (*14*), the outbreak strain of *E. coli* O157:H7 was isolated from animal bedding 10 days after the fair was over and from soil 5 months after the animal bedding and topsoil were removed (*14,69*).

Improper facility design and inadequate maintenance can increase risk for infection, as illustrated by one of the largest waterborne outbreaks in the United States (*39,40*). In 1999, approximately 800 suspected cases of *E. coli* O157:H7 and/or *Campylobacter* species infection were identified among attendees at a New York county fair, where unchlorinated water supplied by a shallow well was used by food vendors to make beverages and ice (*40*).

Temporary animal exhibits are particularly vulnerable to design flaws (*13,19*). Such exhibits include animal displays or petting zoos added to attract visitors to zoos, festivals, roadside attractions, farm stands, farms where persons can pick their own produce, feed stores, and Christmas tree lots. In 2005, an *E. coli* O157:H7 outbreak in Arizona was associated with a temporary animal contact exhibit at a municipal zoo. A play area for children was immediately adjacent to and downhill from the petting zoo facility. The same strain of

E. coli O157:H7 was found both in children and 12 petting zoo animals. Inadequate hand-washing facilities were reported from a temporary exhibit in British Columbia, Canada where child-care facility and school field trips to a pumpkin patch with a petting zoo resulted in 44 cases of *E. coli* O157:H7 infection (*16*). The same strain of *E. coli* O157:H7 was found both in children and in a petting zoo goat. Running water and signs recommending hand washing were not available, and alcohol hand sanitizers were at a height that was unreachable for some children. In New York, 163 persons became ill with STEC O111:H8, *Cryptosporidium* species, or both at a farm stand that sold unpasteurized apple cider and had a petting zoo with three calves (*70*). Stools from two calves were Shiga toxin 1 positive.

Day camps at which children have prolonged close contact with livestock pose a unique challenge with regard to disease prevention. In the previously mentioned Minnesota day camp outbreak (*22*), disease transmission occurred again even though heightened prevention measures were implemented based on findings from an outbreak investigation at the same camp the year before. Similarly, in 2007, an *E. coli* O157:H7 outbreak occurred at a day camp in Florida where prolonged contact with livestock was encouraged (*71*).

Recurrent outbreaks have happened because of failure to properly implement disease-prevention recommendations. Following a Minnesota outbreak of cryptosporidiosis with 31 ill students at a school farm program, specific recommendations provided to teachers were inadequately implemented (*20*), and a subsequent outbreak occurred with 37 illnesses. Hand-washing facilities and procedures were inadequate. Coveralls and boots were dirty, cleaned infrequently, and handled without subsequent hand washing.

Education of visitors to public animal contact venues about the risk for transmission of diseases from animals to humans is a critical disease-prevention measure. Awareness of zoonotic disease risks is protective against illness in outbreaks (*14*).

Outbreaks also have resulted from contaminated animal products used for school activities. Salmonellosis outbreaks associated with dissection of owl pellets have been documented in Minnesota (*72*) and Massachusetts (C. Brown, DVM, Massachusetts Department of Public Health, personal communication, 2008). In Minnesota, risk factors for infection included inadequate hand washing, use of food service areas for the activity, and improper cleaning of contact surfaces. Persons in a middle school science class were among those infected in a multistate salmonellosis outbreak associated with frozen rodents purchased to feed snakes from the same Internet supplier (*26*).

During 2005–2010, several infectious disease outbreaks were caused by contact with animals and animal products not primarily associated with public settings. However, these outbreaks have implications for animal contact venues. Turtles and other reptiles, amphibians, rodents, and live poultry (e.g., chicks, chickens, ducklings, ducks, turkeys, and geese) are recognized as sources of human *Salmonella* infections (*19,25,27,73–83)*. Since 2006, three large multistate outbreaks have been linked to contact with small turtles, including a fatal case in an infant (*79,80,84–86*). In addition, 14 multistate outbreaks linked with live poultry originating from mail-order hatcheries have been reported since 2005 (CDC, unpublished data, 2010). Ill persons included those who reported contact with live poultry at feed stores, schools, day cares, fairs, or petting zoos (*78*). During 2006–2008, a total of 79 human *Salmonella enterica* serotype Schwarzengrund infections were linked to multiple brands of contaminated dry dog and cat food produced at a plant in Pennsylvania (*87*). Contaminated pig ear treats and pet treats containing beef and seafood also have been associated with *Salmonella* infections (*88–91*).

Risks from aquatic animals include direct and indirect contact with the animal, tank, water, filtration equipment, or other tank contents. Multidrug-resistant human *Salmonella* infections have been linked to contact with contaminated water from home aquariums containing tropical fish (*92,93*). A single case of *Plesiomonas shigelloides* infection in a Missouri infant was identified, and the organism was subsequently isolated from a babysitter's aquarium (*94*). A survey of tropical fish tanks in Missouri found that four (22%) of 18 tanks yielded *P. shigelloides* from three pet stores. During 2009–2011, approximately 200 *Salmonella enterica* serotype Typhimurium infections were linked to contact with African dwarf frogs, an aquatic amphibian, or their tank water or contents (C. Barton Behravesh, CDC, personal communication, 2011). Ill persons included those who reported such contact at carnivals, nursing homes, day cares, pet stores, and other retail stores (*27*). These findings have implications for risk for infection from aquatic exhibits (e.g., aquariums and aquatic touch tanks).

Sporadic Infections

Case-control studies also have associated sporadic infections (i.e., those not linked to an outbreak) with animals including reptiles and farm animals (*82,95*). For example, a study of sporadic *E. coli* O157:H7 infections in the United States determined that persons who became ill, especially children, were more likely than persons who did not become ill to have visited a farm with cows (*96*). Additional studies also documented an association between *E. coli* O157:H7 infection and visiting a farm (*97*) and living in a rural area (*98*). Studies of human cryptosporidiosis have documented contact with cattle and visiting farms as risk factors for infection (*61,99,100*).

Another study identified multiple factors associated with *Campylobacter* infection, including consumption of raw milk and contact with farm animals (*101*).

Additional Health Concerns

Although enteric diseases are the most commonly reported illnesses associated with animals in public settings, other health risks exist. For example, allergies can be associated with animal dander, scales, fur, feathers, urine, and saliva (*102–108*). Additional health concerns include injuries, exposure to rabies, and infections other than enteric diseases.

Injuries

Injuries associated with animals are a well-described and important problem. For example, dog bites are a substantial community problem for which specific guidelines have been written (*109*). Injuries associated with animals in public settings include bites, kicks, falls, scratches, stings, crushing of the hands or feet, and being pinned between the animal and a fixed object. These injuries have been associated with big cats (e.g., tigers), monkeys, and other domestic, wild, and zoo animals. Settings have included public stables, petting zoos, traveling photo opportunities, schools, children's parties, dog parks, and animal rides (M. Eidson, DVM, New York State Department of Health, personal communication, 2003; J.B. Bender, DVM, University of Minnesota, personal communication, 2003; M.T. Jay-Russell, DVM, California Department of Health, personal communication, 2003; G.L. Swinger, DVM, Tennessee Department of Health, personal communication, 2003). For example, a Kansas teenager was killed while posing for a photograph with a tiger being restrained by its handler at an animal sanctuary (*110*). In Texas, two high school students were bitten by a cottonmouth snake that was used in a science class after being misidentified as a nonvenomous species (W. Garvin, Caldwell Zoo, Texas, personal communication, 2008).

Exposure to Rabies

Persons who have contact with rabid mammals can be exposed to rabies virus through a bite or when mucous membranes or open wounds become contaminated with infected saliva or nervous tissue. Although no human rabies deaths caused by animal contact in public settings have been reported, multiple rabies exposures have occurred, requiring extensive public health investigation and medical follow-up. For example, thousands of persons have received rabies postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) after being exposed to rabid or potentially rabid animals, including bats, raccoons, cats, goats, bears, sheep, horses, and dogs, at various venues: an urban public park (S. Slavinski, DVM, New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, personal communication, 2010), a pet store in New Hampshire (*111*), a county fair in New York State (*112*), petting zoos in Iowa (*113,114*) and Texas (J.H. Wright, DVM, Texas Department of Health, personal communication, 2004), school and rodeo events in Wyoming (*64*), a horse show in Tennessee (J.R. Dunn, DVM , Tennessee Department of Health, personal communication, 2010), and summer camps in New York (*115*). Substantial public health and medical care challenges associated with potential mass rabies exposures include difficulty in identifying and contacting persons potentially at risk, correctly assessing exposure risks, and providing timely medical prophylaxis when indicated. Prompt assessment and treatment are critical to prevent this disease, which is usually fatal.

Other Infections

Multiple bacterial, viral, fungal, and parasitic infections have been associated with animal contact, and the infecting organisms are transmitted through various modes. Infections from animal bites are common and frequently require extensive treatment or hospitalization. Bacterial pathogens associated with animal bites include *Pasteurella* species, *Francisella tularensis* (*116*), *Staphylococcus* species, *Streptococcus* species, *Capnocytophaga canimorsus, Bartonella henselae* (cat-scratch disease), and *Streptobacillus moniliformis* (rat-bite fever). Certain monkey species (especially macaques) that are kept as pets or used in public exhibits can be infected with simian herpes B virus. Infected monkeys are often asymptomatic or have mild oral lesions yet human exposure through monkey bites or bodily fluids can result in fatal meningoencephalitis (*117,118*).

Skin contact with animals in public settings also is a public health concern. In 1995, a total of 15 cases of ringworm (club lamb fungus) caused by *Trichophyton* species and *Microsporum gypseum* were documented among owners and family members who exhibited lambs in Georgia (*119*). In 1986, ringworm in 23 persons and multiple animal species was traced to a *Microsporum canis* infection in a hand-reared zoo tiger cub (*120*). Orf virus infection (i.e., contagious ecthyma or sore mouth in sheep and goats) has occurred after contact with sheep at a public setting (*121*). Orf virus infection also has been described in goats and sheep at a children's petting zoo (*122*) and in a lamb used for an Easter photo opportunity (M. Eidson, DVM, New York State Department of Health, personal communication, 2003). Transmission of pox viruses in public settings also has been described. In the 1970s, after handling various species of infected exotic animals, a zoo

attendant experienced an extensive papular skin rash from a cowpox-like virus (*123*). Cowpox virus transmission from rats to humans was also documented among persons who had purchased the rats as pets or had contact with them at pet stores (*124*). In 2003, multiple cases of monkeypox occurred among persons who contacted infected prairie dogs either at a child-care center (*125,126*) or a pet store (J.J. Kazmierczak, DVM, Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, personal communication, 2004). Aquatic animals and their environment also have been associated with cutaneous infections (*127*). For example, *Mycobacterium marinum* infections have been described among persons owning or cleaning fish tanks (*128,129*).

Ectoparasites and endoparasites pose concerns when humans and exhibit animals interact. *Sarcoptes scabiei* is a skin mite that infests humans and animals, including swine, dogs, cats, foxes, cattle, and coyotes (*130,131*). Although human infestation from animal sources is usually self-limiting, skin irritation and itching might occur for multiple days and can be difficult to diagnose (*131,132*). Bites from avian mites have been reported in association with pet gerbils in school settings (*133*). Fleas from animals that bite humans increase the risk for infection or allergic reaction. In addition, fleas can carry a tapeworm species that can infect children who swallow the flea (*134,135*). Animal parasites also can infect humans who ingest materials contaminated with animal feces or who ingest or come into contact with contaminated soil. Parasite control through veterinary care and proper husbandry combined with hand washing reduces the risks associated with ectoparasites and endoparasites (*136*).

Tuberculosis is another disease concern for certain animal settings. In 1996, a total of 12 circus elephant handlers at an exotic animal farm in Illinois were infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*; one handler had signs consistent with active disease after three elephants died of tuberculosis. Medical history and testing of the handlers indicated that the elephants had been a probable source of exposure for most of the human infections (*137*). During 1989–1991 at a zoo in Louisiana, seven animal handlers who were previously negative for tuberculosis tested positive after a *Mycobacterium bovis* outbreak in rhinoceroses and monkeys (*138*). Other instances of transmission of mycobacterial species from animals to animal care staff without known transmission to the public have also been documented (*139–141*). The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has developed guidelines regarding removal of tuberculosis-infected animals from public settings because of the risk for exposure to the public (*142*).

Zoonotic pathogens also can be transmitted by direct or indirect contact with reproductive fluids, aborted fetuses, or newborns from infected dams. Live-birthing exhibits, usually involving livestock (e.g., cattle, pigs, goats, or sheep), are popular at agricultural fairs. Although the public usually does not have direct contact with animals during birthing, newborns and their dams might be available for petting afterward. Q fever (*Coxiella burnetii*), leptospirosis, listeriosis, brucellosis, and chlamydiosis are serious zoonoses that can be acquired through contact with reproductive materials (*143*).

C. burnetii is a rickettsial organism that most frequently infects cattle, sheep, and goats. The disease can cause abortion in animals, but more frequently the infection is asymptomatic. During birthing, infected animals shed large numbers of organisms, which can become aerosolized. Most persons exposed to *C. burnetii* develop an asymptomatic infection, but clinical illness can range from an acute influenza-like illness to life-threatening endocarditis. A Q fever outbreak involving 95 confirmed cases and 41 hospitalizations was linked to goats and sheep giving birth at petting zoos in indoor shopping malls (*144*). Indoor-birthing exhibits might pose an increased risk for Q fever transmission because of inadequate ventilation.

Chlamydophila psittaci infections cause respiratory disease and are usually acquired from psittacine birds (*145*). For example, an outbreak of *C. psittaci* pneumonia occurred among the staff members at Copenhagen Zoological Garden (*146*). On rare occasions, chlamydial infections acquired from sheep, goats, and birds result in reproductive problems in women (*145,147,148*).

Transmission of influenza viruses between humans and animals has implications for animals in public settings. Cases and clusters of human infection with swine influenza viruses have been reported sporadically since the 1970s (*149,150*); several of these cases have been acquired from swine at agricultural fairs (*151–153*). Conversely, transmission of human influenza viruses to swine also has been documented (*154*). For example, in 2009, an H1N1 influenza virus strain emerged, causing a pandemic among humans with sporadic transmission from humans to swine (*155*).

Recommendations

Guidelines from multiple organizations were used to create the recommendations in this report (*156–158*). Although no federal U.S. laws address the risk for transmission of pathogens at venues where the public has contact with animals, some states have such laws (*64,67,159–161*). For example, in 2005, North Carolina enacted legislation requiring persons displaying animals for public contact at agricultural fairs to obtain a permit from the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (http://www.ncga.state.

nc.us/enactedlegislation/statutes/pdf/bysection/chapter_106/gs_106-520.3a.pdf).

Certain federal agencies and associations in the United States have developed standards, recommendations, and guidelines for reducing risks associated with animal contact by the public in zoologic parks. The Association of Zoos and Aquariums has accreditation standards for reducing risk for animal contact with the public in zoologic parks (*162*). In accordance with the Animal Welfare Act, USDA licenses and inspects certain animal exhibits. These inspections primarily address humane treatment but also impact the health of the animal and safety of the public. In 2001, CDC issued guidelines to reduce the risk for infection with enteric pathogens associated with farm visits (*66*). CDC also has issued recommendations for preventing transmission of *Salmonella* from reptiles, amphibians, and live poultry to humans (*27,77,78,86,163,164*). The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology Inc. (APIC) and the Animal-Assisted Interventions Working Group (AAI) have developed guidelines to address risks associated with the use of animals in health-care settings (*2,6*). NASPHV has developed a compendium of measures to reduce risks for human exposure to *C. psittaci* and rabies virus (*145,165*).

Studies in some localities have suggested that implementation of these recommendations could be improved (*60,166,167*). Stakeholders should strive to facilitate comprehensive implementation of the following recommendations.

Recommendations for Local, State, and Federal Agencies

Communication and cooperation among human and animal health agencies should be enhanced and include veterinarians and cooperative extension offices. Additional research should be conducted regarding the risk factors and effective prevention and control methods for health issues associated with animal contact.

To enhance uptake of these recommendations, agencies should take the following steps:

- Disseminate this report to cooperative extension personnel, venue operators, and others associated with managing animals in public settings. States should strive to develop a complete list of public animal contact venues to facilitate dissemination of recommendations.
- Disseminate educational and training materials to venue operators and other stakeholders. Material formats could include PowerPoint slide presentations, videos, and written guidelines (164).
- Encourage or require oversight to ensure compliance with recommendations at animal contact venues.

To evaluate and improve these recommendations, surveillance for human health issues associated with animal contact should be enhanced. Agencies should take the following steps:

- Conduct thorough epidemiologic investigations of outbreaks.
- Include questions on disease report forms and outbreak investigation questionnaires about exposure to animals, animal environments, and animal products and feed.
- Follow appropriate protocols for sampling and testing of humans, animals, and the environment, including molecular subtyping of pathogen isolates.
- Report outbreaks to state health departments.
- Local and state public health departments should also report all outbreaks of enteric infections resulting from animal contact to CDC through the National Outbreak Reporting System (NORS) (http://www.cdc.gov/outbreaknet/nors).

Recommendations for Education

Education is essential to reduce risks associated with animal contact in public settings. Experience from outbreaks suggests that visitors knowledgeable about potential risks are less likely to become ill (*14*). Even in well-designed venues with operators who are aware of the risks for disease, outbreaks can occur when visitors do not understand risks and therefore are less likely to apply disease-prevention measures.

Venue operators should take the following steps:

- Become knowledgeable about the risks for disease and injury associated with animals and be able to explain risk-reduction measures to staff members and visitors.
- Become familiar with and implement the recommendations in this compendium.
- Consult with veterinarians, state and local agencies, and cooperative extension personnel on implementation of the recommendations.
- Develop or obtain training and educational materials and train staff members.
- Ensure that visitors receive educational messages before they enter the exhibit, including information that animals can cause injuries or carry organisms that can cause serious illness (Appendices A and B).
- Provide information in a simple and easy-to-understand format that is age- and language-appropriate.
- Provide information in multiple formats (e.g., signs, stickers, handouts, and verbal information).
- Provide information to persons arranging school field trips or classroom exhibits so that they can educate participants and parents before the visit.

Venue staff members should take the following steps:

- Become knowledgeable about the risks for disease and injury associated with animals and be able to explain risk-reduction recommendations to visitors.
- Ensure that visitors receive educational messages regarding risks and prevention measures.
- Encourage compliance by the public with risk-reduction recommendations, especially compliance with hand-washing procedures (Appendix C) as visitors exit animal areas.
- Comply with local and state requirements for reporting animal bites or other injuries.

Recommendations for Managing Public-Animal Contact

The recommendations in this report were developed for settings in which direct animal contact is encouraged (e.g., petting zoos and aquatic touch tanks) and in which animal contact is possible (e.g., county fairs). They should be tailored to specific settings and incorporated into guidelines and regulations developed at the state or local level. Contact with animals should occur in settings where measures are in place to reduce the potential for injuries or disease transmission. Incidents or problems should be investigated, documented, and reported.

Facility Design

The design of facilities and animal pens should minimize the risk associated with animal contact (Figure), including limiting direct contact with manure and encouraging hand washing (Appendix C). The design of facilities or contact settings might include double barriers to prevent contact with animals or contaminated surfaces except for in specified animal interaction areas. Previous outbreaks have revealed that temporary exhibits are often not designed appropriately. Common problems include inadequate barriers, floors and other surfaces that are difficult to keep clean and disinfect, insufficient plumbing, lack of signs regarding risk and prevention measures, and inadequate hand-washing facilities (*13,14,19,33,36*). Specific guidelines might be necessary for certain settings, such as schools (Appendix D).

Recommendations for cleaning and disinfection should be tailored to the specific situation. All surfaces should be cleaned thoroughly to remove organic matter before disinfection. A 1:32 dilution of household bleach (e.g., one-half cup bleach per gallon of water) is needed for basic disinfection. Quaternary ammonium compounds (e.g., Roccal or Zephiran) also can be used per the manufacturer label. For disinfection when a particular organism has been identified, additional guidance is available (http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/disinfection). Most compounds require >10 minutes of contact time with a contaminated surface.

Venues should be divided into three types of areas: nonanimal areas (where animals are not permitted, with the exception of service animals), transition areas (located at entrances and exits to animal areas), and animal areas (where animal contact is possible or encouraged) (Figure).

Nonanimal Areas

- Do not permit animals, except service animals, in nonanimal areas.
- Prepare, serve, and consume food and beverages only in nonanimal areas.
- Provide hand-washing facilities and display hand-washing signs where food or beverages are served (Appendix C).

Transition Areas Between Nonanimal and Animal Areas

Establishing transition areas through which visitors pass when entering and exiting animal areas is critical. For areas where animal contact is encouraged, a one-way flow of visitors is preferred, with separate entrance and exit points. The transition areas should be designated as clearly as possible, even if they are conceptual rather than physical (Figure).

Entrance transition areas should be designed to facilitate education:

- Post signs or otherwise notify visitors that they are entering an animal area and that there are risks associated with animal contact (Appendix B).
- Instruct visitors not to eat, drink, smoke, place their hands in their mouth, or use bottles or pacifiers while in the animal area.
- Establish storage or holding areas for strollers and related items (e.g., wagons and diaper bags).
- Control visitor traffic to prevent overcrowding.

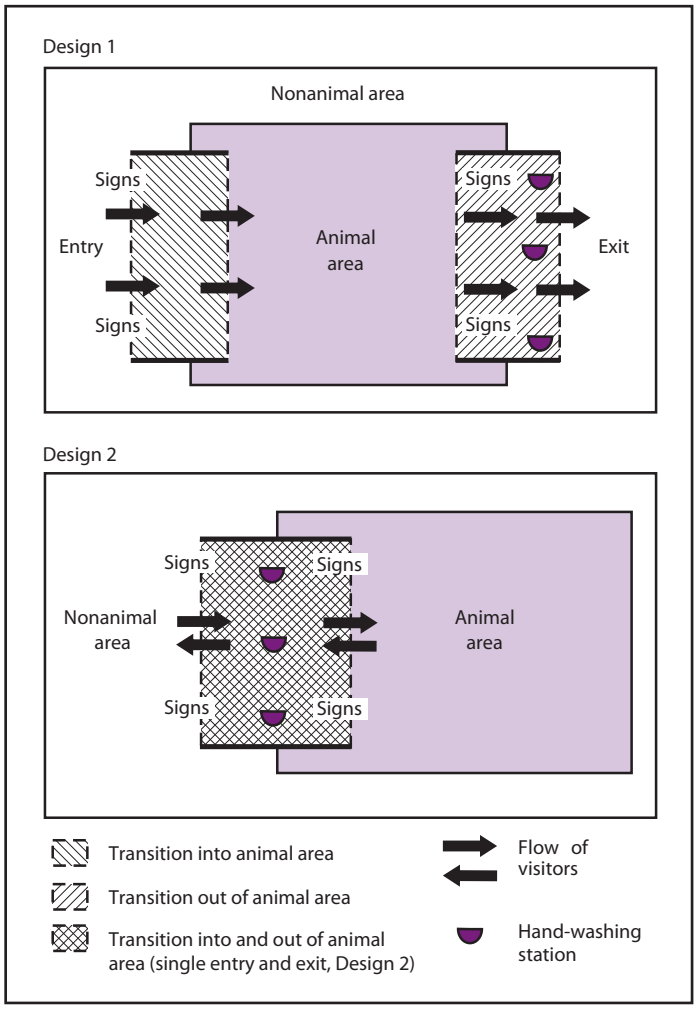
Exit transition areas should be designed to facilitate hand washing:

- Post signs or otherwise instruct visitors to wash their hands when leaving the animal area.
- Provide accessible hand-washing stations for all visitors, including children and persons with disabilities (Figure).
- Position venue staff members near exits to encourage compliance with proper hand washing.

Animal Areas

- Do not allow food and beverages in animal areas.
- Do not allow toys, pacifiers, spill-proof cups, baby bottles, strollers or similar items in animal areas.
- Prohibit smoking and other tobacco product use in animal areas.
- Supervise children closely to discourage hand-to-mouth activities (e.g., nail-biting and thumb-sucking), contact with manure, and contact with soiled bedding. Children should

FIGURE. Examples of designs for animal contact settings, including clearly designated animal areas, nonanimal areas, and transition areas with hand-washing stations and signs



not be allowed to sit or play on the ground in animal areas. If hands become soiled, supervise hand washing immediately.

- Ensure that regular animal feed and water are not accessible to the public.
- Allow the public to feed animals only if contact with animals is controlled (e.g., with barriers).
- Do not provide animal feed in containers that can be eaten by humans (e.g., ice cream cones) to decrease the risk for children eating food that has come into contact with animals.
- Promptly remove manure and soiled animal bedding from animal areas.
- Assign trained staff members to encourage appropriate human-animal interactions, to identify and reduce potential risks for patrons, and process reports of injuries and exposures.
- Store animal waste and specific tools for waste removal (e.g., shovels and pitchforks) in designated areas that are restricted from public access.
- Avoid transporting manure and soiled bedding through nonanimal areas or transition areas. If this is unavoidable, take precautions to prevent spillage.
- Where feasible, disinfect animal areas (e.g., flooring and railings) at least once daily.
- Provide adequate ventilation both for animals (*168*) and humans.
- Minimize the use of animal areas for public activities (e.g., weddings and dances). If areas previously used for animals must be used for public events, the areas should be cleaned and disinfected, particularly if food and beverages are served.
- For birds in bird encounter exhibits, refer to the psittacosis compendium (*145*) for recommendations regarding disease prevention and control.
- Visitors to aquatic touch tank exhibits who have open wounds should be advised not to participate. Hand-washing stations should be provided.
- When using animals or animal products (e.g., animal pelts, animal waste, and owl pellets) for educational purposes, only use them in designated animal areas. Animals and animal products should not be brought into school cafeterias and other areas where food and beverages are prepared, served, or consumed.
- When animals are in school classrooms, specific areas must be designated for animal contact (Appendix D). Designated animal areas must be thoroughly cleaned after use. Parents should be informed of the benefits and potential risks associated with animals in school classrooms.

Animal Care and Management

The risk for disease or injury from animal contact can be reduced by carefully managing the specific animals used. The following recommendations should be considered for management of animals in contact with the public.

- **Animal care:** Monitor animals daily for signs of illness and ensure that animals receive appropriate veterinary care. Ill animals, animals known to be infected with a zoonotic pathogen, and animals from herds with a recent history of abortion, diarrhea, or respiratory disease should not be exhibited. To decrease shedding of pathogens, animals should be housed to minimize stress and overcrowding.
- **Veterinary care:** Retain and use the services of a licensed veterinarian. Preventive care, including vaccination and parasite control, appropriate for the species should be provided. Certificates of veterinary inspection from an

accredited veterinarian should be up-to-date according to local or state requirements for animals in public settings. A herd or flock inspection is a critical component of the health certificate process. Routine screening for diseases is not recommended, except for *C. psittaci* in bird encounter exhibits (*145*), tuberculosis in elephants (*141*) and primates, and Q fever in ruminants in birthing exhibits (*169*).

- **Rabies:** All animals should be housed to reduce potential exposure to wild animal rabies reservoirs. Mammals should also be up-to-date on rabies vaccinations according to current recommendations (*165*). These steps are particularly critical in areas where rabies is endemic and in venues where animal contact is encouraged (e.g., petting zoos). Because of the extended incubation period for rabies, unvaccinated mammals should be vaccinated at least 1 month before they have contact with the public. If no licensed rabies vaccine exists for a particular species (e.g., goats, swine, llamas, and camels) that is used in a setting where public contact occurs, consultation with a veterinarian regarding off-label use of rabies vaccine is recommended. Use of off-label vaccine does not provide the same level of assurance as vaccine labeled for use in a particular species; however, off-label use of vaccine might provide protection for certain animals and thus decrease the probability of rabies transmission (*165*). Vaccinating slaughter-class animals before displaying them at fairs might not be feasible because of the vaccine withdrawal period that occurs as a result of antibiotics used as preservatives in certain vaccines. Mammals that are too young to be vaccinated should be used in exhibit settings only if additional restrictive measures are available to reduce risks (e.g., using only animals that were born to vaccinated mothers and housed to avoid rabies exposure). In animal contact settings, rabies testing should be considered for animals that die suddenly in addition to other diagnostic considerations.
- **Dangerous animals:** Because of their strength, unpredictability, venom, or the pathogens that they might carry, certain domestic, exotic, or wild animals should be prohibited in exhibit settings where a reasonable possibility of animal contact exists. Species of primary concern include nonhuman primates (e.g., monkeys and apes) and certain carnivores (e.g., lions, tigers, ocelots, wolves and wolf hybrids, and bears). In addition, rabies-reservoir species (e.g., bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes, and coyotes) should not be used for direct contact.
- **Animal births:** Ensure that the public has no contact with newly born animals or birthing by-products (e.g., the placenta). In live-birth exhibits, the environment should be thoroughly cleaned after each birth, and all waste products should be properly discarded. Holding such events outside or in well-ventilated areas is preferable.

Additional Recommendations

- **Populations at high risk:** Children aged <5 years are at particularly high risk for serious infection. Other groups at increased risk include persons with waning immunity (e.g., older adults) and persons who are mentally impaired, pregnant, or immunocompromised (e.g., persons with human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, without a functioning spleen, or receiving immunosuppressive therapy). Persons at high risk for infection should take heightened precautions at animal exhibits. In addition to thorough and frequent hand washing, heightened precautions could include avoiding contact with animals and their environment (e.g., pens, bedding, and manure). Animals of particular concern for transmitting enteric diseases include young ruminants, live poultry, reptiles, amphibians, and ill animals.
- **Consumption of unpasteurized products:** Prohibit the consumption of unpasteurized or raw dairy products (e.g., milk, cheese, and yogurt) and unpasteurized apple cider or juices.
- **Drinking water:** Local public health authorities should inspect drinking water systems before use. Only potable water should be used for consumption by animals and humans. Back-flow prevention devices should be installed between outlets in livestock areas and water lines supplying other areas on the grounds. If the water supply is from a well, adequate distance should be maintained from possible sources of contamination (e.g., animal-holding areas and manure piles). Maps of the water distribution system should be available for use in identifying potential or actual problems. The use of outdoor hoses should be minimized, and hoses should not be left on the ground. Hoses that are accessible to the public should be labeled "water not for human consumption." Operators and managers of settings in which treated municipal water is not available should ensure that a safe water supply (e.g., bottled water) is available.

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Appendix A

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.
- 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 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 (i.e., aged <5 years), older adults, 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 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 (e.g., over a barrier).
- Minimize use of animal areas for public activities (e.g., weddings, dances).
- Design transition areas for entering and exiting animal areas with appropriate signs or other forms of notification regarding risks of 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.
- Provide potable water for animals.
- Prohibit consumption of unpasteurized dairy products (e.g., raw milk) 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, older adults, pregnant women, and persons who are immunocompromised are at increased risk for serious illness.

Appendix B

Suggested Sign or Handout for Visitors to Petting Zoos*

* Sign available at http://www.nasphv.org/documentscompendiaanimals.html. Additional information on animals in public settings and zoonotic diseases is available at http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets.

Appendix C

Hand-Washing Recommendations to Reduce Disease Transmission from Animals in Public Settings

Hand washing is the most important prevention step for reducing disease transmission associated with animals in public settings. Hands should always be washed immediately when exiting animal areas, after removing soiled clothing or shoes, and before eating or drinking. Venue staff members should encourage hand washing as persons exit animal areas.

How to Wash Hands

- Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold) and apply soap; rub your hands together to make a lather and scrub them well (be sure to scrub the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails); continue rubbing your hands for at least 20 seconds; rinse your hands well under running water.
- If possible, turn off the faucet using a disposable paper towel.
- Dry your hands using a clean disposable paper towel or air dry them. Do not dry hands on clothing.
- Assist young children with washing their hands.

Hand-Washing Facilities or Stations

- Hand-washing facilities or stations should be accessible, sufficient for the maximum anticipated attendance, and accessible by children (i.e., low enough for children to reach or equipped with a stool), adults, and persons with disabilities.
- Hand-washing facilities stations should be conveniently located in transition areas between animal and nonanimal areas and in the nonanimal food concession areas.
- Maintenance of hand-washing facilities and stations should include routine cleaning and restocking to ensure an adequate supply of paper towels and soap.
- Running water should be of sufficient volume and pressure to remove soil from hands. Volume and pressure might be substantially reduced if the water supply is furnished from a holding tank; therefore, a permanent pressurized water supply is preferable.
- Hand-washing stations should be designed so that both hands are free for hand washing by having operation with a foot pedal or water that stays on after hand faucets are turned on.
- Liquid soap dispensed by a hand or foot pump is recommended.
- Hot water is preferable, but if the hand-washing facilities or stations are supplied with only cold water, a soap that emulsifies easily in cold water should be provided.
- Communal basins, in which water is used by more than one person, are not adequate hand-washing facilities.

Hand-Sanitizing Agents

- Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to reduce the number of germs on them.
- If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Visible contamination and dirt should be removed before using hand sanitizers. Hand sanitizers are not effective when hands are visibly dirty.
- Even when hand sanitizer is used, visitors should always wash hands with soap and water as soon as possible after being in animal areas.
- Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can quickly reduce the number of germs on hands in some situations, but sanitizers do not eliminate all types of germs.

How to Use Hand Sanitizers

- Apply the product to the palm of one hand.
- Rub your hands together.
- Rub the product over all surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry.

Hand-Washing Signs

- At venues where human-animal contact occurs, signs regarding proper hand-washing practices are critical to reduce disease transmission.
- Signs that remind visitors to wash hands should be posted at exits from animal areas (i.e., exit transition areas) and in nonanimal areas where food is served and consumed (Figure).
- Signs should be posted that direct all visitors to hand-washing stations when exiting animal areas.
- Signs with proper hand-washing instructions should be posted at hand-washing stations and restrooms to encourage proper practices.
- If appropriate for the setting, hand-washing signs should be available in different languages.

Wash Hands When Leaving Animal Exhibits

WHO

Everyone, especially young children, older individuals, and people with weakened immune systems

WHEN

Always Wash Hands:

- After touching animals or their living area
- After leaving the animal area
- After taking off dirty clothes or shoes
- After going to the bathroom
- Before preparing foods, eating, or drinking

HOW

- Wet your hands with clean, running water
- Apply soap
- Rub hands together to make a lather and scrub well, including backs of hands, between fingers, and under fingernails
- Rub hands at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice
- Rinse hands
- Dry hands using a clean paper towel or air dry them. Do not dry hands on clothing

For more information, visit CDC's Healthy Pets, Healthy People website (www.cdc.gov/healthypets) and CDC's Handwashing website (www.cdc.gov/handwashing).

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Appendix D

Guidelines for Animals in School and Child-Care Settings

Animals are effective and valuable teaching aids, but safeguards are required to reduce the risk for infection and injury. The following guidelines are a summary of guidelines developed by the Alabama Department of Public Health,* the Kansas Department of Health and Environment,† and CDC (*78,79*). Recommendations also are available from the National Science Teachers Association§ and the National Association of Biology Teachers.¶

General Guidelines for School Settings**

- Wash hands after contact with animals, animal products or feed, or animal environments.
- Supervise human-animal contact, particularly involving children aged <5 years.
- Display animals in enclosed cages or under appropriate restraints.
- Do not allow animals to roam, fly free, or have contact with wild animals.
- Designate specific areas for animal contact.
- Do not allow food in animal contact areas; do not allow animals in areas where food and drink are prepared, served, or consumed.
- Clean and disinfect all areas where animals and animal products have been present. Children should perform this task only under adult supervision.
- Do not clean animal cages or enclosures in sinks or other areas used to prepare, serve, or consume food and drinks.
- Obtain appropriate veterinary care, a certificate of veterinary inspection, or proof of rabies vaccination (or all of these) according to local or state requirements.
- Keep animals clean and free of intestinal parasites, fleas, ticks, mites, and lice.
- Parents should be informed of the benefits and potential risks associated with animals in school classrooms. Consult with parents to determine special considerations needed for children who are immunocompromised, have allergies, or have asthma.
- Ensure that personnel providing animals for educational purposes are knowledgeable regarding animal handling and zoonotic disease issues. Persons or facilities that display animals to the public should be licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Animal-Specific Guidelines

- **Fish:** Use disposable gloves when cleaning aquariums, and do not dispose of aquarium water in sinks used for food preparation or for obtaining drinking water.
- **Psittacine birds (e.g., parrots, parakeets, and cockatiels):** Consult the psittacosis compendium,†† and seek veterinary advice. Use birds treated or that test negative for avian chlamydiosis.
- **Nonpsittacine birds:** See General Guidelines for School Settings.
- **Domestic dogs, cats, rabbits, and rodents (e.g., mice, rats, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, and chinchillas):** See General Guidelines for School Settings.
- **Reptiles (e.g., turtles, snakes, and lizards):** Do not keep in facilities with children aged <5 years, nor should children aged <5 years be allowed to have direct contact with these animals.
- **Amphibians (e.g., frogs, toads, salamanders, and newts):** Do not keep in facilities with children aged <5 years, nor should children aged <5 years be allowed to have direct contact with these animals.
- **Live poultry (e.g., chicks, ducklings, and goslings):** Do not keep in facilities with children aged <5 years, nor should children aged <5 years be allowed to have direct contact with these animals.

* WB Johnston, DVM, Alabama Department of Public Health, personal communication, 2002.

† Hansen GR. Animals in Kansas schools: guidelines for visiting and resident pets. Topeka, KS: Kansas Department of Health and Environment; 2004. Available at http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/pdf/hef/ab1007.pdf.

§ National Science Teachers Association. National standards for science teacher preparation. Arlington, VA: National Science Teachers Association; 2003. Available at http://www.nsta.org/preservice.

¶ National Association of Biology Teachers. The use of animals in biology education. Reston, VA: National Association of Biology Teachers; 2008. Available at http://www.nabt.org/websites/institution/File/docs/use%20of%20animals.pdf .

** Guide, hearing, or other service animals and law enforcement animals may be used when they are under the control of a person familiar with the specific animal and in accordance with recommendations from the sponsoring organizations.

†† National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians. Compendium of measures to control *Chlamydophila psittaci* infection among humans (psittacosis) and pet birds (avian chlamydiosis), 2010. Available at http://www.nasphv.org/documentsCompendiaPsittacosis.html.

- **Ferrets:** Do not keep in facilities with children aged <5 years, nor should children aged <5 years be allowed to have direct contact with these animals to prevent bites.
- **Farm animals:** See General Guidelines for School Settings. Certain animals (e.g., young ruminants and baby poultry) intermittently excrete substantial numbers of germs; therefore, these farm animals are not appropriate in school or child-care settings unless meticulous attention to personal hygiene can be ensured.
- **Animal products:** Assume that products such as owl pellets and frozen rodents used to feed reptiles are contaminated with *Salmonella* organisms. Owl pellets should not be dissected in areas where food is prepared, served, or consumed. Children aged <5 years should not be allowed to have direct contact with animal products.

Animals Not Recommended in School or Child-Care Settings

- Inherently dangerous animals (e.g., lions, tigers, cougars, and bears).
- Nonhuman primates (e.g., monkeys and apes).
- Mammals at high risk for transmitting rabies (e.g., bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes, and coyotes).
- Aggressive or unpredictable wild or domestic animals.
- Stray animals with unknown health and vaccination history.
- Venomous or toxin-producing spiders, insects, reptiles, and amphibians.

National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, Inc., Committee

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Wash Hands When Leaving Animal Exhibits

WHO

Everyone, especially young children, older individuals, and people with weakened immune systems

WHEN

<u>Always</u> Wash Hands:

- After touching animals or their living area
- After leaving the animal area
- After taking off dirty clothes or shoes
- After going to the bathroom
- Before preparing foods, eating, or drinking

HOW

- Wet your hands with clean, running water
- Apply soap
- Rub hands together to make a lather and scrub well, including backs of hands, between fingers, and under fingernails
- Rub hands at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the "Happy Birthday" song from beginning to end twice
- Rinse hands
- Dry hands using a clean paper towel or air dry them. Do not dry hands on clothing

For more information, visit CDC's Healthy Pets, Healthy People website (www.cdc.gov/healthypets) and CDC's Handwashing website (www.cdc.gov/handwashing).