

## Resources

Sources of information on animal health, disease transmission and prevention:

### ◆Nat'l Association of State Public Health Veterinarians

Compendium of measures to prevent disease associated with animals in public settings.

<http://nasphv.org/>

### ◆Centers for Disease Control

Disease fact sheets and information on outbreaks of disease associated with petting zoos and other animals

[www.cdc.gov/healthypets/](http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/)

### ◆WI Department of Health and Family Services-Division of Food Safety & Recreation

Disease fact sheets  
Hand washing fact sheet

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/fsr/index.htm>

This information is being presented by the Marathon County Health Department for the purpose of reducing human health risks associated with animal exhibits, such as *E.coli*, *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, and other pathogens.

Outbreaks in Wisconsin, North Carolina, and Florida have been associated with petting zoos, fairs, and other animal events. Health officials have also noticed an increased occurrence of animal related illnesses in urban children due to increased contact opportunities with animals.

Marathon County Health Department



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## Guidelines for Petting Zoos and Animal Displays

1000 Lake View Dr., Ste 100  
Wausau WI 54403  
Phone: 715-261-1900  
Fax: 715-261-1901  
[www.co.marathon.wi.us](http://www.co.marathon.wi.us)

To prevent disease transmission, the Marathon County Health Department recommends the following:

### Signage

Provide signs with the following information:



wash

- Remember to **your hands** after visiting the animals.
- **No food, beverages, pacifiers, toys, or smoking** allowed in the animal pen.
- **Report any animal bites or injuries** to the attendant.

### Food and Beverage Vendors

- It is not recommended that facilities previously used for animals be used for food preparation or dining.
- Food and beverage areas must be at least 100 feet from animal enclosures.
- Contact the Health Department well in advance to be sure food vendors are adequately licensed, trained, and inspected.
- Provide public handwashing facilities between animals and food stand.
- Food stands must have adequate handwash facilities and signs to encourage use.
- Hand sanitizers and gels are not effective in removing all potential animal related pathogens.

## HANDWASHING

**IS THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PREVENTION STEP FOR REDUCING DISEASE TRANSMISSION.**

### Handwashing Facility

To prevent the spread of disease, provide a handwashing facility in or adjacent to the petting zoo area.



- The handwashing facility should be equipped with warm flowing water, hand soap, paper towels, and a waste container.
- The handwashing facility should be easy for children to use.
- Stock soap and paper towel and refill with water when needed.
- The best handwash has a 20-second scrub with warm water and soap and focuses on all parts of the hand including fingernails!

### Children - *E.coli* and *HUS*

Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome (HUS), a potentially fatal consequence of *E.coli* 0157.H7, is especially dangerous to children under 5 years of age. Small children with a strong need to put fingers, pacifiers, and toys to the mouth should not touch animals. It is best to carry small children through the exhibits and monitor closely.

### Animal Areas

- One adult attendant should be on duty at all times.
- Remove manure frequently and dispose of properly. Design traffic so this can be done without taking through customer areas.
- Keep the animal area locked and the animals secured when not in operation.
- At least once a day, thoroughly clean and then disinfect the fence or railing customers and animals touch. **(Use 2½ Tablespoons bleach per gallon of water.)**
- The attendant should record any bites and injuries and report them to the health department for possible follow-up.

### Animal Health

- Do not bring sick animals.
- Do not bring animals less than 60 days old.
- The following species often carry rabies and should not be allowed: bats, skunks, raccoons, or foxes.
- No turtles with less than a 4" shell or African snails are allowed.
- Dogs must have current rabies vaccination. Some communities require this for cats and ferrets as well.