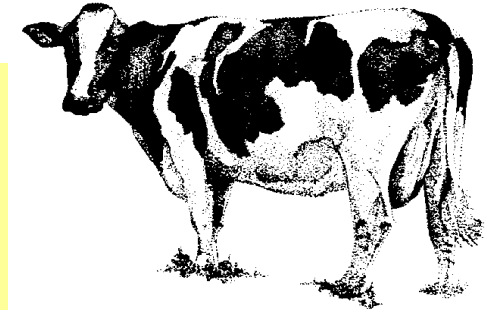
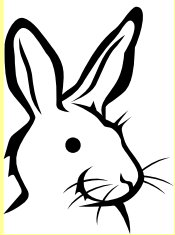


Keeping You, Your Animal, and the Public Healthy at Animal Events



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Maryland Cooperative Extension

Staying Healthy at Animal Exhibits

- **The Pros of animal exhibits**
 - Animal exhibits allow the general public to come face to face with animals
 - Allow people to learn more about animals and helps to build the human-animal bond
- **The Cons of animal exhibits**
 - Unfortunately people become sick every year because animals sometimes carry germs that are harmful to humans.

Zoonotic Diseases

- These are diseases that can be contagious to both humans and animals
 - Rabies
 - West Nile Virus
 - Ringworm
 - Tuberculosis
 - Brucellosis
 - Trichinosis
 - Giardiasis
 - Soremouth
 - Lyme Disease
 - Cryptococcus
 - Roundworm
 - Bovine Spongiform Encephalitis
 - Campylobacteriosis
 - E. coli
 - Q Fever
 - Cryptosporidiosis
 - Yersiniosis
 - Leptospirosis
 - Salmonella
 - Tapeworm

The Diseases of the Biggest Concern and How They Are Acquired

- Salmonella-Eating contaminated meat
- Campylobacter-Drinking contaminated liquid
- Cryptosporidium-Touching contaminated surface then eat or drink
- Rabies-Drinking before washing hands
- E. Coli-Touching contaminated surface and not wash hands

Level of Liability

- Under the law you are an invitee, this is where you invite someone onto your property and you are profiting. You must inform people coming to your property of seen and unforeseen hazards. However, the invitee or customer also has responsibility to exercise reasonable care to avoid harm from conditions on premises that are hazards.

How People Encounter Pathogens

- Eating contaminated meat
- Drinking contaminated liquid
- Touching contaminated surface or animal and then eat or drink without washing hands
- Possibility of being spread airborne???

The Exhibitors Duty

- Our job is to know about the risk that the public faces when coming in contact animals
- Our job is the educate the public about the risk that they face when coming in contact with animals

How to Decrease your Risks

- **Hand-washing Stations**
 - Know where the hand-washing stations are located
 - Encourage the public to wash their hands after petting/touching animals
 - Running water and soap are best
- **Signage**
- **Food and Drinks**
 - Keep food and drinks out of animal areas
 - Do not share human food with animals

How to Decrease your Risks

- **Children**

- Children younger than 5 years old need supervision
- Never allow children to put their hands or objects in their mouth while interacting with animals
- Hand-washing should be supervised
- Keep Strollers, Blankets & Toys away from animals

- **The Elderly and Immune Compromised**

- Should use caution when coming in contact with animals

Animal Area Management

- Have animal exhibits separate from where people eat
- Use signs to state where animal and food areas are
- Install hand washing stations
- Keep stalls clean, areas around stalls clean and provide adequate ventilation
- **EDUCATE THE PUBLIC!!!**

Education

- Educate visitors to wash their hands
 - Signs
 - Verbally
- Don't allow visitors to kiss or allow their mouths to come in contact with animals and their facilities
- Train staff/exhibitors to educate visitors

“Even friendly animals can be dangerous, depending on the situation.”



Photo by Pam Townsend, U of MD



Facility Concerns

- **Water System**
 - Know where water is going
 - Clean up and block off standing water which can be a contaminant
- **Exhibit Layout**
 - Keep traffic flow in one direction
 - Keep food away from animals and have a transition area
- **Livestock Equipment**
 - Clean equipment before bringing out and before storing
 - Have equipment that is easy to clean

How to Improve Operational Procedures

- Develop and Record a Consumer Protection Flow Chart
- Develop and Record Corrective Actions
- Have a Crisis Response Plan
- KEEP GOOD RECORDS

Many problems
are outside of
our control but
it is best to be
proactive and
be prepared
in case a
situation
arises!!!



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