

REQUIREMENTS FOR PETTING ZOOS AND ANIMAL EVENTS

The following are requirements of the Calgary Health Region, Environmental Health for the safe operation of petting zoos, pony rides or animal areas.

A. Handwash Station

It is imperative that children and adults wash their hands after leaving the petting zoo or animal area. In order to encourage this, the following requirements must be met:

- An approved handwash station is required in every area where animals are handled, located at the entrance/exit to the animal area. Although a plumbed in sink unit is ideal, a temporary handwash station can be used to meet these requirements:

TEMPORARY HANDWASH STATION

1. A fresh water source (at a temperature between 30°C - 45°C) which allows both hands to be washed at the same time in a stream of water. (This can be a five (5) gallon (22 L) camping jug or coffee urn with a tap or spigot, filled with water that is maintained at proper temperatures or a Cambro coffee urn is ideal.)
2. An enclosed collection system to catch the waste water from the handwashing procedure.
3. Single-use towels and liquid soap in suitable dispensers.

The acceptable method for washing hands is in the stream of running water and not in water that is resting in the handwash basin or catch basin. Please note that this is the same method that is required with permanently located handwash basins.

Note that temporary handwashing systems are acceptable only if operators provide some means to keep them full at all times so that handwashing is continuously available. A runner system or more than one temporary set up may be required.

- Signs encouraging handwashing after visiting animal areas must be posted at the entrance/exit to the animal area.



Full-sized versions of this sign are available through Environmental Health. Call 403-943-2288 for more information.

B. Garbage & Waste

- Adequate number of garbage containers must be provided for customer use.
- Liquid waste must either be discharged directly to an approved sanitary sewer or stored in a totally enclosed wastewater holding tank.
- Both liquid waste holding tanks and garbage containers must be emptied as often as needed.
- Ensure that manure is quickly and thoroughly cleaned up, and appropriately discarded. Straw & sawdust should be removed daily.

C. Animals

- Carnivorous animals, non-human primates, reptiles and amphibians are not permitted.
- All animals must be in good health. Animals with illnesses or diarrhea must be excluded from the display.

D. Operation

- Petting zoo or animal event activities must be adequately supervised.

**For more information,
please contact our office at 403-943-2288.**