

Petting zoos are a fun and interesting way to experience both native and domestic animals in a setting conducive to up-close, personal interaction with the animals. This close personal contact with the animals also provides some health concern issues which could be detrimental to human health. The La Crosse County Health Department has developed the following brochure to prevent disease transmission when visiting petting zoos.

Resources

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

Centers for Disease Control

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

WI Department of Health Services

[Disease fact sheets](#)
[Hand washing fact sheet](#)

US Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service

Animal Welfare, Animal Care, and Regulations for Animal Exhibitors

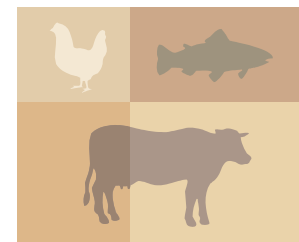
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov>



LA CROSSE COUNTY

www.lacrossecounty.org

La Crosse County
Health Department



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Health Department

Petting Zoos and Animal Displays

300 4th St N
La Crosse WI 54601

Phone: 608.785.9872
Fax: 608.785.9846

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

Signage

Provide signs with the following information:



- Everyone shall **wash their hands** after visiting the animals.
- **No food or beverages** allowed in the animal pen.
- **No pacifiers or toys** allowed in the animal pen.
- **No smoking.**
- **Report any injuries** to the attendant.

Hand Washing Facility

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

- The hand washing facility should be equipped with flowing water, hand soap and paper towels, and a waste receptacle.
- The hand washing facility should be easily accessible for children.
- The hand washing facility should be adequately stocked and refilled when needed.



Animal Health

- Do not bring sick animals.
- Do not bring animals less than 60 days old.
- No bats, skunks, raccoons, or foxes are allowed because they may transmit rabies and can not be vaccinated.
- No non-human primates, reptiles or amphibians are allowed.
- Any carnivorous animal must be properly vaccinated. Vaccination records should be available at all times.

Animal Areas

- One adult attendant should be on duty at all times.
- Remove manure frequently and dispose of properly.
- Keep the animal area locked and the animals secured when not in operation.
- Clean and disinfect the animal area thoroughly including the fence or railing.
- The attendant should record any injuries and report them to the health department for possible follow-up.

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