

Guidelines for Reducing Risk of Disease Associated with Animals at Public Events

Extracted from the Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2009 (published by the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians available online at <http://www.nasphv.org>)

Animal Areas

- Do not allow food and beverages in animal areas.
- Do not allow toys, pacifiers, spill-proof cups, baby bottles, or strollers in animal areas.
- Prohibit smoking 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 not be allowed to sit or play on the ground in animal areas. If hands become soiled, supervise hand washing.
- Ensure that animal feed and water are not accessible to the public.
- Allow feeding only when 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.
- Position venue staff members near exits to encourage compliance with hand washing.
- Assign trained staff members to encourage appropriate human-animal interactions, to identify and remove potential risks for patrons (e.g., by promptly cleaning up wastes), and process reports of injuries and exposures.
- Promptly remove manure and soiled animal bedding from animal areas.
- 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 non-animal 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 and humans.

Biosecurity Checklist for Livestock Exhibitors

(Extracted from Washington State University Veterinary Medicine Extension, Ag Animal Health Spotlight, April 2009)

Before and During the Fair

- Monitor visitors to your animals and farm especially if they have traveled outside the country within the past week.
- Make sure all veterinary health inspections and certificates of veterinary inspection are current for all the animals you will take to the fair.
- Recommend separate barns for separate species.
- Follow the fair vaccination guidelines and give recommended vaccinations at least 10 days before the event.
- Disinfect all equipment, such as buckets, shovels, wheelbarrows, manure baskets, lead ropes, blankets, snares, clippers, scissors, brushes, show box, and so forth before entering the fairgrounds.
- Don't share equipment with other exhibitors unless it has been cleaned and disinfected before and after use.
- Avoid entering the pens/stalls and coming in contact with animals from other farms. Contact the fair veterinarian or exhibition manager when animals are in need of attention. If you must contact animals from different premises, properly wash your hands and thoroughly clean and disinfect your boots and clothing before returning to your animals.
- Eliminate traffic between exhibitors of different species (especially sheep/goats and cattle). If it is not possible to eliminate this traffic, change clothing and disinfect hands before handling a different species.
- As much as possible, minimize feed and water changes from home to fair.
- Keep unused equipment and feed bagged or covered to reduce the risk of contamination.
- Vehicles and trailers used to transport animals to and from the fair should be well cleaned and disinfected, inside and out, between uses.
- Do not mix species in the same trailer (especially sheep/goats with cattle). Avoid commercial haulers with multiple animals from multiple farms.
- Clean and disinfect all items at the end of the fair before taking them home.
- Properly dispose of unused bedding, hay, and feed after the fair. Do not bring it home.
- Minimize stress by keeping animals cool, well bedded and comfortable.
- Carefully consider whether exhibition animals should return home after the fair, and what risk that presents to other animals at home.
- If an animal becomes ill at the exhibit, consult a veterinarian and isolate the animal.

After the Fair

- The safest way to transport your animals is in your own vehicle. Do not haul animals from other farms.
- Keep fair animals isolated from other animals and pets for at least 30 days.
- Check these isolated animals every day for any signs of illness.
- Care for isolated animals separately, then shower, change your clothes, and clean and disinfect your boots before going to other areas of the farm
- The person caring for animals at the fair should not perform animal-related chores at home. If the same person must do both, chores at home should be done first. Do not wear the same clothes, hats, and shoes to care for the animals at home and the fair animals. Garments should be cleaned and disinfected between each trip to the fairgrounds and barn/pasture. (It's also a good idea to shower between trips.)