

Information Package and Application for

PETTING ZOO ORGANIZERS



Huron County Health Unit

519-482-3416 or 1-877-837-6143 • huronhealthunit.ca





Dear Organizer:

Petting zoos are enjoyed by people of all ages, and are an excellent way to connect with nature. However, petting zoos can make people sick if precautions are not taken. To help you reduce the risk of potential illness associated with your petting zoo, the Health Unit has developed this information package and application.

This package consists of the following:

- Requirements and recommendations for petting zoo operators
- Petting Zoo Organizer's application

To prepare for the event, you need to:

- ❑ Fill out the application and send it to the Huron County Health Unit at least four weeks before the event.
- ❑ Let the Health Unit know of any changes to your original application.
- ❑ Create signs to post that remind visitors to wash their hands at all entrances and exits to and from all animal areas.
- ❑ Ensure all animals requiring rabies vaccine are up-to-date on their shots.
- ❑ Plan to have handwashing stations with soap and paper towels at all entrances and exits for all animal areas.
- ❑ Develop a plan for the prompt removal of manure and soiled bedding to keep the animal enclosures clean.

For more information, please call the Huron County Health Unit, 519-482-3416 or 1-877-837-6143.

Health Unit staff look forward to working with you and wish you all the best with your petting zoo.

Petting Zoo Requirements

Handwashing stations must be:

- Located at every exit and entrance from animal areas.
- Routinely cleaned and restocked.
- Accessible to children and persons with disabilities.
- Equipped with tepid running water, liquid soap in a dispenser, and individual paper towels. Water must be from a safe drinking water source.



If running water under pressure is not serviced to your site, rent or create a temporary handwashing station. The station must have the following items:

- Container with a spigot that can stay open while both hands are being washed.
- Bucket placed underneath to catch the waste water.
- Liquid soap in a pump dispenser.
- Paper towels.

Signage:

Signs must be posted to remind visitors to wash their hands at all entrances and exits to and from all animal areas. For an example, see page 4.

Vaccinations Against Rabies:

Ontario Regulation 567, *Rabies Immunizations*, requires that all horses, cows, bulls, steers, calves, and sheep used in petting zoos, or part of any interactive display, be immunized against rabies. These animals must have up-to-date vaccinations as long as they are part of a petting zoo or interactive display.

If animals requiring rabies vaccination are not vaccinated, measures must be taken to ensure that the public does not have access to the animals. This may include posting signs asking the public to not touch the animals, or using a double barrier between animals and the public.

How to prevent and control injuries:

- Any animal bite or other animal contact that may result in rabies to persons must, by law, be reported immediately to the Health Unit.
- Petting zoo operators should:
 - o Ensure first aid facilities are well stocked and conveniently located for staff and the public.
 - o Develop written procedures for dealing with injured people and handling animals that escape from enclosures.

Petting Zoo Recommendations

Operators should:

- Assign trained staff in animal areas to monitor public activities and encourage appropriate human-animal contact.
- Maintain proper visitor flow to avoid overcrowding at handwashing stations or in animal areas.
- Use barriers, gates, and signs to discourage uncontrolled access to animals and animal areas.
- Promptly remove manure and soiled bedding from animal enclosures.
- Where feasible, clean, rinse, and disinfect animal areas at least once daily.
- When disinfection is not possible (e.g., wooden rails, natural flooring), remove fresh organic material regularly to prevent build-up.
- Thoroughly clean, rinse, and disinfect all areas where animals have been displayed before those areas are used for future public (non-animal) events.

Food and beverage consumption:

- Food and beverage areas should be separate from the animal areas.
- Handwashing station should be provided between the food and animal areas.
- Operators should not allow food, beverages, smoking, toys, pacifiers, spill-proof cups (sippy-cups), and baby bottles in animal areas.

Signage:

Post a sign that states the rules for your petting zoo:

- People with weakened immune systems and infants under one year of age should avoid touching or feeding any animals.
- Children under five should not come in contact with reptiles, amphibians, birds, young ruminants or their immediate environment.
- No food, beverages, smoking, toys, pacifiers, spill-proof cups (sippy-cups), and baby bottles in animal areas.

Petting Zoo Wash your Hands Poster

To receive free laminated copies of this poster, please call the Huron County Health Unit, 519-482-3416 or 1-877-837-6143.



Petting Zoo Organizer's Application

Mail or fax:
 Huron County Health Unit
 77722B London Rd, RR 5
 Clinton, ON N0M 1L0 or 519-482-7820

FORM

EXHIBIT INFORMATION			
Contact name: _____			
Mailing address: _____			
Street (911 Number)	City/Town	Postal Code	
Phone number: _____			
Day Time: _____ Evening: _____ Cell: _____			
Fax number: _____		Email: _____	
EVENT INFORMATION			
Name of event: _____			
Location of event: _____			
Street (911 Number)	City/Town	Postal Code	
SCHEDULE			
Date (s)	Time of event (starting and ending)		
	Start :	End:	
	Start :	End:	
	Start :	End:	
ANIMALS			
Animal type	Number of animals	Rabies vaccination up to? Y/N	Certificate for rabies vaccination on site? Y/N

I _____ certify and accept responsibility for ensuring the information provided is correct and will be adhered to. I will notify the Health Unit of any changes to my application.

Signature of organizer: _____ Date: _____

Number of copies of Wash your Hands poster required: _____

**We look forward to
working with you and
wish you all the best
with your petting zoo.**

For more information,
please call the Huron County
Health Unit, 519-482-3416
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