Supplementary Material S2—Animals in public settings: recommendations for venue operators, staff, and volunteers.[1-4]

All individuals involved with animal contact activity in any public setting should be aware of the following risks for disease and injury associated with animals in public settings:

- Disease and injuries have occurred following contact with animals and their environment.
- Animals that appear healthy can carry harmful germs that can make visitors sick.
- Visitors can pick up harmful pathogens when they touch animals or animal droppings or enter animal environments (even without directly contacting the animals).
- Visitors can decrease the risk from most germs by washing their hands immediately after leaving an animal area. Visitors should wash their hands even if they did not directly contact the animals.
- Visitors can also reduce their exposure to germs by removing or changing clothes and shoes that have been worn in animal environments.
- The risk for developing serious or life-threatening zoonotic disease from contact with animals is higher for some visitors than others, especially children < 5 years of age, persons > 65 years of age, pregnant women, and people with weakened immune systems.
- Direct contact with some animals is inappropriate for some, or all, audiences in public settings.
- Direct contact with preweaned calves, reptiles, amphibians, and live poultry is not appropriate for people at high risk for zoonotic disease transmission, and direct contact with young ruminants of other species (e.g., goats and sheep) is of increased concern for these individuals.
- Dangerous animals (e.g., nonhuman primates, certain carnivores, other rabies reservoir species, and venomous reptiles) should be prohibited from having direct contact with the public.
- Live animals, especially reptiles, amphibians, and live poultry, should not be given as prizes at fairs, carnivals, or other events.

Operators and all individuals involved with the animal contact activity should educate visitors (with simple instructions in multiple age-appropriate and language-appropriate formats) about the following before they enter animal areas:

- Risks for disease and injury, including the information that children < 5 years of age, people > 65 years of age, pregnant women, and those with weakened immune systems are at greater risk than others of developing serious zoonotic diseases.
- Appropriate (or thorough) handwashing and assisting children with handwashing immediately after visiting an animal area.
- Avoiding eating, drinking, or placing things in their mouths after animal contact or after visiting an animal area, until they have washed their hands.
- Closely supervising children.
- Awareness that objects such as clothing, shoes, and stroller wheels can become soiled and serve as a source of germs after leaving an animal area.

Operators and all individuals involved with the animal contact activity should take the following steps to maintain a safe environment when animals are present in public settings:

- Design the venue with safety in mind by having designated animal areas, nonanimal areas, and transition areas; temporary exhibits and animal interaction areas used in farm visits, agritourism venues, etc. may need additional measures to minimize risks of injury or disease transmission.
- Do not permit animals other than service animals in nonanimal areas.
- Assign trained staff members to monitor animal contact areas to ensure visitor safety and provide education about risks and best prevention methods.
- Exclude food and beverages, toys, pacifiers, spill-proof cups, baby bottles, and smoking and related activities from animal contact areas.
- Keep the animal areas as clean and disinfected as possible, and limit visitor contact with manure and animal bedding.
- Allow feeding of animals only if contact with animals can be controlled (e.g., over a barrier), and do not provide feed in containers that might be consumed by persons (e.g., ice cream cones).
- Design transition areas for entering and exiting animal areas with appropriate signs or notifications regarding risks associated with animal contact and location of handwashing facilities.
- Maintain handwashing stations that are accessible to children and people with disabilities, and direct visitors to wash their hands immediately upon exiting animal areas.
- Position handwashing stations in places that encourage handwashing when exiting animal areas.
- Maintain handwashing facilities and stations appropriately by conducting routine cleaning and restocking to ensure an adequate supply of paper towels and soap.
- Ensure animals receive appropriate preventive care, including vaccinations and parasite control appropriate for the species.
- Provide potable water for animals.
- Provide handwashing facilities where food and beverages are stored, prepared, served, or consumed.
- Prohibit consumption of unpasteurized dairy products (e.g., raw milk), ciders, and juices.
- Minimize use of animal areas at other times for public activities (e.g., weddings, dances, and barbecues) because germs that can make people sick can persist in the environment.

Handwashing is the most important prevention step for reducing disease transmission associated with animals in public settings.