Supplementary Material S4—Guidelines for exhibition of animals in school and childcare settings.[1-4]

General Recommendations

- Animals are effective and valuable teaching aids, but safeguards are required to reduce the risk for infection and injury. Other entities have developed recommendations similar to those provided here.
- Ensure that teachers and staff know which animal species are inappropriate for their facility and which animals should not be in direct contact with children (See animal-specific recommendations in this Appendix).
- Educate parents of the presence of resident or visiting animals as well as the benefits and potential risks associated with animals in schools and childcare settings. Consult with parents to determine special considerations for children who are immunocompromised, have allergies or asthma.
- Wash hands immediately after contact with animals, animal products, or feed or after being around animal environments.
- Supervise human-animal contact, particularly involving children < 5 years of age.
- Display animals in enclosed cages or using appropriate restraints.
- Do not allow resident or visiting animals in schools or childcare to roam or fly free or potentially have contact with wild animals.
- Designate specific areas for animal contact to occur. Do not allow food or drink in animal contact areas; do not allow animals in areas where food and drink are served, prepared, served, or consumed.
- Clean and disinfect all areas where animals and animal products have been present. Children should not perform this task except under adult supervision.
- Do not clean animal cages or enclosures, animal bowls, toys or animal enrichment objects in sinks or other areas used to store, prepare, serve, or consume food and drinks. Designate a utility or laundry sink for cleaning animal cages and other animal contact items.
- Obtain a certificate of veterinary inspection, proof of rabies vaccination, or both according to local and state requirements for the animal species being exhibited. Ensure veterinary care, including preventive health programs for fleas, ticks, mites, and internal parasites is provided as appropriate for the species.

Animal-Specific Recommendations

Do not keep the following animals in facilities with children < 5 years of age and do not allow this age group to have direct contact with these animals as these animals pose a high risk for zoonotic disease transmission or bites:

- Reptiles (e.g., turtles, snakes, and lizards)
- Amphibians (e.g., frogs, toads, salamanders, and newts)
- Live poultry (e.g., chicks, ducklings, and goslings)
- Ferrets: prevent direct contact with these animals to avoid bites.

Refer to the general guidelines regarding species for which specific recommendations are not provided in this section (e.g., nonpsittacine birds and domestic dogs, cats, rabbits, and rodents [including mice, rats, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, and chinchillas]).

- Guide dogs, hearing assistance, or other service animals and trained animals used in law enforcement may be present in accordance with recommendations from the sponsoring organizations when they are under the control of a person familiar with the specific animal.
- Psittacine birds (e.g., parrots, parakeets, and cockatiels): Consult the psittacosis compendium and seek veterinary advice.
- Fish: Children < 5 years of age and people with impaired immune systems should not clean aquariums. Wash hands before and after cleaning aquariums, and wear gloves if hands have cuts or wounds or when working with rough rocks or spiny fish. Do not dispose of aquarium water in sinks used for food preparation or for obtaining drinking water.
- Animal products: Assume that products such as owl pellets and frozen rodents used to feed reptiles are contaminated with Salmonella organisms. Dissection of owl pellets should not be performed in areas where food is stored, prepared, served, or consumed. Children < 5 years of age should not be allowed to have direct contact with animal products unless the product has been treated to eliminate germs.

Animals Not Recommended in Any Setting Including School or Childcare Settings

- Inherently dangerous or wild animals (e.g., lions, tigers, cougars, and bears).
- Nonhuman primates (e.g., monkeys and apes).
- Mammals that pose a high risk for transmitting rabies (e.g., bats, raccoons, skunks, foxes, and coyotes).
- Aggressive or unpredictable wild or domestic animals.
- Stray animals with unknown health and vaccination history.
- Venomous or toxin-producing spiders, insects, reptiles, and amphibians.
- Animals that pose a high risk for bites (e.g., ferrets). If present in public settings, ferrets should be up-to-date for rabies vaccination.
- Farm animals (e.g., calves, goats, and sheep) should not be displayed to older children in school settings unless meticulous attention to personal hygiene can be ensured because these animals intermittently shed substantial amounts of germs.