

Keeping Kids Healthy Around Animal Exhibits

When people forget to wash their hands after petting an animal, or bring food or drinks into an area where animals are being housed, they are at risk for becoming seriously ill. You can learn more about these germs and how they cause illness by visiting CDC's Healthy Pets Healthy People site.

<http://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/>

Wash Hands Often

- Find where hand washing stations are located
- Always wash your hands after petting animals or touching an animal enclosure
- Always wash hands upon exiting animal areas even if you did not touch an animal, after going to the toilet, before eating and drinking, before preparing food or drinks, and after removing soiled clothes or shoes
- Running water and soap are best, but use hand sanitizers if soap and water aren't available. Be sure to wash your hands with soap and water as soon as a sink is available.

Eat and Drink Safely

- Keep food and drinks out of animal areas
- Food should be prepared, served, and eaten only in areas where animals are not permitted (with the exception of service animals).
- Do not eat or drink raw (unpasteurized) products, including milk, cheeses, cider or juices.
- Do not share your food with animals

Keeping Children Safe Around Animals

- Children need supervision in animal areas.
- Never allow children to put their hand or objects in their mouth while interacting with animals
- Hand washing should be supervised
- Do not take or use strollers, bottles, pacifiers, spill-proof cups or toys in animal areas

If you have any questions or believe your child may have an illness related to animal contact, please contact your local health department.

National Western Consumer Protection Program presented by:

