

HANDLING OF ANIMALS	An animal must be handled as expeditiously and carefully as possible. [2.131, Policy #27]
Criteria	<p>Handling includes, but is not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• petting• feeding/watering• cleaning• manipulating• loading/crating• shifting/transferring• immobilizing/restraining• treating• training• working• moving• any similar activity <p>An exhibitor must handle an animal(s) in a manner to prevent: [2.131(a)(1)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• trauma• overheating• excessive cooling• behavioral stress• physical harm• unnecessary discomfort <p>Physical abuse shall not be used to: [2.131(a)(2)(i)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• train animals• work animals• handle animals <p>Deprivation of food or water shall not be used to: [2.131(a)(2)(ii)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• train animals• work animals• handle animals <p>NOTE: Short-term withholding of food and water by an exhibitor is permitted if each affected animal receives its full dietary and</p>

	<p>nutritional requirements daily.</p> <p>Possible evidence of improper handling includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• excessive pacing• cowering in the corner• excessive vocalization• visible injuries or wounds• excessive shivering or panting• wild-eyed/apprehensive look• open-mouthed breathing• hissing/spitting/bar charging <p>When climatic conditions present a threat to an animal's health and well-being, appropriate measures must be taken to alleviate the impact of those conditions. [2.131(d)]</p> <p>An animal may not be subjected to any combination of the following climatic conditions that is detrimental to its health and well-being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• temperature• humidity• time <p>When determining if climatic conditions are detrimental to an animal's health and well-being, the following factors must be taken into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• age• species• breed• overall health status• acclimation
<p>Public Exhibition</p>	<p>The exhibitor must protect the safety of the animal and the public during public exhibition by ensuring there is: [2.131(b)(1)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• minimal risk of harm to the animal• minimal risk of harm to the viewing public• a sufficient distance between the animal and the public, or• barriers between the animals and the viewing public

- a knowledgeable and experienced handler for the dangerous animals. [2.131(c)(3)]

Dangerous animals include, but are not limited to:

- lions
- tigers
- bears/polar bears
- wolves
- cougars
- leopards
- jaguars
- elephants
- nonhuman primates
- rhinos

Any animal must be exhibited only for periods of time and under conditions consistent with their good health and well-being. [2.131(c)(1)]

It is recommended that wild and exotic animals on public display have an area where they can hide from public view.

Performing animals must be allowed a rest period between performances at least equal to the time for one performance. [2.131(b)(2)]

Young or immature animals must not be exhibited for periods of time that would be detrimental to their health or well-being. [2.131(b)(3)]

Possible signs of distress in young animals include, but are not limited to:

- lethargy
- excessive crying
- struggling when handled

Public Contact

An exhibitor's operation may include public contact with an animal(s), i.e., direct contact with an animal by a person not an employee of the licensee.

Public contact may consist of:

- handling
- petting/touching
- holding, as for a photograph
- feeding
- riding

Venues where direct public contact may occur include, but are not limited to:

- circuses/carnivals
- animal rides
- photo opportunities
- petting zoos
- magic acts

It is recommended that animals in direct contact with the public have an area where they can escape from public contact.

Young or immature animals must **not** be exposed to rough or excessive public handling. [2.131(b)(3)]

Drugs, such as tranquilizers, must **not** be used to:[2.131(b)(4)]

- facilitate public handling of animals
- allow public handling of animals
- provide for public handling of animals

For public feeding of animals, the food must be:[2.131(c)(4)]

- provided by the animal facility
- appropriate for:
 - the type of animal
 - the nutritional needs and diet of the animal
 - the age of the animal

An employee or attendant must be present at all times during periods of public contact. This employee should be: [2.131(c)(2)]

- responsible
- knowledgeable
- readily identifiable by means of a:
 - uniform

**Personnel &
Public Safety**

- name tag
- sign

Personnel Safety

For the safety of the personnel, at least two persons should be present when working with dangerous animals in a free or potential contact environment.

If this is not possible, comparable safety measures should be used, such as:

- shift doors operated from outside animal enclosures
- lock out areas
- alley way systems

Emergency Contingency Plans

The exhibitor should have a written contingency plan to address restraint, recapture, and/or euthanasia of an animal(s) in the event of aggressive behavior, escape, or other emergency situation.

The contingency plan should include, but not be limited to:

- procedures for handling and recapturing escaped animals
- chain of command during an emergency situation
- criteria for selecting a restraint method
- protocols for euthanasia in an emergency situation
- provisions for contacting local law enforcement and animal control officials
- available emergency equipment, such as:
 - chemical restraint drugs
 - darting equipment
 - CO₂ fire extinguishers
 - high pressure hoses
 - pepper sprays
 - nets
 - cell phones
 - 2-way radios

Note: Explain that emergency equipment listed in the contingency plan should be available during all periods of potential public contact.

In assessing a facility's ability to handle an emergency situation,

	<p>you should ask the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• who has access to the restraint drugs & equipment• are the people who have access properly trained on the equipment at the facility• when was the last training for emergency personnel• are the people qualified to use the restraint drugs/equipment on site on a regular basis• is there 24 hour coverage for the use of restraint drugs/equipment• are emergency phone numbers, including the personnel qualified to use the restraint drugs/equipment, posted on or near the phones• when was the last time you checked for out-of-date drugs• when was the last time you checked the equipment to make sure it is working properly
<p>Animal Incident Reporting</p>	<p>If an incident occurs with an exhibitor's animal(s) that you, the inspector, learn about, you must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• contact your SACS to inform him/her of the incident in case there are any outside inquiries• visit the licensee's facility to find out what happened• complete an inspection report documenting whether or not a violation of the AWA occurred• complete an Animal Incident Report (see pages 12.4.7-12.4.8)• send the Inspection Report and Animal Incident Report to the Regional Office <p>Animal incidents include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a wild/dangerous animal escape• an animal injures or kills an individual• an animal is injured• an animal causes property damage