

## PETTING ZOO INSPECTION

A Petting Zoo which exhibits any regulated animals must be licensed and meet all applicable regulations and standards.

### Inspection Procedures

#### *Handling*

When inspecting a petting zoo, handling of the animals should be observed closely.

Proper handling of the animals includes, but is not limited to:

- minimal risk of harm to the animals or the public [2.131(b)(1)]
- adequate public barriers when appropriate [2.131(b)(1)]
- animals are exhibited only for a period of time and under conditions consistent with their good health and well being [2.131(c)(1)]
- during periods of public contact, an employee or attendant must be present at all times. This employee/attendant must be: [2.131(c)(2)]
  - responsible
  - knowledgeable, and
  - readily identifiable
- dangerous animals, such as lion, tiger or bear cubs, must be:
  - separated from the public by a barrier [2.131(b)(1)] or
  - under the direct control and supervision of a knowledgeable and experienced handler [2.131(c)(3)]
- if public feeding is allowed, food must be: [2.131(c)(4)]
  - provided by the animal facility
  - be appropriate to the type of animal
  - be appropriate for the animal's nutritional needs and diet (See Feeding - Section 12.3)

#### *Public Contact*

If young or immature animals are being exhibited, they may **not** be:

- exposed to rough or excessive public handling [2.131(b)(3)]
- exhibited for periods of time that would be detrimental to their health and well-being [2.131(b)(3)]

Drugs may **not** be used to facilitate, allow, or provide for public handling of the animals. [2.131(b)(4)]

*Miscellaneous*

Other items to evaluate include, but are not limited to:

- enclosure fencing to protect the animals
- cleanliness and sanitation of the pens
- condition of the animals
- compatibility of the animals in an enclosure
- method(s) for allowing animals time away from public contact, such as:
  - large pens
  - solid walls on outside of pens
- method(s) for allowing animals time away from view of the public, such as:
  - barns
  - burrows or dens
  - curtained off areas
- animal areas where the public is not allowed
- public feed dispensers. Inspect for:
  - cleanliness
  - accumulation of old food or feed debris, especially at the bottom of the dispenser
- shelter and shade for the environmental conditions
- water availability for the environmental conditions
- vehicles used to transport the animals
- security measures if animals left overnight
- measures being taken to prevent disease transmission to the public. NOTE: You should recommend that the exhibitor follow the CDC Guidelines on page 8.9.4 for protecting the public against enteric pathogens, if he/she is not already doing so.

REMEMBER the following housing restrictions:

- hamsters may not be housed in outdoor facilities [3.27(a)]
- guinea pigs may not be housed in outdoor facilities, UNLESS prior approval has been obtained from the

<b>Traveling Petting Zoo</b>	<p style="text-align: center;">Regional Director [3.27(b)]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• rabbits may not be housed in the same primary enclosure with any other species. [3.58(a)] Contact your SACS if you have questions.</li></ul>
	<p>If the exhibitor operates the petting zoo away from his/her facility, the inspector or Regional Office may request an itinerary.</p> <p>The itinerary should contain the following information (see itinerary form on page 8.9.5):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• dates the exhibitor will be away from home</li><li>• city and State for all stops, including “lay-overs”</li><li>• site name or location of all stops, including “lay-overs”</li></ul> <p>The itinerary should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• submitted prior to departing the facility to:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ the appropriate Regional Office, or</li><li>➤ the exhibitor’s inspector, AND</li></ul></li><li>• updated as needed</li></ul> <p>The itinerary may be submitted to the appropriate Regional Office or inspector by any of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• mail</li><li>• fax</li><li>• e-mail</li></ul>