

## WAC 246-100-192

### Animals in Public Settings: Measures to prevent human disease.

1. The purpose of this rule is to protect the public from diseases transmitted to humans from animals in public settings.
2. The definitions in this section apply throughout this section unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

“Animal venue operator” means a person furnishing a setting where public contact with animals is permitted or encouraged.

“Animal exhibitor” means a person who is legally responsible for an animal that has contact with people in public settings.

“Immunocompromised” means having the immune system impaired or weakened (as by drugs or illness).

“Person” means any individual, corporation, company, association, society, firm, partnership, joint stock company, or any governmental agency, or the authorized agents of these entities.

“School” means any public, religious-affiliated, or private institution for instructing students in any grade from kindergarten through twelfth grade.

3. Animal venue operators shall:
  - a. Provide accessible hand-washing station or hand sanitizer;
  - b. Post a sign(s) in a simple and easy-to-understand format for visitors to see before they enter the animal exhibit area which warns that:
    - i. Animals can carry germs that can make people sick, even animals that appear healthy;
    - ii. Eating, drinking, or putting things into your mouth in animal areas could cause illness;
    - iii. Older adults, pregnant women, immunocompromised persons and young children are more likely to become ill from contact with animals;
    - iv. Children less than five years old should have adult supervision in animal areas.
  - c. Post a prominent sign at the exit of the animal area reminding visitors to wash their hands or use a hand sanitizer.
4. Animal venue operators and animal exhibitors shall prohibit food, beverages, smoking, strollers, baby bottles, pacifiers, and children's toys in animal areas where direct animal contact is encouraged and possible, such as petting zoos and county fairs.
5. Animal exhibitors shall:
  - a. Observe animals daily for signs of illness;
  - b. Prevent sick animals from being exhibited;
  - c. As applicable, comply with WAC 246-100-196, Rabies – Measures to prevent human disease;
  - d. As applicable, comply with WAC 246-100-201, Psittacosis – Measures to prevent human disease; and

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- e. Comply with, and have in their possession, any local, state, or federally required documents allowing the exhibition of animals in public settings.
- 6. Animal venue operators, animal exhibitors, and veterinarians shall cooperate with local health officer investigations of zoonotic disease.
- 7. Schools shall comply with this rule and adopt policies consistent with Guidelines for Animals in School Settings in Appendix D of the *Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2009*. A copy of this publication is available for review at the department's website, [www.doh.wa.gov](http://www.doh.wa.gov).

## Colored Font Key

- 1. **Black = original Wac language**
- 2. **Red = Code of KING COUNTY BOH TITLE 8 (RABIES) LANGUAGE**
- 3. **GREEN = NEW LANGUAGE CORE WORKGROUP**
- 4. **BLUE = COMPENDIA LANGUAGE**
- 5. **ORANGE = MISCELLANEOUS SOURCE**
- 6. **PURPLE = COMMENTS/CHANGES FROM INTERAGENCY WORKGROUP**