
Petting Zoos and Farms Health Tips

A trip to the petting zoo or the farm can be a great way for children to learn about the behavior of animals.

Teachers and parents need to be aware that animals can naturally carry a variety of diseases. Taking simple precautions minimizes any potential risk of contracting disease from animals.

To help keep you safe and healthy

Do

- Wear washable clothing, and sturdy outdoor shoes or boots (no sandals).
- Cover cuts and scrapes on hands and face with a waterproof bandaid or dressing.
- Always wash hands thoroughly:
 - after any contact with animals
 - before leaving the zoo or farm
 - before eating
 - hand sanitizer (minimum 60% alcohol) is a good alternative if soap and water are not available AND your hands are not visibly soiled.
- Eat only in designated areas.
- Clean footwear before leaving.

Do Not

- Kiss the animals!
- Put fingers, pencils or other objects in your mouth.
- Eat food which has fallen to the ground.
- Taste animal foods.
- Drink unpasteurized (raw) milk.

Quick Facts

- Wash your hands
- Follow the petting zoo rules
- Be kind to the animals.
- Enjoy your trip!

If you or anyone in your group becomes ill (e.g. diarrhea) after a visit to the zoo or farm, go to a doctor. Explain that you have had recent contact with animals.

Report any animal bites to Population and Public Health at **306-655-4612**
and to the zoo.
