USE OF ANIMALS IN PUBLIC DISPLAYS

1. PURPOSE

1.1. The purpose of this Animal Care and Use Procedure (ACUP) is to describe recommendations for the appropriate use of animals in public events and displays. This ACUP is approved by the Cornell Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). Any deviation must be approved by the IACUC prior to its application.

2. SCOPE

2.1. This document applies to all persons involved in the care and supervision of animals in public events.

3. INTRODUCTION

3.1. The intent of this ACUP is to provide animal care recommendations for the use of animals in public display and to provide methods to ensure public safety.

4. MATERIAL AND EQUIPMENT

4.1. Water
4.2. Appropriate feed or treats
4.3. Hand sanitizer / wash stations
4.4. Restraint materials

5. PROCEDURE

5.1. General Care

NOTE: Poisonous or dangerous animals are not allowed in public displays unless secured in a locked, safe area, and not handled by the public.

5.1.1. Station hand sanitizers/ wash stations near animals and near human eating areas.
5.1.2. Display animals that are clean, well-groomed, and healthy.
5.1.3. Remove from display any animal that becomes or appears nervous.
5.1.4. Remove animals that appear to be unhealthy (e.g., loose stool, nasal discharge) from the exhibit immediately and ensure that they receive appropriate attention.

5.1.5. Arrange for extra animals to allow for rotation off exhibit and to limit amount of handling.

5.1.6. Provide clean water and appropriate feed or food treats for the animals.

5.1.7. Ensure that all privately-owned animals have proof of current vaccinations, including rabies. Ensure that owners of private pets maintain safe and effective control of their pets at all times.

5.1.8. Recommendations for large animals:

5.1.8.1. Bed animals on rubber matting or flooring, with clean straw or shavings added for additional comfort, and to absorb urine and feces if inside or on hard surfaces (e.g., concrete, asphalt). Grass is sufficient to use without additional bedding.

5.1.8.2. Walk animals outdoors (weather permitting) and / or take to a resting area away from the general public at regular intervals.

5.1.9. Requirements for small animals and neonatal animals:

5.1.9.1. Provide a means to allow adequate thermoregulation.

5.1.9.2. Provide species specific shelters for animals that need places to hide (e.g., exotic species, birds, young animals).

6. PERSONNEL SAFETY

6.1. Medical Emergencies: CALL 911.

6.2. When working with animals wear appropriate PPE, observe proper hygiene, and be aware of allergy, zoonosis, and injury risks. Refer to the CARE Occupational Health and Safety webpage for more information.

6.3. Control crowds when moving animals, especially large livestock such as horses and cows.

6.4. Ensure that all animals on display have received appropriate vaccinations at least 2 weeks prior to display.

NOTE: All mammals (or their mothers in the case of young ones) at risk for rabies must be vaccinated for rabies.

NOTE: Animals, especially those that are young or sick, may shed microorganisms that can be infectious to humans or other animals. Also, animals that appear to be healthy may still pose a risk for the transmission of infectious agents.

6.4.1. Microorganisms may be present on the animals or in their environment, keep hand-sanitizers/ wash stations available to the public in all animal exhibits.

6.4.2. Encourage visitors to wash hands with soap and running water after handling animals and before eating.

6.4.3. Use heightened precautions when dealing with high-risk individuals (e.g., children, the elderly, pregnant women, or immunocompromised people).
7. ANIMAL RELATED CONTINGENCIES

7.1. Non-emergency veterinary questions and requests for care, email CARE veterinary staff at care@cornell.edu.

7.2. Emergency veterinary care is available at all times including after working hours and on weekends and holidays for traditional farm animals by calling Cornell’s Population and Ambulatory Medicine service (607-253-3140). For other animals please call the CARE pager (1-800-329-2456).

8. REFERENCES

8.1. Cornell University’s Pet Policy: https://sp.ehs.cornell.edu/Policies/Pages/default.aspx

8.2. CARE Occupational Health and Safety webpage: http://www.research.cornell.edu/care/OHS.html

9. APPENDIX

9.1. None

10. HISTORY

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