

**University of Prince Edward Island
Animal Care Committee
Standard Operating Procedure**

SOP #: ACC - H06

SOP Title: Use of Animals in Public Displays

SOP Section: Husbandry

Issued by: ACC

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this is to provide animal care recommendations for the use of animals in public display and to provide methods to ensure public safety.

2.0 Materials

- Water
- Appropriate feed or treats
- Restraint materials
- Hand sanitizer or hand washing station as recommended based on risk assessment

3.0 Procedures

3.1 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.

- i. Station hand sanitizers near animals and human eating areas.
- ii. Display animals that are clean, well-groomed and healthy.
- iii. Remove animals that appear to be unhealthy (e.g. loose stool, nasal discharge, etc.) from the exhibit immediately and ensure that they receive appropriate attention.
- iv. Remove from display any animal that becomes or appears nervous.
- v. Arrange for extra animals to allow for rotation off exhibit and to limit amount of handling.
- vi. Keep available plenty of clean water and appropriate food or food treats for the animals.
- vii. 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.

- viii. Recommendations for large animals:
 - 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 or asphalt). Grass is sufficient to use without additional comfort items.
 - Walk animals outdoors (weather permitting) and/or take to a rest area away from the general public at regular intervals.
- ix. Requirements for small animals and neonatal animals:
 - Provide a means to allow adequate thermoregulation.
 - Provide species specific shelters for animals that need places to hide (e.g. exotics, birds, young animals).

4.0 Personnel Safety

- 4.1 When handling animals, wear appropriate PPE, observe proper hygiene and be aware of allergy, zoonosis and injury risks. (Refer to Reference 6.1)
- 4.2 Control crowds when moving animals, especially large livestock such as horses and cows.
- 4.3 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.

- i. Microorganisms may be present on the animals or in their environment, keep hand-sanitizers available to the public in all animal exhibits.
- ii. Encourage visitors to wash hands with soap and running water after handling animals and before eating.
- iii. Use heightened precautions when dealing with high-risk individuals (e.g. children, the elderly, pregnant women, immunocompromised people).

5.0 Animal Related Contingencies

- 5.1 UPEI Security Assistance contact: 902-566-0384
- 5.2 University Veterinarian contact: 902-394-2409
- 5.3 Operation Manager of AVC Resources contact: 902-566-0927
- 5.4 Research Communications Officer contact: 902-620-5117

6.0 References

- 6.1 PEI Department of Health & Wellness; Environmental Health Office (902) 368-4970 "Guidelines for Owners & Operators Preventing Infections from Pets and Animals at Home, Petting Zoos, Fairs, Farms & Exhibitions".