



Petting Zoos

Information gathered from Santa Clara County and CA State 4-H office to share with all counties

Petting zoos are a liability, but so are other activities. It was determined that petting zoos cause no more liability than other 4-H activities when guidelines are followed. Large animals are more difficult to have on display as transportation, sanitation and safety must always be fully considered and implemented. It is advised to only bring small animals.

Risk Management has no additional insurance required. The same would hold true no matter where you hold the event, such as schools, community, and senior centers.

However, there must be a place in plain view with proper signage for exhibitors and visitors to wash their hands with running water and soap. All participants must wash hands after touching animals, feeding/water containers, the fence etc.

Contra Costa County 4-H Petting Zoo guidelines require:

- Adequate shade for animals and human handlers
- Clean cages and pens for animal and public safety
- Fresh water for animals available at all times
- Running water and antibacterial soap in plain view
- Informational signs for all animals on display
- Disclaimer posted – “pet at your own risk” (if applicable)
- Listing of other clubs, projects and events within 4-H for overall community outreach
- Enrolled and approved adult and teen leaders present at all times

4-H Petting Zoos can be a great way to get the public's attention as well as displays that might include: Y.E.S. Project - Snail Circus, Bubbleology, Family Science Backpack, Wormservation, We-cyclo-saur-us, Science S.C.R.E.A.M. and the many other active community projects and events that have interesting visuals.

4-H has a wealth of information and opportunities available. Help spread the word!