



## **Staff Animal Contact and Animal Contact Area Management**

Industry Code of Practice v3 – Preventing or Controlling Ill Health from Animal Contact at Visitor Attractions Linked.

*This guidance should be read in conjunction with the Industry Code of Practice version 3 – “Preventing or Controlling Ill Health from Animal Contact at Visitor Attractions” . The guidance assumes a working knowledge of the contents of this guidance. It is suggested you familiarise yourself with this ICoP prior to reading the content of this document. A copy of this ICoP can be downloaded from the NFAN Website.*

Any work that includes a person making contact with animals, their enclosures or faeces is a high-risk activity and compliance to this SSoW is compulsory. It also covers the controls necessary to assist the public to understand what is occurring but not be put at risks that are uncontrolled and for what the public are not suitably trained or attired. Failure to apply the requirements laid out in this document will result in persons being exposed to a hazard level which is considered unacceptable. Those employees who fail to heed the contents of this document, but have been instructed on what is required, will be considered for misconduct discipline and suitable action may be taken. If for any reason you cannot work according to the practices laid out in this SSoW, you must inform your line manager and not undertake the task.

Should a deviation be required, the necessary changes must be discussed with your manager before the system is changed.

No part of the system of work will be SIGNIFICANTLY changed without a further Risk Assessment review being carried out. The finding of the review, including a justification for the change of system, must be recorded in writing and all risk levels of Medium or above must be subject to additional control measures.

All risk assessment reviews, and significant findings, will be brought to the attention of all members of staff without delay and the staff member should sign a record document to signify they are aware of the contents for the revised SSoW.

### **Primary Hazard 1 – Exposure to a Zoonosis Infection**

All farm and domestic animals naturally carry a range of diseases, some of which can also affect humans. These diseases are known as zoonosis.

If you work with animals your health may be at risk from them. Although some diseases (e.g. anthrax, brucellosis, and rabies) are not common in Great Britain, good occupational hygiene practices will protect against them, as well as other more common zoonosis, such as leptospirosis, or for ringworm.

The primary control measure outlined in this SSoW RAMS informs staff on:

- The legal requirements to control the risk of zoonosis in humans.
- Husbandry practices which, when operated, will reduce risks.
- Good occupational hygiene practices to control the spread of zoonosis, including using personal protective equipment (PPE); and

While the primary control measures should focus on reducing and eliminating faecal contamination, the most effective method of removing dirt and contamination remains hand

washing with soap and running hot and cold, or warm water followed by hand drying. Soap bars can easily be dropped onto the floor. Liquid soap is a better solution.

### Risk Control Measures

1. Any employer who is requiring staff to work with or near animals or animal byproducts such as faeces or leachate MUST ensure they have completed a thorough Zoonotic Risk Assessment for the areas which may be affected. The risk assessment should identify where contact is:
  - Likely.
  - What the nature of contact may be.
  - How contact is likely to occur.
  - Whether cross contamination is probable or highly likely [particularly when near sick or injured animals].
  - What controls measures will be applied.
  - What PPE is compulsory or highly advisable.

2. All staff that are working in or may be affected by zoonotic materials or animals must be briefed as to the contents of this document and the site Safe System of Work, including the outcomes of the Risk Assessments.

Each staff member will be required to:

3. Read the SSoW RAMS document **Control of Zoonosis Infections** and **Generic Infection & Injury Risk Management Guide**. The control measures outlined will explain how to prevent yourself from being affected from a Zoonosis Infection.
4. Hand washing is a vital part of keeping you healthy. It helps avoid you contracting a wide range of viruses, including coughs and washing is a vital part of keeping you healthy. It helps avoid you contracting a wide range of VIRUSES, including coughs and stomach bugs. There is no limit to how many times you wash your hands during the day.
5. **Each morning, before you go into any activities where animal contact of faeces contact may occur, ALWAYS put a pair of disposable gloves into your pocket in case you need to manage animals, Animals faeces or you must assist a sick/injured animal.**
6. Changing contaminated clothing is also a vital step in the management of Zoonosis infections. Always have a change of clothing at work with you just in case contamination should occur.
7. Remember that any direct contact with ANIMALS or their faeces can lead to significant Zoonosis infection should the welfare standards not be applied. these infections can also be a hazard to yourselves should you fail to ensure enclosures are kept CLEAN the and use the hand wash facilities provided or ensure you observe proper footwear cleanliness controls.
8. All members of staff are expected to read the Farm Park Risk ASSESSMENTS for the activities they carry out. these assessments will explain the controls NECESSARY to ensure you remain safe whilst at work. you are required to always comply with those controls.
9. Inform a member of MANAGEMENT, of any hazard which you cannot deal with immediately. DO NOT LEAVE IT UNTIL LATER; REPORT IT WHEN YOU SEE IT. IF YOU CAN EASILY DEAL WITH THE SITUATION, DO SO, BUT YOU MUST STILL ENSURE THE INFORMATION IS PASSED ON SO A RECURRENCE IS PREVENTED.
10. Wear the PPE that is provided or identified for the task. No PPE, No Task Completion.

11. Wear PVC gloves when cleaning out animals or handling manure. This prevents manure from becoming trapped under fingernails.
12. Continually use the hand wash facilities. You are not limited on the number of times you wash your hands in a day.
13. Use the hand wash facilities in the public areas and engage children in conversation regarding the importance of washing hands. Do not scare them; just make hand washing a game.
14. Regularly clean your footwear, particularly if you are walking in the areas provided for the public.