

Special Health Information for Animal-Use Facility Visitor

Before you or your group visits a UW-Madison animal-use facility, please spend a few moments reviewing the following important information:

You enter this facility at your own risk recognizing the University cannot guarantee that no risk exists even though the University maintains the facility according to “normal” animal facility standards.

Animal-use facilities, including the UW Stock Pavilion, are primarily used for livestock classes and shows. All users and visitors should be aware that there are certain health risks associated with farm animal contact, particularly to children less than 5-years-old, the elderly, pregnant women and those with weakened immune systems.

UW-Madison has taken precautions to minimize the risks. In addition, please observe the following two important rules:

Food and drinks are prohibited inside the facility. To help prevent becoming infected by E. coli O157:H7 or another infectious agent, it is very important to restrict hand-mouth activities (including eating, drinking and smoking) in animal interaction areas or any other areas where animal wastes are present. This is especially important for children, who must not bring toys, pens or pencils, or pacifiers into animal interaction areas where they may become contaminated directly by the animals or become soiled if they fall to the floor or another contaminated area.

Wash your hands before leaving. The most effective way to minimize health risks is to make sure that everyone in your group washes his or her hands with soap and water following animal contact or interaction. Hand washing stations and restrooms are located near the exits.

For more information on health considerations associated with animal-use facilities, contact University Health Services Environmental Health Program at (608) 262-1809, or by email at ehp@uhs.wisc.edu.