



# MARYLAND Department of Health

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

April 20, 2018

Dear Animal Exhibitor,

In Maryland, agricultural fairs are an important part of the state's history and have become a popular annual event for thousands of residents. However, many visitors to these venues are not aware of the potential health risks associated with animal contact. The Maryland Department of Health asks for your collaboration to help minimize the health risk to the public, while still providing an exciting and educational experience with animals in your exhibit.

The Maryland Department of Health, Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases (CZVBD) is pleased to provide you with the following resources that can be used to educate both the public and venue operators about the risks of illness and injury associated with animal exhibitions.

1. The Compendium from the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV): *Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2017*. Available at: <http://nasphv.org/documentsCompendiumAnimals.html>

This document includes information on:

- Recommendations for restricting access to non-exhibit animals and non-public parts of the exhibit, as well as food service and other facility design issues
- Information/recommendations for birthing centers
- Table of zoonotic diseases of interest in public settings
- Toolkit with examples of educational resources that stakeholders can use to encourage implementation of the principles outlined in the Compendium

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Healthy Pets Healthy People  
Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/index.html>

This website includes information on:

- A-Z listing of diseases that can be spread from pets to people
- Pet specific recommendations to ensure that you and your pets stay healthy

The Maryland Department of Health thanks you for your diligent efforts towards ensuring that all visitors have a safe and fun educational experience. For questions, please contact the Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases at (410) 767-5649 or [mdh.czvbd@maryland.gov](mailto:mdh.czvbd@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

David A. Crum, DVM, MPH  
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Center for Zoonotic and Vector-borne Diseases