



DATE: October 22, 2013

TO: State Public Health Veterinarians
State Epidemiologists
State Veterinarians
Others Concerned with Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings

FROM: Kirk Smith, DVM, MS, PhD
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SUBJECT: Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2013

On behalf of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV), we are pleased to announce the availability of the Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2013. This document has been published in the November 1 issue of the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, which is now live on the JAVMA website (<http://avmajournals.avma.org/toc/javma/243/9>). The Compendium has been set as open (free) access.

There are many positive benefits of human-animal contact; however, infectious disease outbreaks related to such contacts have been increasingly reported. This Compendium provides standardized recommendations for use by public health officials, veterinarians, animal venue operators, animal exhibitors, and others concerned with disease control and with minimizing risks associated with animals in public settings. During October 3-5, 2012, NASPHV members and external expert consultants met at the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control in Atlanta, Georgia to update the previous version of the Compendium, which was published in MMWR 2011;60:RR-4.

We recommend that you distribute this cover memorandum and the Compendium widely to persons responsible for oversight or regulation of animal contact venues, persons who operate such venues, and public settings where animal contact may occur. You also may wish to distribute the Appendices as stand-alone handouts, including Appendix 1: "Animals in Public Settings: Guidelines for Venue Operators and Staff Members"; Appendix 2: Hand-Washing Recommendations; Appendix 3: Guidelines for Animals in School and Child-Care Settings; Figure 1: suggested sign about how to be safe around animals; and, Figure 2: suggested sign to encourage compliance with hand washing.

If you update any web links to this document, please delete links to prior versions of the Compendium. The link to the Compendium will be available on the NASPHV website (www.nasphv.org) in the Publications section, along with the rabies, psittacosis/avian chlamydiosis, and veterinary infection control compendia. In addition to the Compendium link, a “Users Guide” is available for your convenience as a separate downloadable document on the NASPHV website.

This Compendium is periodically updated. We encourage your comments or suggestions for future Compendium issues. Comments should be sent to Dr. Smith at the Minnesota Department of Health, 625 Robert St. N., St. Paul, MN 55155 or by email (kirk.smith@state.mn.us).