

R381-100- 22: ANIMALS

Purpose

This section provides rules and information about regulations for animals that are at the facility and rules for children interacting with animals.

General Information

If the provider chooses to feed a stray animal, the animal will be considered the provider's and would need to comply with all applicable rules, such as current vaccinations.

- (1) The provider shall inform parents of the types of animals permitted at the facility.**

Rationale / Explanation

The purpose of this rule is to ensure that parents are aware of any animals their child may come in contact with at the center. This is important because the risk of injury, infection, and aggravation from allergies due to contact between children and animals is significant. *CFOC, 3rd Ed. pgs. 119-121 Standard 3.4.2.1, pgs. 349-350 Standard 9.2.1.3.*

Enforcement

Always Level 3 Noncompliance.

Assessment

This rule includes fish and frogs.

This rule only applies to animals that are at the center on a regular basis. Animals that are brought in for show and tell do not need immunizations or parent notification.

- (2) All animals at the facility shall be clean and free of obvious disease or health problems that could adversely affect children.**

Rationale / Explanation

Animals, including pets, can be a source of illness for people; likewise, people may be a source of illness for animals. The purpose of this rule is to prevent the spread of disease through contact with dirty or ill animals, and to prevent children from being bitten or otherwise injured by a sick animal. *CFOC, 3rd Ed. pgs. 121-122 Standard 3.4.2.3.*

Enforcement

Always Level 3 Noncompliance.

Assessment

This rule includes fish and frogs.

- (3) All animals at the facility shall have current immunizations for all vaccine preventable diseases that are transmissible to humans. The center shall have documentation of the vaccinations.**

Rationale / Explanation

Animals, including pets, can be a source of illness for people; likewise, people may be a source of illness for animals. The purpose of this rule is to prevent the spread of disease through contact with dirty or ill animals, and to prevent children from being bitten or otherwise injured by a sick animal. *CFOC, 3rd Ed. pgs. 121-122 Standard 3.4.2.3.*

Enforcement

Always Level 2 Noncompliance.

Assessment

A veterinary tag that includes the required information and shows that the vaccination is current may be used in lieu of an animal vaccination record.

Animals that are brought in for show and tell do not need immunizations or parent notification.

Licensors will look for documentation of rabies vaccinations for cats, dogs, and ferrets to verify compliance with this rule.

- (4) There shall be no animal on the premises that has a history of dangerous, attacking, or aggressive behavior, or a history of biting even one person.**

Rationale / Explanation

The purpose of this rule is to prevent injury to children by an aggressive animal. *CFOC, 3rd Ed. pg. 121, Standard 3.4.2.2.*

Enforcement

Level 1 Noncompliance if the animal is accessible to a child in care or bites a person. Level

2 Noncompliance otherwise.

Assessment

Pythons, boa constrictors, and anacondas are naturally aggressive animals and are very dangerous. Therefore, they may not be on the premises. African ball pythons are not aggressive. If documentation confirming the snake is an African ball python, a finding will not be issued.

If an animal bites a person, and the owner/director immediately removes the animal from the facility and does not allow it back, this rule is in compliance. This includes birds, lizards and any animal whether or not they are kept in a cage and whether or not they need vaccinations.

- (5) Infants, toddlers, and preschoolers shall not assist with the cleaning of animals or animal cages, pens, or equipment.**

Rationale / Explanation

Animals, including pets, can be a source of illness for people; likewise, people may be a source of illness for animals. A pet's food can also become contaminated by standing at room temperature. The purpose of this rule is to prevent the spread of disease to children from animal food or droppings. *CFOC, 3rd Ed. pgs. 121-122 Standard 3.4.2.3.*

Enforcement

Always Level 3 Noncompliance.

Assessment

This rule includes fish and frogs.

- (6) If a school age child assists in the cleaning of animals or animal equipment, the child shall wash his or her hands immediately after cleaning the animal or equipment.

Rationale / Explanation

Animals, including pets, can be a source of illness for people; likewise, people may be a source of illness for animals. A pet's food can also become contaminated by standing at room temperature. The purpose of this rule is to prevent the spread of disease to children from animal food or droppings. *CFOC, 3rd Ed. pgs. 121-122 Standard 3.4.2.3*

Enforcement

Always Level 3 Noncompliance.

- (7) There shall be no animals or animal equipment in food preparation or eating areas.

Rationale / Explanation

The presence of animals in food preparation or eating areas can increase the risk of contaminating food. *CFOC, 3rd Ed. pgs. 185-186 Standard 4.8.0.1*

Enforcement

Always Level 3 Noncompliance.

Assessment

This rule includes frogs.

Animals and animal equipment must be at least 36 inches from food preparation or eating surfaces in order for this rule to be in compliance. All kitchen counters are considered to be food preparation areas.

Providers who have airtight, watertight covers on animal food and water dishes that are in food preparation or eating areas meet this rule.

This rule does not prohibit fish bowls or tanks in food preparation or eating areas.

- (8) Children shall not handle reptiles or amphibians.

Rationale / Explanation

The purpose of this rule is to prevent the spread of salmonella. *CFOC, 3rd Ed. pg. 121 Standard 3.4.2.2.*

Reptiles are cold-blooded air-breathing animals covered with scales, for example: snakes, lizards, and turtles. Amphibians are cold-blooded animals that are able to live both on land and in water, for example: frogs and salamanders.

Enforcement

Always Level 2 Noncompliance.

Assessment

This rule applies to reptiles and amphibians brought in by a zoo or visiting program or any when on a field trip. Touching reptiles and amphibians, even if wearing gloves, is the same as handling reptiles and amphibians.