

R430-90-22 and R430-50-22: 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.

Licensed Family 90-22:

(1) The licensee shall inform parents of the types of animals permitted on the premises.

Residential Certificate 50-22:

(1) The certificate holder shall inform parents of the types of animals permitted on the premises.

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 home. 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.

Licensed Family 90-22:

(2) The licensee shall ensure that all animals on the premises and accessible to any child in care :

- (a) are clean and free of obvious disease or health problems that could adversely affect any child in care; and

Residential Certificate 50-22:

(2) The certificate holder shall ensure that all animals on the premises and accessible to any child in care:

- (a) are clean and free of obvious disease or health problems that could adversely affect any child in care; and

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.

Licensed Family 90-22:

- (2) The licensee shall ensure that all animals on the premises and accessible to any child in care:
- (b) have current vaccinations for all vaccine preventable diseases that are transmissible to humans. The licensee shall have documentation of the vaccinations.

Residential Certificate 50-22:

- (2) The certificate holder shall ensure that all animals on the premises and accessible to any child in care:
- (b) have current vaccinations for all vaccine preventable diseases that are transmissible to humans. The certificate holder 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

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

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.

Licensed Family 90-22:

- (3) The licensee shall ensure that there is no animal on the premises that has a history of dangerous, attacking, or aggressive behavior, or a history of biting even one person.

Residential Certificate 50-22:

- (3) The certificate holder shall ensure that there is 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

This rule includes fish and frogs.

Pythons, boa constrictors, and anacondas are naturally aggressive animals and are very dangerous. Therefore, they may not be on the premises. Ball pythons are not aggressive therefore, if the provider has documentation confirming the snake is a Ball python, a finding will not be issued.

If an animal bites a person, and the Licensee/Certificate Holder 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.

Licensed Family 90-22:

- (4) The licensee shall ensure that no child in care assists with the cleaning of animals or animal cages, pens, or equipment.

Residential Certificate 50-22:

- (4) The certificate holder shall ensure that no child in care assists 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.

Licensed Family 90-22:

- (5) The licensee shall ensure that there is no animal or animal equipment in food preparation or eating areas during food preparation or eating times.

Residential Certificate 50-22:

- (5) The certificate holder shall ensure that there is no animal or animal equipment in food preparation or eating areas during food preparation or eating times.

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

Animals and animal equipment must be at least 36 inches from food preparation or eating surfaces in order to be in compliance with this rule.

Licensees/Certificate Holders who have airtight, watertight covers on animal food and water dishes that are in food preparation or eating areas during food preparation or eating times are in compliance with this rule.

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

Animals cannot be in the food preparation and eating areas when food is being prepared for the children in care or the children are eating.

Licensed Family 90-22:

- (6) The licensee shall ensure that no child in care handles reptiles or amphibians while in care.

Residential Certificate 50-22:

- (6) The certificate holder shall ensure that no child in care handles reptiles or amphibians while in care.

Rationale / Explanation

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

Amphibians are cold-blooded animals that are able to live both on land and in water. Examples of amphibians include frogs and salamanders.

Reptiles are cold-blooded air-breathing animals covered with scales. Examples of reptiles include snakes, lizards, and turtles.

Enforcement

Always Level 2 Noncompliance.

Assessment

This rule applies to reptiles and amphibians brought in by a zoo or visiting program or when on a field trip.

Touching reptiles and amphibians, **even if wearing gloves**, is the same as handling reptiles and amphibians .