

R430-100-22. ANIMALS.

- (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, pg. 111 Standard 3.042; pg. 335 Standard 8.005

Enforcement

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.

There is no rule that prohibits feeding wild birds and ducks.

Always Level 3 Noncompliance.

- (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, pg. 112 Standard 3.044

Enforcement

This rule includes fish and frogs.

Level 1 Noncompliance: If children have access to an animal with a disease that is transmissible to humans.

Level 3 Noncompliance otherwise.

- (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, pg. 112 Standard 3.044

Enforcement

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.

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This rule only applies to animals that stay at the center. 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.

*If the center indicates an animal **has not been** vaccinated, this rule should be cited. If the center indicates an animal **has been** vaccinated, but they **cannot find the record** of it during an on-site visit, cite R430-100-9(1)(b) **only** as being out of compliance. If the provider still does not have the required record(s) on the follow-up visit, cite this rule.*

Always Level 2 Noncompliance.

- (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, pg. 112 Standard 3.043

Enforcement

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.

If an animal bites a child, and the owner/director immediately removes the animal from the center and does not allow it back, the center is in compliance with this rule.

Level 1 Noncompliance: If the animal is accessible to a child in care or bites a child in care.

Level 2 Noncompliance otherwise.

- (5) Children 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, pg. 112 Standard 3.044

Enforcement

This rule includes fish and frogs.

Always Level 3 Noncompliance.

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(6) 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, pg. 170 Standard 4.042

Enforcement

This rule includes fish and frogs.

Always Level 3 Noncompliance.

(7) Children shall not handle reptiles or amphibians.

Rationale / Explanation

The purpose of this rule is to prevent the spread of salmonella. CFOC, pg. 112 Standard 3.043

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

This rule applies to reptiles and amphibians brought in by a zoo or any other visiting program or any reptiles and amphibians on a field trip. Touching reptiles and amphibians is the same as handling reptiles and amphibians .

Level 1 Noncompliance: if a child handles a reptile or amphibian and contracts salmonella.

Level 2 Noncompliance otherwise.