

Cuyahoga County Board of Health Animal Venue Regulation

ADOPTED JULY 22, 2009
REVISED JANUARY 25, 2012

Section 1: Statement of Purpose

The Cuyahoga County Board of Health hereby requires that all animal venues within the General Health District obtain a *Permit to Operate an Animal Venue*. The *Permit to Operate an Animal Venue* will require operators to implement adequate control measures for minimizing the public health and safety risks that are associated with animals in public settings.

Section 2: Definitions

Animal: means any non-human member of the Kingdom Animalia.

Animal Area: means any structure, building, land or premise where animals are housed, sold or exhibited.

Animal Venue: means any location where animals are sold or exhibited to the public. *Animal venue* includes but is not limited to petting farms, pet stores, petting zoos, farm tours, fairs, animal shelters, animal swap meets, photo opportunities, flea markets, circuses, carnivals, zoological institutions, and educational exhibits. *Animal venue* does not include breeders, kennels, or rescue and foster groups that operate within a private residential location. *Animal Venue* also does not include boarding stables that do not offer rides or riding lessons to the public. Any *Animal Venue* that is accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums is exempt from the *Animal Venue* permitting requirement.

Board of Health: means the Cuyahoga County Board of Health.

Health Commissioner: means the person occupying the office pursuant to sections 3709.11 and 3709.14 of the Revised Code or an authorized representative.

Isolation: means the separation of an ill animal from other animals and the public during the period of communicability in such a way that prevents, as far as possible, the direct or indirect conveyance of an infectious agent to those who are susceptible to infection or who may spread the agent to others.

Mobile Animal Venue: means an animal venue that is a portable operation that routinely changes location and does not operate in any one location for longer than seven (7) consecutive days.

Non-Animal Area: means any area where animals, animal equipment or animal wastes are prohibited.

Non-Profit Animal Venue: means an animal venue that is operated by an individual or organization that has been granted non-profit status by the Internal Revenue Service.

Temporary Animal Venue: means an animal venue that is operated at an event for no more than seven (7) consecutive days.

Vector: means any organism, such as an insect, rodent or other unwanted animal, capable of transmitting a pathogen.

Veterinarian: means a person who possesses a valid license to practice veterinary medicine in the State of Ohio or another state.

Zoonotic Disease: means a disease that can be transmitted from animals to humans and is known to cause illness in humans.

Section 3: Structures & Facilities

3.1 Animal areas and non-animal areas shall be adequately separated and clearly designated.

3.2 Animal venues shall be maintained in a sanitary manner and shall be properly cleaned and disinfected between uses. The disinfectant shall be appropriate for the potential pathogens associated with the animals in the venues.

3.3 Potable water shall be used for proper cleaning and disinfection. Adequate measures shall be in place to prevent contamination of the public water supply.

3.4 Adequate hand washing facilities and/or hand sanitizers shall be provided and made conveniently available to patrons and staff in areas when contact with animals or animal areas is permitted.

3.5 Animal venues that permit the sale or consumption of food on the premises shall provide adequate hand washing facilities for use by patrons and employees. The preparation or sale of food shall be permitted in non-animal areas only.

3.6 Adequate supervision and/or signage shall be provided to:

- A. Encourage proper hand hygiene by patrons and staff,
- B. Discourage eating, drinking, smoking, and other hand to mouth activities in animal areas, and
- C. Discourage the use of pacifiers, baby bottles, spill-proof cups, and toys in animal areas.

Signage shall be in a conspicuous location and sized to be easily read by patrons.

3.7 Animal wastes, garbage, debris and liquids shall be contained, removed and disposed of in a manner that minimizes environmental contamination, odors, and disease vectors.

3.8 Adequate integrated pest management principles shall be in place to minimize nuisance pests and disease vectors.

Section 4: Animal Management

4.1 A complete written inventory that documents the acquisition and disposition of all animals in the animal venue shall be maintained and made available for review upon request by the Board of Health.

4.2 All animals shall be provided with routine preventive medical care as recommended by a veterinarian or animal care expert for that species. A veterinarian shall be contacted for animals that become injured or develop signs of illness. All necessary veterinary treatments, vaccinations, and medical care shall be provided for injured or ill animals and shall be documented.

4.3 Suspected or confirmed cases of zoonotic disease in animals and humans shall be reported to the Board of Health within twenty-four (24) hours.

4.4 All animal bites, scratches and other zoonotic disease exposure incidents shall be reported to the Board of Health within twenty-four (24) hours. Animals that are involved in exposure incidents shall not be sold, distributed or exhibited to the public for a period of time that is at least equivalent to the usual incubation period of the disease which the animal may have transmitted.

4.5 Animals that exhibit signs of illness shall be placed in isolation and shall not be sold, distributed or exhibited to the public.

4.6 All animal venue staff shall demonstrate adequate experience and knowledge of appropriate animal management necessary for the protection of public health and safety.

4.7 Appropriate and adequate barriers and supervision shall be provided to prevent human exposure to animals that pose a risk to public health or safety.

4.8 Rabies vector species for which a United States Department of Agriculture licensed rabies vaccine is not available shall not be sold or otherwise distributed to persons who do not possess a valid and appropriate permit or license from the United States Department of Agriculture and/or the Ohio Department of Natural Resources.

4.9 Viable turtle eggs or live turtles with a carapace length of less than four (4) inches shall not be offered for sale to the public, with the exception of bona fide scientific, educational, or exhibition purposes.

4.10 Written contingency plans that demonstrate the safe capture of animals at large and adequate measures for the safe containment and care of animals in emergency or disaster events shall be maintained and made available to the Board of Health upon request.

4.11 Animal venues shall demonstrate compliance with all applicable federal, state and local requirements.

Section 5: Permits

5.1 No person shall operate an animal venue without a *Permit to Operate an Animal Venue*. Such permit shall serve as written authorization to operate the animal venue, as required by these rules.

5.2 A *Permit to Operate an Animal Venue* shall be valid from May 1 to April 30 of the following year. This permit shall be renewed annually on or before May 1.

5.3 A *Permit to Operate a Mobile Animal Venue* shall be valid from May 1 to April 30 of the following year. This permit shall be renewed annually on or before May 1.

5.4 A *Permit to Operate a Temporary Animal Venue* shall be valid only for the days for which application and payment have been made. Application for the permit shall be made seven (7) days prior to the start of the event.

5.5 Application for a permit shall be on a form prescribed by the Board of Health.

5.6 The permit shall be posted in a conspicuous location at the animal venue.

5.7 The Board of Health shall conduct a minimum of one inspection per year for permanent and mobile animal venues, and a minimum of one inspection during the course of operation for temporary animal venues.

5.8 The Board of Health may refuse to grant a permit or may suspend or revoke a permit for failure to comply with the requirements of this regulation.

Section 6: Fees

6.1 The Board of Health may establish fees for the permitting and inspection of animal venues in accordance with Section 3709.09 of the Revised Code. Fees shall be used solely for the purpose of administering the requirements of the program.

6.2 The permit fee shall be based upon the following classification scheme:

A. Animal Venues	\$150.00
B. Non-Profit Animal Venues	\$0
C. Temporary Animal Venues	\$30.00 per day
D. Non-Profit Temporary Animal Venues	\$0
E. Mobile Animal Venues	\$100.00
F. Non-Profit Mobile Animal Venues	\$0

Note: A three-year moratorium on permit fees for Non-Profit Animal Venues will be in effect until April 30, 2015, during which time CCBH will evaluate the value, impact, and costs of program activities associated with these venues.

Section 7 : Construction

These regulations shall be governed, construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Ohio. Further, the Ohio courts shall have jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties hereto in connection with disputes concerning validity and enforcement of these regulations. Should any portion of these regulations be found unenforceable by operation of statute or by administrative or judicial decision, the enforceability of the balance of the regulations shall not be affected thereby.

Section 8: Penalties

Each and every violation of the provisions of these regulations shall constitute a separate offense. Penalties associated with the violation of these regulations are established in section 3709.09 of the Ohio Revised Code.