

**SUBCHAPTER 52K – ANIMAL EXHIBITIONS**

**SECTION .0100 – PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

**02 NCAC 52K .0101 PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Subchapter is to establish standards for animal exhibitions at agricultural fairs to reduce the likelihood of the transmission of disease from animals to humans.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-520.3A;  
Eff. September 1, 2006.*

**02 NCAC 52K .0102 SCOPE**

The rules in this Subchapter apply to animal exhibitions at agricultural fairs where animals are displayed for the purpose of physical contact with humans.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-520.3A;  
Eff. September 1, 2006.*

**SECTION .0200 - DEFINITIONS**

**02 NCAC 52K .0201 DEFINITIONS**

As used in this Subchapter:

- (1) "Agricultural fair" or "fair" means a fair required to be licensed by the Commissioner of Agriculture pursuant to G.S. 106-520.3.
- (2) "Animal contact exhibit" means any exhibit at an agricultural fair where there are animals displayed for the purpose of petting, holding, feeding, or other physical contact by humans, including but not limited to, petting zoos, pony rides and poultry handling exhibits.
- (3) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Agriculture or the Commissioner's authorized representative.
- (4) "Department" means the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.
- (5) "Transition area" means the area between an animal contact exhibit exit and the closest hand-washing station.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-520.3A;  
Eff. September 1, 2006.*

**SECTION .0300 - SIGNAGE**

**02 NCAC 52K .0301 SIGNAGE**

An animal contact exhibit shall provide visible signage at the entrance and exit of the exhibit to educate the public regarding:

- (1) the fact that animal contact may pose a health risk;
- (2) items that are prohibited in animal areas;
- (3) high risk populations, including:
  - (a) the elderly;
  - (b) children under the age of six; and
  - (c) women who are pregnant; and
- (4) the location of hand-washing stations.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-520.3A;  
Eff. September 1, 2006.*

**02 NCAC 52K .0302 MINIMUM SIZE OF LETTERING ON SIGNAGE**

All lettering on signs shall be at least 3/8 inch high.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-520.3A;*

*Eff. September 1, 2006.*

## **SECTION .0400 – OPERATIONS AND STAFFING**

### **02 NCAC 52K .0401 FENCING**

- (a) Animals and bedding shall be separated from the public with fencing to minimize contact with manure and bedding. This does not apply to persons riding ponies or horses or adults accompanying children riding ponies or horses.
- (b) Fencing may allow children to reach through or over to pet and feed animals.
- (c) Fencing shall be at least 29 inches high. On the side(s) of the exhibit intended for public contact, the fencing shall have a solid board or panel at the bottom at least eight inches high to contain manure and bedding.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-520.3A;  
Eff. September 1, 2006.*

### **02 NCAC 52K .0402 PROHIBITED ITEMS**

In order to minimize hand to mouth contact, no pacifiers, baby bottles, drink cups, food, drink or smoking shall be allowed in animal contact exhibits.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-520.3A;  
Eff. September 1, 2006.*

### **02 NCAC 52K .0403 AGE REQUIREMENTS**

Unsupervised children less than six years old shall not be permitted in animal contact areas.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-520.3A;  
Eff. September 1, 2006.*

### **02 NCAC 52K .0404 FEEDING OF ANIMALS**

Only food provided by the animal contact exhibit may be fed to the animals. Animal food shall not be provided in containers that are human food items, such as ice cream cones.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-520.3A;  
Eff. September 1, 2006.*

### **02 NCAC 52K .0405 STAFFING; COMPLIANCE**

An animal contact exhibit shall be staffed at all times of operation by at least one person who has the authority to ensure that the exhibit complies with this Subchapter. The owner, operator or person in charge of an animal contact exhibit shall be responsible for compliance with this Subchapter, and shall not knowingly permit violations by its employees, agents or patrons.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-520.3A;  
Eff. September 1, 2006.*

### **02 NCAC 52K .0406 SURFACES; EXHIBIT AREAS**

- (a) Surfaces in the animal contact exhibit that can be touched by both fair patrons and animals shall be made of impervious material, and shall be cleaned and disinfected daily and at any time visible contamination is present.
- (b) All animal fencing, feed troughs, and open watering systems shall be disinfected prior to and at the end of each fair.
- (c) Contact animal exhibits shall be held on impervious surfaces whenever feasible.
- (d) Impervious exhibit areas shall be cleaned and disinfected at the end of the fair.
- (e) Exhibit areas that are not impervious shall be cleaned of all manure at the end of the fair and shall not be used for human activities for at least six months after cleaning.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-520.3A;  
Eff. September 1, 2006.*

**02 NCAC 52K .0407 WASTE DISPOSAL**

The fair shall designate a manure disposal area and shall control wastewater runoff. The animal contact exhibit shall have a designated area for temporary storage of animal waste and shall not transport such waste through areas occupied by fair patrons. Manure disposal and storage areas shall be inaccessible to the public, unless waste is bagged and placed in a closeable dumpster.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-520.3A;  
Eff. September 1, 2006.*

**SECTION .0500 – FOOD, DRINK AND HAND-WASHING**

**02 NCAC 52K .0501 HAND-WASHING STATIONS**

- (a) Hand-washing stations with soap, running water, paper towels and disposal containers shall be located within ten feet of the exit of an animal contact exhibit.
- (b) Hand-washing stations suitable for small children shall be available in the same area.
- (c) Signage shall be provided to direct patrons to hand-washing stations.
- (d) In order to promote hand-washing with soap and water, dispensers for waterless hand sanitizing lotions, gels or hand wipes shall not be provided in the transition or exhibit area.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-520.3A;  
Eff. September 1, 2006.*

**02 NCAC 52K .0502 FOOD AND DRINK**

Food and beverages for human consumption shall not be sold, prepared, served, or consumed in transition areas.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-520.3A;  
Eff. September 1, 2006.*

**SECTION .0600 - ANIMAL KEEPING, CERTIFICATIONS AND EXHIBITION**

**02 NCAC 52K .0601 HEALTH CERTIFICATE; VACCINATIONS**

- (a) An official certificate of veterinary inspection, as defined in 02 NCAC 52B .0202, a rabies vaccination certificate (when applicable), and any other documentation required by the State Veterinarian for species or state of origin, shall accompany all animals contained in a public contact setting.
- (b) Animals for which there is an approved rabies vaccine, but which are too young to receive rabies vaccination, are prohibited from animal contact exhibits.
- (c) Rabies vaccination shall be administered at least three months prior to and no more than one year prior to the event.
- (d) If no licensed rabies vaccine exists for a particular species (such as rabbits, goats, llamas, and camels), no vaccination is required.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-520.3A;  
Eff. September 1, 2006.*

**02 NCAC 52K .0602 DAILY MONITORING**

Animals shall be monitored daily by exhibit personnel for signs of illness. Animals that exhibit signs of illness shall be removed from public contact immediately.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-520.3A;  
Eff. September 1, 2006.*

**02 NCAC 52K .0603 HIGH RISK ANIMALS**

Animals that pose a high disease risk to humans, as determined by the State Veterinarian or his representative, shall not be allowed in animal contact exhibits.

*History Note: Authority G.S. 106-520.3A;*

