



DATE: May 19, 2023

TO: State Public Health Veterinarians, State Epidemiologists, State Veterinarians, Others concerned with disease associated with animals in public settings

FROM: Russ Daly, DVM, MS, DACVPM, and Abigail Mathewson, DVM, MPH, Co-Chairs, Compendium Committee

SUBJECT: Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2023

On behalf of the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (NASPHV), we are pleased to announce the availability of the Compendium of Measures to Prevent Disease Associated with Animals in Public Settings, 2023.

There are many positive benefits of human-animal contact; however, infectious disease outbreaks related to such contacts have been increasingly reported. This Compendium provides standardized recommendations for use by public health officials, veterinarians, animal venue operators, animal exhibitors, farm visitor hosts, and others concerned with disease control and with minimizing risks associated with animals in public settings. During September 12-16, 2022, NASPHV members and external expert consultants met virtually to update the previous version of the Compendium, which was published in JAVMA (December 1, 2017).

We recommend that you distribute this cover memorandum and the Compendium widely to persons responsible for oversight or regulation of animal contact venues, persons who operate such venues, and public settings where animal contact may occur. You also may wish to distribute the Appendices as stand-alone handouts, including Appendix 2: "Animals in Public Settings: Guidelines for Venue Operators and Staff Members"; Appendix 3: Hand-Washing Recommendations; and Appendix 4: Guidelines for Animals in School and Child-Care Settings.

In addition, we would like to call your attention to our compendium toolkit, available at <http://nasphv.org/documentsCompendiumAnimals.html>. These selected items, including signs, fliers, and checklists, are examples of educational resources that stakeholders can use to encourage implementation of the principles outlined in the Animal Contact in Public Settings Compendium.

If you update any web links to this document, please delete links to prior versions of the Compendium. The link to the Compendium will be available on the NASPHV website ([www.nasphv.org](http://www.nasphv.org)) in the Documents>Compendia section, along with our organization's other compendia.

This Compendium is periodically updated. We encourage your comments or suggestions for future Compendium issues. Comments should be sent to Dr. Mathewson at [abigail.a.mathewson@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:abigail.a.mathewson@dhhs.nh.gov).