

# FARM AND ANIMAL PETTING ZOO VISITS:

## Information for parents, Schools, Kura, Early Childhood Education Centres and Te Kohanga Reo.

### ✓ Checklist for Taking Children on a Farm & Animal Petting Zoo Visits

#### Before the visit have you:

- Discussed arrangements for the day with the host management, especially hand washing facilities and acceptable levels of supervision?
- Agreed that children will not be offered raw milk or other high risk products?
- Familiarised yourself with the school or early childhood centre policy regarding outdoor visits?
- Arranged for enough adult helpers to adequately supervise the children?
- Advised the children to wear suitable clothing, including good outdoor shoes or gumboots?
- Considered getting the children to bring a change of footwear and a plastic bag to carry dirty footwear?
- Made arrangements for eating lunch (morning/afternoon tea)? Is there a designated eating area that is away from the animals and near to hand washing facilities?
- Checked that cuts and grazes on the hands of children are covered with waterproof dressings?
- Taught the children to wash and dry their hands correctly?
- Checked whether there is safe drinking water on site, or do children need to take a water bottle?

#### On the day of the visit have you:

- Reinforced to the children the rules for the visit, especially hand washing and safety messages?
- Familiarised yourself with the positioning of the hand washing/drying facilities?
- Remembered to tell children that animals deserve respect and care, and that sudden movements/shouting may startle and frighten the animals?
- Made sure that each child washes their hands:
  - ⇒ after handling animals
  - ⇒ before eating
  - ⇒ after handling anything with droppings on them (e.g. shoes)
  - ⇒ after using the toilet
  - ⇒ when they leave the farm
- Discouraged the children from kissing the animals, sucking fingers and thumbs, put anything in their mouths?
- Made sure children do not drink raw milk?
- Ensured adequate staffing/child ratio supervision?

## After the visit

If any of the group show signs of illness (e.g. sickness or diarrhoea) after a visit, advise them or their caregiver to visit the doctor and explain that they have had recent contact with animals.

## How to wash your hands

- Wet your hands with clean, running water
- Apply soap
- Rub hands together and scrub well including back of hands, between fingers and under fingernails.
- Rub hands at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the 'Happy Birthday' song from beginning to end twice
- Rinse hands
- Dry hands using a clean paper towel or air dryer. Do not dry hands on clothes

Farm and Petting zoo visits can be educational and fun, especially where they give children the opportunity to touch animals they may not usually see. But even healthy animals carry a range of micro-organisms (bugs). Some of these can be passed on to humans and may cause illness. Bugs can be transmitted from animals to humans:

- By touching animals
- Through contact with droppings, urine or contaminated surfaces
- In contaminated food, water or raw milk

## Farm & Animal Petting Zoo visits

Types of infections transmitted from animals to humans may include stomach infections (that cause vomiting and diarrhoea), skin infections, chest infections, flu-like illnesses and infections to unborn babies (e.g. Listeriosis).

The infection hazards are real and can be very serious, but they can be controlled by simple measures such as supervised hand washing.

### REMEMBER:

It is natural that children will touch animals and this will mean that they will come into contact with animal droppings.

**Hand washing and good supervision are  
ESSENTIAL**

Checklist



The checklist format style of this pamphlet will help make visits safer, healthier and more enjoyable.

If you would like more information about diseases that can be contracted from animals, please contact a **Health Protection Officer at Community and Public Health**

Christchurch

Phone: 03 364 1777

Fax: 03 379 6125

Greymouth

Phone: 03 768 1160

Fax: 03 768 1169

Timaru

Phone 03 687 2600

Fax: 03 688 6091