



Keeping children healthy around animals



Keeping animals or visiting a zoo, petting zoo or farm can be fun and a great way to learn about animals.

If you're going to hang around with animals, then there are some things you need to do to stay healthy.

Some things you need to know about animals.

Animals can carry germs. These germs are so small you can't see them.

These tiny germs may not make the animals sick but they can make people very sick.

When you touch animals, their pens, cages, aquariums, food, food containers or any other object the animals have touched, these germs can spread to you.

For more information

Health Protection Branch
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(08) 8226 7100
www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/ProtectingPublicHealth

Communicable Disease Control Branch
cdc@health.sa.gov.au
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www.ausgoal.gov.au/creative-commons

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To stay healthy around animals follow these tips!



TIP 1



Wash and dry your hands

Always wash your hands with soap and running water and then dry them with a disposable paper towel or air dryer after you have:

- Touched or been near an animal.
- Touched an animal environment such as its cage or aquarium tank, including doors, gates, fences and railings.
- Touched any object that has been in contact with an animal.

Always wash and dry your hands before you eat and drink, and after you have been to the toilet.



TIP 2



Animals and food

- **Never eat an animal's food.**
- If you feed an animal **always** wash and dry your hands after touching its food, food containers or food bowls.
- Leave animals alone while they're eating. Never get between an animal and its food.
- Never share your food with an animal.



TIP 3



Respectful behaviour

Be respectful around animals so you don't hurt them and they don't scratch or bite you.

- Be gentle.
- Be calm.
- Try not to make any loud noises.
- Don't get in between an animal and its babies.
- Never tease, chase, poke or pull at an animal.



TIP 4



What to do when you hold, pat, touch or look at animals

- **Concentrate!** When near animals or animal environments, don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth with your hands until after you have washed your hands.
- Never, ever kiss an animal or bring an animal close to your face.
- Don't eat or drink when you are with the animals.
- You can eat or drink after you have washed and dried your hands really well and are far away from the animals.