

Guidance for project members of animal projects housed at other locations

Background: Animal projects are an excellent vehicle for life and essential skill development for young people. However, the opportunity for youth to own and house animals where they live might not be possible. Due to this, opportunities such as managerial projects, horse boarding, and other systems have allowed youth to learn about and participate in animal care and management.

These arrangements are between the youth, family, and the property/animal owner and do not take place during 4-H programs overseen by staff or volunteers. During COVID-19 and physical distancing, please be mindful of the details that should allow that we follow in caring for animals on another person's property.

Communicate with the property/animal owner about the accessibility to their property, covering the topics listed below. Extension has developed resources supporting safety for visitors at farms, which are the basis for this document.

The owner may decide not to allow others on their farm to work with animals during this time of physical distancing. The family may also decide it is not in their best interest to continue the project in this capacity this year.

If your family is supportive and the owner does allow you to work and care for animals, please use the following guidance to discuss details of this partnership during this COVID time.

Items to Discuss:

1. Agree to stay 6 feet away from others not in your household, wash your hands frequently, avoid touching your face, cover your coughs and sneezes, and, most importantly, if you don't feel well, stay home.
2. Discuss with the owner who is responsible for specific tasks on the farm. Do duties include daily feeding or just coming out to practice and work with the animal?
3. What supporting help is needed to work with the project? Are other adults required to assist the young person? Discuss who those people are with preference given to those that are self-isolating with the project member.
4. Is there a particular time during the day that is preferred to work with animals? Schedule a time where minimal people are on the property.
5. What are the areas of the farm off-limits to visitors and project members?

6. What is the best way to communicate with the owner? Cell phones, texting, etc. to limit interactions. Always communicate arrivals and departures, no unplanned visits. The owner may have you log in your time while on their property.
7. What equipment should the project member bring, or what is provided? How will that equipment be cleaned and disinfected? I.e., Scotch combs, halters, brushes, etc.
8. Should these animals be housed in separate pens and perhaps in a different barn?
9. Use hand sanitizer after completion of work on the farm and before heading home.
10. Youth should directly remove all clothing and other clothing articles (gloves, hats, etc.) and wash them in a regular cycle upon returning home. Wear items of clothing that can be washed. Youth and adult leaders should use dedicated footwear or foot coverings for that animal facility; clean and disinfect all footwear after use.
11. Youth or the owner should sanitize all areas on the property they had contact. Discuss who does this and have needed items available on the property.
12. Be respectful of the owner's farm and property.
13. Practice good biosecurity practices for animals and people.

Additional Information

Further guidance from this [COVID-19: Social Distancing for Farmers](#) is an excellent document for new descriptions on how to navigate animal project care.

CDC guidelines related to [COVID-19](#).

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