

DCF 252.08 Pets and other animals.

(1) Pets that are kept on the premises of a day camp shall be maintained in good health and appropriately vaccinated against rabies. Rabies vaccinations shall be documented with a current certificate from a veterinarian.

Dogs, cats, and ferrets must be vaccinated against rabies as documented by a current vaccination certificate. Other immunizations frequently given to dogs and cats are to prevent disease that is not communicable to children. Initial rabies immunization for dogs should be administered by five months of age and within one year after the initial immunization. Initial rabies immunization for cats should be administered at 8 – 12 weeks of age and within one year after initial immunization. Initial rabies immunization for ferrets should be administered at 12 weeks of age. Subsequent immunizations are to be administered at intervals stated on the certificate of vaccination. If no date is specified, a dog shall be vaccinated within three years of the previous vaccination, as specified in s. 95.21 (2), Wis. Stats. Wisconsin law does not allow persons to vaccinate their own animals for rabies.

(2) A pet that is suspected of being ill, or infested with external lice, fleas, ticks, or internal worms shall be inaccessible to children.

(3) In the event that an animal bites a child, the parent shall be notified and a veterinarian shall be contacted by center personnel to determine a course of action in the diagnosis of possible rabies in the animal. Procedures for emergency care of children shall be followed. Parents shall be notified of any action taken by the veterinarian.

See DCF 252.41 (2) (a) – REPORT – INCIDENT OR ACCIDENT and DCF 252.41 (2) (ar) – REPORT – ANIMAL INJURY.

(4) Turtles, skunks, exotic animals, wild animals and poisonous reptiles may not be kept as pets on the premises of the day camp.

(5) Animal pens shall be kept clean.

(6) All contact between pets or animals and children shall be under the supervision of a camp counselor who is close enough to remove the child immediately if the pet or animal shows signs of distress or the child shows signs of treating the pet or animal inappropriately. Pets shall be kept and handled in a manner which protects the well-being of both children and pets.

Examples of aggressive behaviors include showing teeth, growling, hissing, excessive barking, hair standing up on the animal's back, or tail between their legs.

See DCF 252.44 (6) (i) 1. – PERSONAL CLEANLINESS – CHILD HANDWASHING. Whenever children handle a pet or another animal, they shall wash their hands afterwards with soap and water. If soap and water is not available, the children may use soap and water-based wet wipes or hand sanitizer to clean hands until soap and water is available.

Petting zoos are permitted; however, it is recommended that the camp's policy indicates what animals/pets are maintained at the camp and that parents are notified in advance of the animal's presence and which types of animals / pets children will be able to have direct contact with. Example: The children may touch a horse, but not a llama.

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(7) Pets in rooms used by children shall be confined in cages while food is being prepared or served. Pets, cages and litter boxes are prohibited in kitchens, lunch rooms and other food storage areas. Pet and animal feeding dishes and litter boxes may not be placed in areas accessible to children.

(8) No horses or other livestock may be permanently quartered closer than 500 feet from any building in which the day camp is located.

(9) Pets that pose any risk to the children shall be restricted from the areas used by children.

Examples of aggressive behaviors include showing teeth, growling, hissing, excessive barking, hair standing up on the animal's back, or tail between their legs.

(10) Procedures to be followed when children have contact with animals, other than pets, while in the care of the camp shall be included in the camp's health policy.

Note: Service animals used by a person with a disability to assist that person are not considered pets under this rule while they are working as a service animal.

It is recommended that the following items be included in the health policy:

- *How supervision will be maintained when children interact with animals.*
- *Whether children will touch or handle animals.*
- *How an injury caused by an animal, such as a bite, will be handled.*
- *How sanitation will be maintained, including handwashing when handling animals.*